



**AFRICA DATA  
FOUNDATION**



# **EABN 18TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

**US-AFRICA TRADE & INVESTMENT  
FEATURING DATA MINING, ML/AI  
TECHNOLOGIES & APPLICATIONS**

***OCTOBER 11<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2023***

**WWW.EABN.CO**





DEVELOPING



EXCITING



INSPIRING



IRVING

Las Colinas, a master-planned masterpiece in the heart of Irving, Texas.  
A great place to live, work, play, start a business, and raise a family.

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**TOGETHER.**



WELCOME MESSAGE FROM

# CHAIRWOMAN

I am delighted to welcome everyone to our 18th annual investment and trade conference from October 11th to the 14th. This year, our conference revolves around the captivating theme of US-Africa trade and investment, particularly on data, science, technology, and application.

We couldn't be more excited to offer you a glimpse into the future of impactful technology and investments, all while highlighting the crucial trade policies set by governments. We aim to provide a platform for innovative ideas, strategic collaborations, and insightful discussions that will shape the landscape of US-Africa trade relations for years to come. Throughout the conference, you can expect engaging sessions and captivating speakers who are pioneers in their respective fields. They will share their expertise, knowledge, and experiences, shedding light on the latest advancements in science, technology, and investment strategies. Moreover, our conference will offer valuable networking opportunities, allowing you to connect with like-minded individuals, industry leaders, and government officials.

This conference will catalyze forging new partnerships, fostering economic growth, and unlocking the untapped potential within US-Africa trade and investment. Together, we can pave the way for a prosperous future, leveraging the power of data, science, and technology. I hope you join us on this remarkable journey towards a brighter future. Together, let us explore the endless possibilities that lie ahead, making a lasting impact on our global trade landscape.



*With gratitude,*

**Elsa Juko-McDowell**

**- Chairwoman**



## AFRICA DATA FOUNDATION- ABOUT US

Africa Data Foundation is a 501c Nonprofit organization based in the United States of America (USA). It was founded in 2023 by Mr. John Oshodi, CEO, Vox Technologies.

### **Mission:**

Africa Data Foundation is on a mission to make Africa a leader in the effective use of data for the betterment of its people. Our aim is to establish more robust data collection methods and serve as a centralized data resource for governments, educational, religious, and financial institutions, businesses, organizations, entrepreneurs, and communities.

### **Vision:**

Our vision is to create a comprehensive databank housing diverse information about Africa. We seek to achieve this by collaborating and forming partnerships with individuals, institutions, governments, and communities. We are committed to facilitating seamless information sharing and data collection, making evidence-based data readily accessible for decision-makers, and thereby propelling Africa's progress.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

**Pioneering Data Utilization:** Africa Data Foundation endeavors to position Africa as a pioneer in effectively using data for informed decision-making.

**Streamlined Data Collection and Dissemination:** We provide efficient and effective methods for collecting and disseminating data, ensuring that critical information reaches its intended recipients.



**Fostering Information Sharing:** Our goal is to create a collaborative and diverse information-sharing process that enhances data utilization for decision-making across various sectors.

Through these objectives, Africa Data Foundation is committed to supporting Africa's development and advancement by harnessing the power of data-driven insights and informed decision-making.

Meet the Founder:



Meet the Founder and Chairman: JOHN OSHODI

For more details, please visit <https://www.africadatafoundation.org/>



**AFRICA DATA  
FOUNDATION**



# DALLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER LETTER



**DR. ELBA GARCIA**  
DALLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 4

September 29, 2022

Dear Sponsors and Attendees,

*¡Bienvenidos!* Welcome to the **East Africa Chamber of Commerce's** 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Trade Conference! What a pleasure to have all of you attending this conference in Irving, Texas. I want to personally thank you for choosing to participate in this conference in beautiful North Texas and a special thank you to all of our international visitors, as well.

Irving is the 8<sup>th</sup> most diverse city in America, and Irving is home to over 8,500 companies; among those are the global headquarters of five FORTUNE 500 companies. Similarly, North Texas is filled with many attractions, historic centers, and diverse dining with over 150 restaurants in Irving alone, so I encourage you to sightsee.

This is an excellent opportunity for everyone attending to learn, brainstorm on new ideas and to network with your peers. I hope that you all accomplish your goals and can bring something new back to your businesses and governmental agencies of your respective countries to further advance social and economic relationships.

Again, welcome to The Lone Star State and to Dallas County District 4. Enjoy the informative event-filled few days you will be spending here. Take part in the dialogue, but most importantly don't forget to check out Irving and the rest of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dr. Elba Garcia". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Dr.", "Elba", and "Garcia" being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Elba Garcia  
Dallas County Commissioner  
District 4





STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

**Greetings:**

As Governor of Texas, it is my honor to welcome all in attendance to the 18th Annual Trade Conference hosted by the East Africa Business Network at Las Colinas in Irving, Texas.

Since 2005, the East Africa Business Network has promoted trade and investment between the East African Community and the rest of the world. This partnership has proved to be lucrative and educational, fostering trade and improving the lives of many. Your hard work has laid a foundation of prosperity, and you continue to build a better future for stakeholders around the globe.

Texas boasts one of the strongest economies in the world, one that continues to incentivize businesses and entrepreneurs through low taxes, a reasonable regulatory structure, and a business-friendly climate that encourages profitability and growth. This trade conference is an excellent opportunity to tap into the entrepreneurial spirit of the Lone Star State.

As you come together to forge new partnerships, strengthen old connections, and share ideas with esteemed peers, I commend you all for your commitment to success and wish you the best in your endeavors.

First Lady Cecilia Abbott joins me in wishing you all a productive and rewarding event.

Sincerely,

Greg Abbott  
Governor



**DR. ELBA GARCIA**  
DALLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 4

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Sponsors and Attendees,

***Bienvenidos!*** Welcome to the **East Africa Business Network (EABN)** 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Trade Conference! – the EABN was formerly the East Africa Chamber of Commerce and continues with the same outstanding work of almost two decades.

What a pleasure to have all of you attending this conference, one again in Irving, Texas. I want to personally thank you for choosing to participate in this conference in beautiful North Texas and a special thank you to all of our international visitors, as well.

Irving is the 8<sup>th</sup> most diverse city in America, and Irving is home to over 8,500 companies; among those are the global headquarters of five FORTUNE 500 companies. Similarly, North Texas is filled with many attractions, historic centers, and diverse dining with over 150 restaurants in Irving alone, so I encourage you to sightsee.

This is an excellent opportunity for everyone attending to learn, brainstorm on new ideas and to network with your peers. I hope that you all accomplish your goals and can bring something new back to your businesses and governmental agencies of your respective countries to further advance social and economic relationships.

Again, welcome to The Lone Star State and to Dallas County District 4. Enjoy the informative event-filled few days you will be spending here. Take part in the dialogue, but most importantly, don't forget to check out Irving and the rest of the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Respectfully,

Dr. Elba Garcia  
Dallas County Commissioner for District 4





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**Rick Stopfer**  
Mayor

October 11, 2023

***Welcome,***

It is an honor and pleasure for me to welcome you all to Irving, Texas for the 18th Annual East African Business Network (EABN) Trade Conference (formerly the East Chamber of Commerce). With so many places to pick to host your event, we are very fortunate and honored you chose Irving once again for this important event.

This four-day event presents a fantastic opportunity for attendees to network, participate in learning seminars, and hear from leaders in multiple industries that are active in East Africa.

We hope you take full advantage of what this convention and Irving have to offer.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Rick Stopfer", is positioned above the printed name.

Richard H. Stopfer  
Mayor

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## DAY 1

Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Registration Opens

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm Welcome Reception by

EABN Chair Ms. Elsa Juko - McDowell / Vice Chair Mr. Bill Morgan

Presentation by John Oshodi Founder, Africa Data Foundation

Trust: Matthew Freimuth

MC - Daniel Engole

- Networking Cocktail Reception
- VIP Red Carpet Walk

## DAY 2

Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

7:00 am – Exhibitions Open

Welcome - Opening Remarks Power Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:00 am

Irving Representative

- Amb Lazarus O. Amayo Republic of Kenya
- Amb Mathilde Mukantaba Republic of Rwanda
- Amb Robie Kakonge Republic of Uganda
- Benson Kasue Founder | EABN
- National Anthems
- Elsa Juko - McDowell Chair | EABN

### PANEL SESSION BEGIN

9:15 pm – 10:15 pm - Healthcare

**Moderator - Dr. Tagbo Azubike Global Health Management Executive**

Using Technology for Wide - Spread Impact

- Professional Home Health & Hospice: Ms. Audrey Otondi
- ANPA Foundation: Dr. Emeka Etufugh Anatomic and Clinical Pathology and Dermatopathology
- Pharmaceutical Society Nigeria: Dr. Kunie Tometi PharmD
- Biotech: Dr. Alexazander Asea CEO

10:15 am - 11:15 am - Emerging Technology

**Moderator - Fareed Zein Founder & CEO - Unytag**

Tech Empowerment and Bias Protection for Underserved Populations

- Vox Technologies & Africa Data Foundation: Mr. John Oshodi Founder
- LongHorn IP: Khaled Fekih Romdhane, Founder, President & CEO
- Amsol Ventures, LLC: Ms. Tosin Adeniji Consultant
- Cnergy Analytics: Mr. David Okang Founder

11:15 am - 12:15 pm - Education Innovations and Challenges

**Moderator - Mart Nelson CTO - Avistas**

Optimizing Human Capital through Curriculum Adaptation

- Naveen Jindal School of Management: UT Dallas, Dr. Habte Woldu Professor
- Cnergy Analytics: Mr. David Okang Founder
- UNT Political Science and International Relations: Dorcas Bisisi Student
- Dao Fei Consultants LLC: Aisha Udochi Founder

12:15 pm - 2:00 pm Lunch Break

African Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) Workshop

- Dr. Robert Churi & Attorney Beth Plumlee Benefits & Challenges of AGOA
- Featuring Seguro Brands & Mwepsi: Mr. Amos Asimwe & Marbly Matathia



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## DAY 2

Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm – Food Security

**Moderator** – Laban Opande Attorney

Data Science for Sustainable Food and Water

- Vivoblur: John DeYoung Founder & CEO
- Afrika Fusion: Ms. Mumbi Baskin Founder
- Seguro Brands: Amos Asilimwe Food Scientist

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm – Manufacturing

**Moderator** – Richard Muhunde Ntare Consulting

Manufacturing Intelligence: Unleashing the Potential of Data

- US Commercial Services:  
Ms. Jessica Cheeks - Thompson Acting Director Dallas-Fort Worth
- Extrusion Consulting, Inc.: Daudi Abe Senior Compounding Consultant
- Highlands Global Coffee LLC: Peter Mugebi Managing Director, CEO
- Truss Ugavi Supply Chain: Azukaego Chukwuelue Consultant

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm – Networking Cocktail Reception

## DAY 3

Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Panel Session Begin

9:00 am – 10:00 am – Sports

Investing in African Sports:

The Intersection of Technology, Business and Social Impact

**Moderator** - Mr. Brandon Sebirumbi Brilliant Silver Managing Partner

- Racecourse Capital: Mr. Chukuka Chukuma Partner
- Lorraine M. Ligare Professional Weightlifter
- Ira Molayo North Texas PGA Board of Directors, IAMJ Enterprises, INC.,

10:00 am – 11:00 am – Real Estate

**Moderator** – Ms. Elsa Juko-McDowell Chairwoman

- Zuri Realty: David Muthiani Founder
- Quality First Mortgage, Inc.: Ms. Judy Wang Residential Mortgage Broker
- Impex Tax: Mr. Roy Kayizzi CEO
- AMG Realtors, LTD.: Mr. Andrew Muthee Gitau CEO

11:00 am – 12:00 pm – Finance

**Moderator** – Ms. Lydiah Tate Sr. Vice President, Commercial Banker - Truist  
Using Technology for Wide - Spread Impact

- NALA Money: Benjamin Fernandes Founder & CEO
- Truist Financial Corp.: Mr. DeVon Lang President, North Texas Region
- U.S. Small Business Administration: Mr. Herbert Austin DFW District Director

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – Lunch Break

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Accessing Capital Workshop

SBA: Mr. Herbert Austin DFW District Director

TRUIST: Ms. Lydiah Tate Sr. Vice President, Commercial Banker

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm – Nonprofit Session

**Moderator** – Bill Morgan Vice Chair - EABN

- Restoration Project International: Ms. Edith Okupa Founder & Executive Director
- Alliance of Elite Youth Leadership: Derrick Robinson Founder & Executive Director
- Vivoblur-John Deyoung Founder, CEO

4:30 pm – 6:30 pm – Ambassador and Embassy Representatives Reception

MC – Benson Kasue Founder - EABN

- Amb Lazarus O. Amayo Republic of Kenya
- Amb Mathilde Mukantaba Republic of Rwanda

# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## DAY 4

Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

10:30 am – 12:00 pm - In-depth Industry Insight

**Moderator - Cynthia Kafwihi**

- NRL Mortgage: Faith Kiunga Senior Loan Officer
- Miznon Restaurant Dallas: Jude Akpunku Owner
- Qstar Global LLC Logistic Company: Frank Kanobana
- DPR Construction: Peter Awori-Information Security Analyst
- Profirm Consulting Group Inc. : Mainah Kaigi

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm - Fire Side Chat with Financial Wellness

- Truist- Keisha Allen-Financial Wellness Leader
- Operation Hope- Shana Graham- Business Mentor & Coach

1:15 pm - 3:00 pm – Women Connecting Women

**Keynote – Dr. Unoma Ndili Okorafor, Founder & CEO of Herbal Goodness and WAAW Foundation**

**Moderator- Ms. Kenny McGraw, Title & Mr. Laban Opande, Attorney**

- African Fusion: Ms. Mumbi Baskin, Founder
- EABN Chairwoman: Ms. Elsa Juko-McDowell
- Pompilla Foundation: Pompilla S. Agalo-Author & Founder

6:00 pm - 11:00 pm - Dinner Gala - Keynotes \*

Truist Bank: Keisha Allen

Africa Data Foundation – John Oshodi Founder

Masters of Ceremony – Mr. Daniel Engole Title & Mr. Laban Opande Title

- East African Dancers (Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, USA)
- Fashion Show
- Live Entertainment & Open Dancing Featuring Local Musical Artists

# We're honored to support the EACC.

Truist.com

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## **ELSA JUKO-MCDOWELL, CHAIRWOMAN - BOARD MEMBER**

Elsa Juko-McDowell, Uganda native, has a passion for people and business and joined the East Africa Chamber of Commerce in 2015. The EACC is a dynamic organization that promotes trade and investments between the United States and East Africa. In 2016, Mrs. Juko-McDowell became the first woman to hold the position of chair for the East Africa Chamber of Commerce. Her professional, small-business owner mindset led to her success in this role in addition to her strategic decision-making skills, client-centered management, and sales experience. For the past 18 years, Elsa has developed her expertise through her experiences in real estate as a realtor and her managerial roles in the mortgage servicing industry. She now owns multiple businesses,

which include real-estate development and investments, and consulting. Elsa co-founded MYPOLARLIFE, a local mental illness advocacy company, in 2017 with her husband. She serves on the Advisory Board of Real Estate Institute of East Africa (REIEA) and is a member of the North Texas District Export Council. As a mother of three young women, a wife, and a member of her community, she is passionate about helping those around her and abroad through thriving business development..

## **BILL MORGAN, VICE CHAIRMAN - BOARD MEMBER**

Mr. Morgan is an Avistas Founding Principal, CEO and International Management Consultant with 22+ years of proven experience leading major business growth and transformation initiatives relating to secure Information and Communications Technology (ICT) deployments around the world. He is a member of the Security Industry Association and has participated in many other international standards bodies with the development and harmonization of interoperable software security products. Mr. Morgan received his Bachelor of Science in Telecommunications Engineering Technology from Texas A&M University

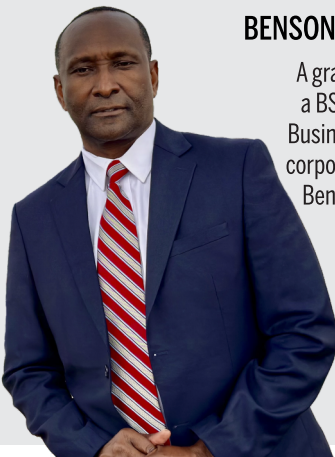


## **BENSON KASUE, TREASURER- BOARD MEMBER**

A graduate of Brigham Young University (Marriott School of Management) with a BS in accounting and an MBA from University of Utah (David Eccles school of Business), He has had progressive accounting and financial career with top USA corporations including FMC Corporation, HP, Dell, IBM, and United Technologies.

Benson has extensive cost accounting knowledge, taxation, auditing, expert in financial planning reporting and analysis, budgets, and lean management skills. His dedication to work ethic is superior! He gets things "done".

Benson has led resource mobilizing efforts to save lives in East Africa and provided food and water to the needy. Benson is the founding chair of East Africa Chamber of commerce (EACC) in Dallas Texas and Kenya Diaspora Advisory council of Texas. Benson is an entrepreneur and continues to link businesses in both US and East African.







## **COLBY C. BOONE - BOARD MEMBER**

Colby C. Boone hailing from the Coastal Plains of North Carolina holds the title of Author, Founder, International Speaker, Community Activist, Tech professional, and Servant leader. A graduate of the illustrious North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Colby has landed coverage in print and broadcast outlets such as Fox News, worked with Grammys-nominated artists, and more. Along with his devout faith he lives by three words "Trust Your Journey"

## **LYDIAH TATE - BOARD MEMBER**

Lydiah Tate Board Member My official business name is Lydiah Tate. I have been in the banking industry for the last 29 years. I have held many rewarding positions with different Financial Institutions over the years. Previous employers include First Tennessee Bank, Regions Bank, Suntrust Bank, Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase and currently Truist Financial. I have had the pleasure of leading great teams and working with small to midsize companies to provide tailored financial solutions to their organizations. My role as a Commercial Relationship Manager/SVP at Truist Bank affords me the opportunity to serve great organizations such as EABN. Education: Studied at Darmstadt University in Germany. Obtained a Diploma in "German" from



Goethe Institute Frankfurt. Obtained an undergraduate degree in Finance from University of Memphis, and an Executive MBA from University of Phoenix. About my personal life: Passionate about family, faith and work. My biggest motivation is certainly my three wonderful children. I am driven to make a difference in people's lives, both in the USA and abroad through my non profit organization Neema Mission International. Changing one life at a time is my motto. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time and traveling with my friends and family, reading, cooking and motivational speaking. Network group memberships: National Black MBA Association National Association of Women Business Owners Melissa Chamber Of Commerce



## **JOLLY KAHUNDE - BOARD MEMBER**

Ms. Jolly Kahunde, a philanthropist and a children's activist, is based in Dallas Texas. Ms. Kahunde has been in the healthcare industry for the past 9 years. Ms. Kahunde has always had a heart for helping those in need and her time in healthcare has heightened the heart of helping and giving back.

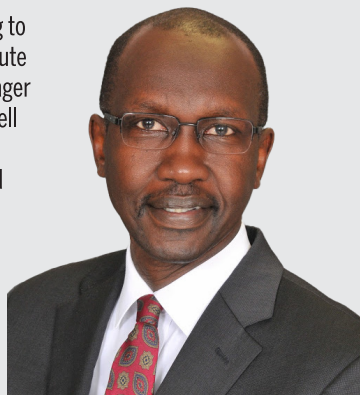
## LABAN OPANDE - BOARD MEMBER



Laban Opande, Juris Doctor (JD), MBA, BSc, is a Kenyan-American lawyer with over 23 years of leadership, management and executive experience in a unique and vast array of fields including law, business, technology, science, agriculture and the environment, as well as community engagement. Mr. Opande is currently the Principal Attorney at The Opande Law Firm PC, a Texas based legal practice. ([www.opandelaw.com](http://www.opandelaw.com)). With a team of formidable associate attorneys, paralegals, and legal assistants, he has represented thousands of clients, and continues to, in business law, civil litigation, immigration law, criminal defense, among others. He is also associated with several organizations in the US, including Kenya US-Bar Association, American Bar Association, African Bar Association, Texas Young Lawyers Association, East Africa Chamber of Commerce, Kenya USA Diaspora Sacco, Kenya Houston Community, Mashujaa Awards, Uhuru Soccer Stars.

## FAREED ZEIN EL ABDIN - BOARD MEMBER

Founder and CEO of Universal Toll Tag, Inc (Unytag), a tech startup looking to disrupt the toll road fee payments industry and ease daily toll road commute through a mobile payment solution. Fareed retired as an IT Planning Manager following a 26-year career in Information Technology with Royal Dutch Shell Plc covering various positions of increasing responsibility with broad experience in enterprise IT systems, a track record of project delivery, and results through teamwork. A community leader, Fareed is co-founder and Board Chairman of the Sudanese American Public Affairs Association (SAPAA). Fareed is a Board member of the East Africa Chamber of Commerce (EACC) in Dallas, a non-profit working to promote trade and investment opportunities in East Africa and help realize the goals and ambitions of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).



## FLORENCE SUGUT - BOARD MEMBER



Managing Director and founder of Ikapamedia East Africa- International Trade fairs and Conference Marketing Company. Florence holds a Master's degree in Business Administration Marketing bias, Higher diploma in Human Resources.

Florence is a seasoned serial entrepreneur with International business focus. Has over seven years of experience in international Trade Fairs and Conferences business. Has worked with, and represented International Trade Fair companies in Germany: Messe Dusseldorf, Messe Berlin, Messe Hannover and Messe Koeln ITB, Green week, Fruit Logistica, Import Shop-Berlin, K-show, Medica, interpack-Dusseldorf, Anuga- Messe Koeln Hannover Messe- Messe Hannover



## KAREN MUIGAI - BOARD SECRETARY

Karen Muigai Henry, a renowned community leader, software engineer, and founder of Exceeding Grace Today. Karen is a graduate of Keller School of Management, where she achieved an MBA and MIS. She has worked in many organizations in the United States and currently works as a Software Engineer in an Insurance Company. Karen is also the President of EGT Consulting and the founder of Exceeding Grace, a Non-Profit organization that supports and feeds the needy back in her home country Kenya. The organization was started after experiencing several suicide attempts in the community, mostly from single parents' homes. It is centered on helping to empower Single Parents who struggle to bring their children alone by holding meetings with them to encourage and offer counseling services for those in need.

## FRANK KANOBANA - BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Kanobana is native of Rwanda, former chairman of East African chamber of commerce, Frank has been in the forefront in promoting trade between US and East Africa special Rwanda and has traveled extensively to establish trade relations. He is the owner of QStar Global LLC, a freight forward and logistics company that operates across USA and Canada.

Mr. Kanobana is an investor in real estate internationally with primarily focuses on East Africa. Frank kanobana is a graduate of the Indiana University, South Bend. He is also active in Dallas community Former elected President of Rwanda American community in Dallas/Fort Worth. He enjoys Basketball and Golf in spare time, he currently lives in Fort Worth, Texas with his two children.



## CYNTHIA KAFWIHI - BOARD MEMBER

I am a member of the East African community and very passionate about being impactful in anything that I do.

I have a Bachelor of Science in International Trade and Marketing. I have volunteered and served in the diaspora community for the last 20 years.

I am grateful to have been voted in to serve as the newest EABN Board member and excited to work in this organization. My goal is to create value for all diasporans, especially women. No matter the size of your business or the experience you have in the business world, everyone has a talent and can be impactful when given the chance. When talents are developed and applied, a lot can be accomplished. I come with years of experience in planning and marketing, and I plan to contribute positively to achieve more success stories.



I currently run PK Mfadhili LLC, our mission is to raise funds to furnish rural healthcare centers in Kenya and other countries in Africa with medical equipment and supplies. We currently work with the approval of the local county governments, to upgrade the small clinic's medical facilities.



## BETH PLUMLEE

Beth holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Southern Methodist University, Dedman School of Law, Dallas, TX.

She counsels in the areas of Fair Business Practices/Foreign Corrupt Practice Act and investment opportunities. She has worked with numerous East African, government agencies, diaspora and the private sector, to help shape economic development strategies with respect to security, technology, energy, agriculture, health and infrastructure issues and requirements. Beth is focused on racial empowerment collaborative efforts. She currently serves on the board of advisors of the East Africa Chamber of Commerce where she speaks on business development, women empowerment and connecting women. She is a board member of the Rusinga Island Trust, Kenya, a community trust, focusing on multifaceted community development with a concentration on the empowerment of women and the education of children.



**AFRICA DATA  
FOUNDATION**



**Attorneys & Counselors at Law**

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**(713) 721-1300**



# BOARD OF ADVISORS

## CONNIE BRYANT



Consolata Ayoo-Bryant is a native of Kenya, she has been in the healthcare industry for over 30 years. She holds an MBA in Healthcare administration. Ms. Bryant is the President and CEO of Professional Home Health and Divine Hospice in North Texas. She is also the founder and Managing Director of Organi Limited an agro-processing sweet potato company based in Kenya. She is also a fashion designer for the Sassyn Clothing line.

Ms. Bryant possesses a unique experience in healthcare management, leadership, entrepreneurship, startups, business strategy and executive management. She has been a recipient of numerous awards including a National Leadership Award as Honorary Co-Chairman Business Advisory Council. Queens Night International Ministry Excellence in Career and business Inspirational Award. Diaspora Entertainment Award & recognition winner of Businesswoman of the year/Entrepreneur award Sept 2015 ceremony held in the USA.

## DR. TANA J HICKS

Dr. Tana J. Hicks joined the Labor Market Intelligence Center at Dallas College in the spring of 2018 and obtained the role of Senior Director in December of 2020. She contributes to improving labor market alignment through the exploration and analysis of local industry data. Dr. Hicks is passionate about equity and inclusivity, and as such, she leans on it as a focal point in all the work she does, starting as far back as her dissertation work, which she completed in 2017.

Tana earned her Doctorate of Philosophy in English at the University of North Texas and holds both a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology and a Master of Arts degree in English from Texas Tech University.



**AFRICA DATA  
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# BOARD OF ADVISORS

## CALI MORGAN



Caili Morgan is a Texas native and proud University of Texas at Austin graduate with a passion for serving the East African Community. She holds degrees in Philosophy and Government while minoring in Arabic and holding McCombs School of Business certifications. Caili has spent the past seven years as a peak performing software as a service (SaaS) Sales Executive while driving social media, event management, product management, product marketing, project management and user experience efforts where needed both domestically and internationally. Currently an Account Executive at HHAeXchange, a major national homecare solution for healthcare providers and payers to optimize patient care, Caili leads target communities through complex patient care “best practices”. Caili began volunteering with EABN in 2013 as a digital marketing campaign coordinator and registration intern. Over the year she has served the Board in a variety of capacities including facilitating moderating Women Connecting Women leadership panels.

## ROY E KAYIZZI

Roy E Kayizzi MBA, has over fifteen years of investment, Securities, Portfolio, Insurance, financial and credit risk analysis. He has a talent for analyzing financial reporting, marketing and strengthening internal controls to improve business operations. He has worked and Consulted with a number of major Institutions namely: Verizon, Primerica Financial, Capital One, HSBC, Bank Of America and Wells Fargo where he has applied exceptional strategic, marketing, business, operational, and financial skills to effectively offer strategic plans to enhance efficiencies, reduce costs, and increase revenues.



**AFRICA DATA  
FOUNDATION**

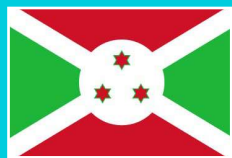
# MYPOLARLIFE

*We highlight the silver lining in mental illnesses through art.*

Several people suffer from mental illness, ranging from depression to schizophrenia. MYPOLARLIFE aims to promote mental health awareness through every art form. Our goal is to destigmatize the language that revolves around mental illness.

MyPolarLife.com





# BURUNDI

Burundi, officially the Republic of Burundi, is a landlocked country in the African Great Lakes region of East Africa, bordered by Rwanda to the north, Tanzania to the east and south, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west. It is also considered part of Central Africa. Burundi's capital is Bujumbura. The southwestern border is adjacent to Lake Tanganyika.

The Twa, Hutu and Tutsi peoples have lived in Burundi for at least 500 years. For more than 200 of those years, Burundi was an independent kingdom, until the beginning of the 20th century, when Germany colonised the region.[9] After the First World War and Germany's defeat, it ceded the territory to Belgium.

The Belgians ruled Burundi and Rwanda as a European colony known as Ruanda-Urundi. Their intervention exacerbated social differences between the Tutsi and Hutu, and contributed to political unrest in the region. Burundi gained independence in 1962 and initially had a monarch, but a series of assassinations, coups, and a general climate of the regional instability culminated in the establishment of a republic and one-party state in 1966. Bouts of ethnic cleansing and ultimately two civil wars and genocides during the 1970s and again in the 1990s left the country undeveloped and its population as one of the world's poorest.

2015 witnessed large-scale political strife as President Pierre Nkurunziza opted to run for a third term in office, a coup attempt failed and the country's parliamentary and presidential elections were broadly criticized by members of the international community.

In addition to poverty, Burundians often have to deal with corruption, weak infrastructure, poor access to health and education services, and hunger. Burundi is densely populated and has had substantial emigration as young people seek opportunities elsewhere. The World Happiness report 2016 ranked Burundi as the world's least happy nation.



# RWANDA



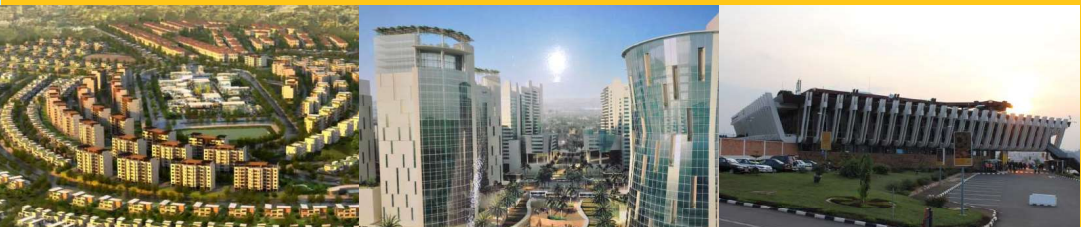
Rwanda is a relative small landlocked, hilly country in Central Africa, located south of the Equator and east of Lake Kivu, one of the African Great Lakes. It is bordered by Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The country covers an area of 26,338 km<sup>2</sup>, compared it is about the size of Macedonia (Rep.), or slightly smaller than the US state of Maryland.

Like Burundi, its neighbour to the south, Rwanda is a geographically small country with one of the highest population densities in sub-Saharan Africa. Rwanda also shares with Burundi a long history of monarchical rule. Unlike what happened in Burundi, however, the demise of the Rwandan kingship came about through a grassroots Hutu-led upheaval that occurred before the country became independent in 1962. Ethnic strife between the majority Hutu and minority Tutsi factions peaked in 1994. Civil war and genocide at that time left Rwanda's economy and social fabric in shambles.

Rwanda has a population of 11.5 million People (2016; Rwanda's population density is among the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa). Capital and largest city is Kigali (est. pop. 1 million people). Spoken languages are Kinyarwanda (official language of Rwanda), English and French, Swahili as the lingua franca in the African Great Lakes region. The years that followed have been characterized by reconstruction and ethnic reconciliation.

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# TANZANIA

Tanzania, officially the United Republic of Tanzania, is a country in Eastern Africa within the African Great Lakes region. Parts of the country are in Southern Africa.

It is bordered by Kenya and Uganda to the north; Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west; Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique to the south; and by the Indian Ocean to the east. Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, is in northeastern Tanzania.

Tanzania's population of 51.82 million (2014) is diverse, composed of several ethnic, linguistic, and religious groups. Tanzania is a presidential constitutional republic, and since 1996, its official capital city has been Dodoma, where the President's office, the National Assembly, and some government ministries are located. Dar es Salaam, the former capital, retains most government offices and is the country's largest city, principal port, and leading commercial centre.

European colonialism began in mainland Tanzania during the late 19th century when Germany formed German East Africa, which gave way to British rule following World War I. The mainland was governed as Tanganyika, with the Zanzibar Archipelago remaining a separate colonial jurisdiction. Following their respective independence in 1961 and 1963, the two entities merged in April 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania.



# S. SUDAN



South Sudan, officially the Republic of South Sudan, is a landlocked country in northeastern Africa that gained its independence from Sudan in 2011. Its current capital is Juba, which is also its largest city. Before the outbreak of a civil war in 2013, it was planned that the capital city would be moved to the more centrally located Ramciel in the future.

South Sudan is bordered by Sudan to the north, Ethiopia to the east, Kenya to the southeast, Uganda to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the southwest, and the Central African Republic to the west. It includes the vast swamp region of the Sudd, formed by the White Nile and known locally as the Bahr al Jabal.

The territories of modern South Sudan and the Republic of the Sudan were occupied by Egypt under the Muhammad Ali Dynasty, and later governed as an Anglo-Egyptian condominium until Sudanese independence was achieved in 1956. Following the First Sudanese Civil War, the Southern Sudan Autonomous Region was formed in 1972 and lasted until 1983. A second Sudanese civil war soon developed, and ended with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005. Later that year, southern autonomy was restored when an Autonomous Government of Southern Sudan was formed.

South Sudan became an independent state on 9 July 2011, following a referendum that passed with 98.83% of the vote. It is a United Nations member state, and a member state of the African Union, of the East African Community,[20] and of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development. In July 2012, South Sudan signed the Geneva Conventions. [22] South Sudan has suffered ethnic violence and has been in a civil war since 2013; as of 2017, it had the highest score on the Fragile States Index (formerly, the Failed States Index), surpassing Somalia.





# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Welcome to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) website. We hope you will find all the necessary information for your visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, our beautiful country where the world second largest river basin is found along with the five national parks located in the Congo Rainforest and are part of the UN World Heritage Sites. We believe your visit as a tourist or for investment in the DRC will be of great value to the DRC country vision.

Ambassador François Nkuna Balumuene has been appointed by President Joseph Kabila and as the DRC Ambassador in the United States of America, Mr. Balumuene serves as the primary liaison between the U.S. and the DRC Government in Kinshasa aside from having the responsibility of representing the interests of the DRC and strengthening bilateral relations.

Here, you will find information pertaining consular services for tourists, investors as well as the Congolese Diaspora, about the DRC development and other relevant resources including but not limited to official statements from the Government.

## OUR CONSULAR SERVICES

**Visa application drop-off: Monday to Friday**  
From 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**Visa application pick-up: Monday to Friday**  
From 2:30 PM to 4:00 PM

### VISA | PASSPORT | TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Visa for all travelers including foreign applicants, passport or travel document for Congolese Nationals, legalization of documents and power of attorney.

### CIVIL AFFAIRS FOR DIASPORA CONGOLESE

The DRC Government is committed to facilitating the travels of Congolese Nationals living abroad and the Embassy in the US will assist Congolese Nationals with DRC Passport issuance, renewals and "Tenant-Lieu".



# PANEL SPEAKERS

## DAVID MUTHANI

David's 21 years of global, multi-cultural experiences provide him insight, understanding, compassion and communication skills that few real estate professionals possess. Throughout his career, David has worked in demanding situations, exercising extraordinary precision to meet project deadlines while maintaining strict client confidentiality. David is comfortable managing projects for and routinely communicating with CEOs, entrepreneurs, doctors, technology gurus, financial experts, and diplomats. Most of David's clients are professionals who appreciate and expect these traits.



## BRANDON SEBIRUMBI - MANAGING PARTNER

Portfolio Management Team | Brilliant Silver Investments

Brandon is a Managing Partner of Brilliant Silver. He has a background in asset management in multifamily properties. Brandon's real estate journey has taken him from residential into commercial real estate properties primarily focusing on the Texas market. Brandon focuses on financing and acquisitions of new commercial properties along with asset management overseeing property operation efficiency. Prior to Brandon's experience within real estate, he graduated from Furman University. After graduating, he began a career in professional basketball playing in countries such as Portugal, Spain, Australia, Africa, and Japan. Transitioning his international experience of creating long lasting relationships in different cultures, Brandon has developed enduring soft skills to excel within real estate..



## JOHN OSHODI

John Oshodi is the CEO of Vox Technologies in Richardson, Texas. Founded in November 1997, Vox Technologies, a Relevant Technologies Corporation, has grown into a leading provider of industrial computing, automation, and networking solutions. Mr. Oshodi is a leader in business development, sales and marketing with substantial experience in business database architecture, business intelligence, web presence and branding. He holds degrees in economics and finance and a graduate degree in social impact and transformative social change.



## DR. ROBERT CHIURI

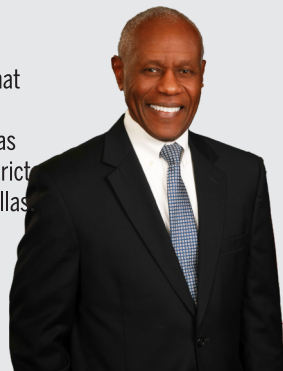


Robert W. Chiuri is Managing of Global Standards Resources & Institute (USA) a company involved in certifications, manufacturing quality audits and management consulting having worked for many international firms in various senior leadership capacities. Dr. Chiuri is a certified global standards lead auditor, for various accredited audit schemes including Quality Management Systems (QMS), Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS), International Organization of Standardization (ISO), Global Food Safety Initiative GFSI's SQF, PrimusGFS and FSSC among others. Dr. Chiuri completed a doctorate in Business Administration and Global Management through the School of Advanced Studies University of Phoenix, Arizona USA in 2015 and also has an Executive Masters Degree in International Business and a Masters in Business Administration- Enterprise Development.

Dr. Chiuri has also been involved extensively in community-based organizations as an organizer, counsellor, trainer, speaker, facilitator and leading various initiatives and social enterprises. He leads several non profit organizations and is in the board of reputable institutions supporting community engagements including Global Diaspora One Voice Consortium GDDF. Dr. Chiuri is currently Chief Partnerships and External Affairs with Wayapay, a fintech company serving the diaspora and immigrant populations in money transfers and digital banking.

## HERBERT AUSTIN

Herbert Austin is currently the Acting Regional Administrator for Region VI that encompasses the States of Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana and Texas. He is also the District Director of SBA's Dallas/Fort Worth Office and has held this position since 2008. Herb joined SBA in 1989 in the New Jersey District Office; he spent many years in New York and Long Island before moving to Dallas. Herb holds a BS in Marketing from New York University and an MBA in International Marketing and Management from Pace University. Herb is fluent in French and Spanish.



## LABAN OPANDE

Laban Opande, Juris Doctor (JD), MBA, BSc, is a Kenyan-American lawyer with over 23 years of leadership, management and executive experience in a unique and vast array of fields including law, business, technology, science, agriculture and the environment, as well as community engagement. Mr. Opande is currently the Principal Attorney at The Opande Law Firm PC, a Texas based legal practice. ([www.opandelaw.com](http://www.opandelaw.com)). With a team of formidable associate attorneys, paralegals, and legal assistants, he has represented thousands of clients, and continues to, in business law, civil litigation, immigration law, criminal defense, among others. He is also associated with several organizations in the US, including Kenya US-Bar Association, American Bar Association, African Bar Association, Texas Young Lawyers Association, East Africa Chamber of Commerce, Kenya USA Diaspora Sacco, Kenya Houston Community, Mashujaa Awards, Uhuru occer Stars.





## JUDY WANG



Judy Wang is a successful business owner for 25 years, serving as President and CEO of a global commodities firm and President of a residential mortgage lending company.

After graduating with a marketing degree, she embarked on her journey toward Entrepreneurship. She managed logistics for international shipping Companies throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Judy's experience includes real estate, mortgage lending, business development, commodity trading, financing, managing cash flow, accounting, logistics, and management. Under her leadership, organizational revenues grew to \$10 million. A true pioneer and transformational leader. Always learning and seeking new ways to serve her clients and her community, Judy's impressive background allows her to coach business owners and executives on strategic planning, leadership training and execution of process improvement. She is fluent in English and Mandarin Chinese.

## HABTE G. WOLDU

Born in Ethiopia, Dr. Woldu attended Haile Selassie I University in Addis Ababa where he pursued an undergraduate degree program education in social science. He then pursued a Masters Degree program in human resource management followed by a Doctorate degree in Economics from the Poznan University of Economics, Poland. After beginning his academic career as an Assistant professor at his alma mater in Poznan University of Economics, Dr. Woldu moved to Dallas and joined the University of Texas at Dallas in 1993. He has done extensive research and has many publications in a wide breadth of areas, including comparative management and cross-cultural Studies, empirical analysis of cultural divergence and convergence, international human resource management in Central & East European countries, the role of institutions, resources and culture in African development. Currently, he is working on the impact of elongated and deeper economic crises on divergence and convergence of global cultures.



## JESSICA CHEECKS THOMPSON



Thompson is an International Trade Specialist for the U.S. Commercial Service in the Dallas-Fort Worth Office. She began her Public Service career in Kansas City, MO as an intern with U.S. Department of Homeland Security in 2013. In 2015, she joined the U.S. Department of Labor, serving as an Economist with the Bureau of Labor Statistics for nearly 7 years. As an Economist, Jessica managed numerous clients across countless industries to produce the data for principal economic indicators, including the Import/Export Price Index. In this role, Jessica gained specific knowledge on international trade and analysis, and cultivated the unique skills for managing relationships and opportunities. She attended the University of Southern Mississippi, where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and a Master of Science degree in Economic Development. Jessica's currently pursuing a PhD in International Development. Currently, she serves as the President for the Dallas chapter of Young Government Leaders-a professional development organization seeking to develop new leaders in the U.S.

## DAUDI AKERA ABE

Master's degree in chemical engineering. Worked at The Dow Chemical Company (Dow Inc.) for 35 years in the Polymer and Plastic Product Development and Process Optimization area. In last ten years supported the Dow Licensing Group; UNIVATION Technologies, LLC as a Subject Matter Expert in Polyolefin Post-Reactor Process Design and Analysis in support of global clients in China, Philippines, India, Middle East and Egypt. The plants supported had average capacity of 50-100k kilograms per hour per line.

Has three issued US Patents (#9908276, #10471641 and #10682797) and two Worldwide issued Patents (#GC0010615 and #GC0010613). Three additional patent disclosures have been filed since 2020 (Publication number: 20210179754; 20210238323 and 20220176592)



## DAVID OKANG

David has over 18 years of Technology Integration, Data Analytics, and Business Intelligence practice experience. David's delivery portfolio spans multiple industry sectors, including Manufacturing, Automotive, Utilities, Oil and gas, Banking and Financial Services, and Technology Consulting. He has successfully managed Teams in the US, North America, EMEA, Asia Pacific, and Latin America. His educational background is in Information technology and Business Administration. He is the Principal at CNERGY Learning Data School. CNERGY Learning offers opportunities for people to Upskill and Reskill for the new data economy. Upskilling is when people learn new skills to help them do their current job better. Reskilling refers to learning new capabilities for a different job role or function.



Matt Freimuth has been with Truist Bank for over 12 years and serves as the Market President of North and East Dallas. In this role, Matt manages a team of local Bankers as they collectively work to support clients, cultivate prospective business relationships in the market, build the Truist brand, and serve local Organizations within the community. Prior to this role, Matt was a top performing Middle Market Banker for Truist in the Philadelphia, New Jersey, and New York markets, covering the Northeast for the Bank, and before that a Corporate Banker in the North and Central Florida Region. Matt is actively engaged in the local community, serving on a variety of non-profit boards/ committees, including: Circle 10 Council Boy Scouts (North Texas), Ronald McDonald House Charities of Dallas, Boys and Girls Club of Collin County, and Leadership Frisco. In previous markets he supported: Goodwill Industries of Southern New Jersey and Philadelphia Executive Board (Board Chair), Boy Scouts Cradle of Liberty Council Executive Board, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey Foundation, and Main Line Chamber of Commerce – Leadership Main Line Graduate and Steering Committee member. He also partners with other community groups such as: Risk Management Association, Association for Corporate Growth, Commercial Finance Association, and various Economic Development groups.

## Matt Freimuth



## KEISHA ALLEN BIO

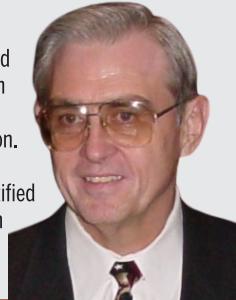


Keisha is a motivating and collaborative leader with vast experience in the Retail and Financial Services industry. Her experience includes Retail banking, Home Equity, Mortgage Operations/Originations, and Financial Wellness. Over the years, Keisha has utilized her training and coaching techniques to create platforms to inform members in the community on topics such as budgeting, saving, home ownership and entrepreneurship. Her passion for helping others ultimately lead her to her current role as a Financial Wellness Leader with Truist. In her current role, she's able to live out her passion of coaching, training, motivating and inspiring others by helping members in the community accomplish their best with financial literacy.

## MART D. NELSON, P.E., ENP, CISSP CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER AND CONSULTING PRINCIPAL

Mart D. Nelson, P.E. internationally recognized and pursued for his expertise in business operations, complex software, systems and networking endeavors for Fortune 10, Fortune 50 and Fortune 1000 corporations, State, County and City governments and non-profit and charitable organizations. Mr. Nelson has over four (4) decades experience, including 25 years in engineering and consulting in private practice and 15 years in engineering and management with AT&T.

Mr. Nelson was a Board member of the Texas Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund, appointed by the Governor of Texas in 1999. TIF granted more than \$1 Billion for technology development in public schools, hospitals and libraries in the State of Texas. He earned a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master's degree in Computer Science from the University of Houston. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Texas and is a member of a number of engineering and professional societies. He is a Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certified by International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium, Inc., (ISC)2®, and is an Emergency Number Professional (ENP 9-1-1), certified by the National Emergency Number Association ([nena.org](http://nena.org)).



## MR. PETER MUGAMBI'S:

"With a background in Mechanical Engineering and a deep-rooted fascination for coffee's intricate supply chain, he has mastered the art of coffee trading and value addition. Besides, he was brought up in the high-altitude mountain areas of Central Kenya to the vibrant coffeehouses around the globe and the bustling markets in the Middle East; his life's adventure has revolved around one thing: coffee. Armed with a keen palate, he has honed his skills in cupping and tasting to distinguish the subtle nuances that make each coffee unique. He has also developed a keen eye for global coffee market trends, ensuring that his clients always stay ahead of the curve by sourcing highly unique Kenyan coffees."



A portrait of Tosin Adeniji, a Black woman with long braids, wearing a bright yellow top, smiling at the camera.

## TOSIN ADENIJI

Tosin Adeniji is a dynamic and accomplished Product Manager with a rich background in technology and a fervent commitment to diversity and inclusion. Tosin held the position of Lead Product Manager at Verizon Media, spearheading the development of immersive content experiences within Yahoo Sports. Her passion for creating user-centric solutions has been a hallmark of her career. Originally hailing from London, Tosin embarked on a journey that took her from a law degree to the vibrant world of entertainment marketing. She made significant contributions at prestigious labels like Metropolis Studios and EMI/Universal, where she collaborated on projects for artists like Coldplay, Katy Perry, and Snoop Dogg.

Prior to moving to USA, Tosin further ventured into the startups scene in London, focusing on video content platforms and collaborating with industry giants like Spotify to facilitate global live streams. Tosin's transition into the Silicon Valley tech industry began during her time at Cornell, where she earned an MBA and garnered recognition, including the NYC Media Lab award for her exceptional work on a connected media and Internet of Things (IoT) project. She also had the privilege of being the class graduate speaker alongside Joe Biden, showcasing her leadership and communication skills.

A staunch advocate for diversity in tech, Tosin has taken on leadership roles in Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) to empower underrepresented voices, with a particular focus on advancing Black women in technology. In addition to her work at Verizon Media, Tosin expanded her impact by assuming the role of Lead Product Manager at Affirm and later establishing Amsol Ventures, her technology consulting firm. Here, she leads international product efforts for high-growth AI startups, exemplifying her ongoing dedication to innovation and inclusion.

## DORCAS BISISI'S

Prior to moving to USA, Tosin further ventured into the startups scene in London, focusing on video content platforms and collaborating with industry giants like Spotify to facilitate global live streams. Tosin's transition into the Silicon Valley tech industry began during her time at Cornell, where she earned an MBA and garnered recognition, including the NYC Media Lab award for her exceptional work on a connected media and Internet of Things (IoT) project. She also had the privilege of being the class graduate speaker alongside Joe Biden, showcasing her leadership and communication skills.

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## AISHA UDOCHI

Aisha Udochi is an Africa-China doctoral researcher in Economics at Howard University, concentrating in growth and development theory. She is also the founder of Dao Fei Consultants LLC, a business development and consultancy firm, a Sasakawa Peace Fellow, and currently works in the Office of the Chief Economist at the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Recognized for her work on indigenous microenterprises, she served as Special Advisor to the Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Commissioner for Abia State in 2020 where she led a redesign of the state's industrialization strategy. Her findings were published in the Palgrave Handbook of Africa's Economic Sectors. Presently, her research focuses on using financial transaction data to create reliable macroeconomic statistics.

Aisha is originally from Nigeria. She has lived and worked in New York, Abuja, London, Beijing, and Boston. Currently, she is based in Washington, D.C. She earned a Bachelor of Science in International Business and Business Economics from New York University's Stern School of Business. She holds master's degrees in Chinese Studies and International Relations from the School of Oriental and African Studies and Harvard University. Aisha also speaks Mandarin.

## AZUKAEGO CHUKWUELUE

Advisor, Truss Ugavi Supply Chain Consulting & Advisory

AZUKAEGO CHUKWUELUE is a highly skilled professional specializing in data analytics and leveraging technology to address commercial challenges, with a specific focus on supply chain management. With 20 years of experience in renowned companies like Kimberly-Clark, Mondelēz International, Kraft Foods and Cadbury, she has a proven track record in driving business sustainability, profitability, and revenue growth. Her expertise encompasses troubleshooting operational issues, managing customer relationships, developing route-to-market and channel



strategies, and optimizing logistics and procurement processes for cost efficiency and sustainability. Azukaego holds a bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from the University of Ibadan, Executive MBA in General Management from Pan Atlantic University, Lagos Business School. She has pursued further professional development through an Advanced Management Program at INSEAD and a Certificate for Doing Business in Africa from Nanyang Business School Singapore. She has recently completed a Master of Business Analytics from Hult Business School in San Francisco. Throughout her career, Azukaego has held leadership positions such as Supply Chain Director at Kimberly-Clark Nigeria and Customer Service and Logistics Lead at Mondelēz International. In these roles, she has achieved notable successes in workforce engagement, cost reduction, profitability, process optimization, and customer service enhancement. With her diverse skill set and commitment to gender inclusion and mentoring professionals, Azukaego brings a wealth of expertise to the field of supply chain management, sales, and leadership.



## MARBLY N. MATATHIA

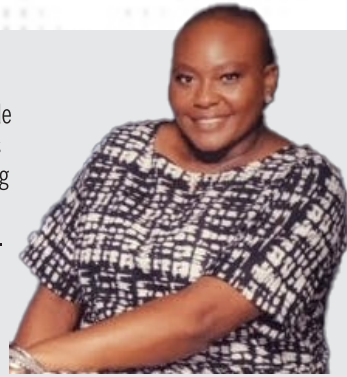


Marbly N. Matathia is the Founder and CEO of Mwepesi Ajenda Nne Ltd (MAN PPO), an initiative that seeks to Mobilize, Integrate and Leverage Diaspora resources for the development of Kenya and Africa. He is also the President of Matathia Inc. a Houston, Texas based company with diversified interests in Oil Field Supplies, Logistics, Project Management and Import / Export Consultancy.

As a Licensed US Customs House Broker and FMC / OTI licensee, the logistics side of Matathia Inc, Kairos Project Management & Logistics, has assisted numerous businesses from North America to Africa, the Middle East Kenya and Asia in planning, procurement and execution of high dollar value projects in the Oil and Gas sector. Marbly also runs KDREMS, a management company that currently manages real estate in Kenya for diaspora clients in partnership with Kenyan professional partners in the real estate, investments, construction, banking, legal and investment field.

## AUDREY OTONDI, RN.

Dedicated and highly skilled Assistant Director of Nursing with over a decade of extensive clinical experience in healthcare. Currently pursuing a Master's degree in Nursing to complement a strong educational foundation, including a Bachelor's degree University of Nebraska. Proficient in a wide range of healthcare practices and a proven leader in facilitating optimal patient care. Adept at managing complex healthcare systems, collaborating with interdisciplinary teams, and implementing evidence-based strategies to enhance patient outcomes. A passionate advocate for quality healthcare delivery, patient safety, and continuous professional development.



## JUDE AKPUNKU



Jude Akpunku is a highly accomplished professional, holding a Master of Public Policy from Stanford University, a Master of Science in Systems Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a Bachelor of Science from the United States Naval Academy. Jude's career journey has been marked by his dedication to public service, where he currently serves as a Congressional advisor, offering invaluable insights into defense policies and national security matters. As a former Personnel Officer in the United States Navy, he was an integral part of logistically executing Operations Allied Refugee, a mission that was pivotal in safely bringing troops out of Afghanistan. He has also published influential works, such as "The Dangers of a Single Story" and "The Impact of Job Satisfaction on the Retention of Minority Officers." As an entrepreneur and humanitarian, Jude owns and manages "Miznon Dallas," a franchise-based restaurant, CHNGE a sustainable fashion clothing brand, and founded CADE Venture

Investment Group. His multi-faceted expertise, dedication to public service, and entrepreneurial spirit make him a prominent voice in discussing how technology is reshaping the logistics landscape. His multifaceted expertise, unwavering commitment to public service, and entrepreneurial vigor position him as an influential advocate in the ongoing discourse surrounding the transformative impact of technology on the logistics landscape.



## DR UNOMA OKORAFOR

Unoma Okorafor is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Herbal Goodness (formerly Herbal Papaya) a health and wellness company that manufactures premium quality, organic super fruit and food ingredients and products including herbal teas, nutraceuticals, smoothie powders, liquid extracts, supplements and energy bars. As 100% women owned company, Unoma is passionate about empowering girls and women, supporting farmers and their communities and supporting the environment through sustainable practices. A serial & social entrepreneur, Dr. Okorafor also Founded WAAW Foundation, a non profit that promotes Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education for African

girls and is a Principal at Fairview Technologies Inc, a data science, cybersecurity and forensics consulting and solutions company. Dr. Okorafor received her undergraduate degree from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. She obtained the M.Sc. degree from Rice University, Houston, TX, and her Ph.D. at Texas A & M University all in Electrical & Computer Engineering. She is a graduate of INSEAD's Social Entrepreneurship program and Stanford University Business School's Executive Program in Social Entrepreneurship. She is a 2015 graduate of the Goldman Sachs 10KSB program, a 2018 graduate of the Dallas SBA - Emerging Leaders program. Prior to founding Herbal Goodness, Dr Okorafor worked as Technology Lead at the Education Technology Division at Texas Instruments, Dallas Texas. Before that, she also interned at Intel, HP and IBM research labs.

## EDITH OKUPA

Edith Okupa is the Founder/Executive Director of Restoration Project International. She creates a platform for partnerships and collaborations among service providers, institutions, nonprofits, and government agencies through conferences, workshops, presentations, trainings, roundtable discussions, and information sharing with the goal of preventing domestic abuse and protecting victims. She is enthusiastic about using research to inform data collection for policy formulation. Edith helped to successfully push for two legislatures in Colorado: SB227 (2013) and HB14-1162 (2014) which provide protection for women and children who were victims of rape. Currently, she has developed a dynamic curriculum targeted at empowering survivors. She is excited to facilitate programs that are aimed at providing sustainable restoration for survivors. She is a Speaker, Presenter, Researcher, and Advocate. She has skills in nonprofit management, grant writing, and organizational/team leadership. She has worked in the fields of domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and victims' assistance programs. She engages stakeholder communities, and institutions in the fight to hope to the hopeless. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, her master's degree in public administration, majoring in Policy Administration, and minoring in Domestic Violence, Project Management, and Policy Administration from the University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado. She is currently a doctoral candidate in Learning and Organizational Change at Baylor University, Texas. She also received numerous certifications and training in Leadership, Organizational Management, Human Trafficking, and Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation.





## DEVON LANG

DeVon Lang is the North Texas Regional President for Truist Financial Corporation. In this role he is charged with maintaining a strong regional presence, and act as “chief integrator” in the area to bring the full breadth of Truist to our clients. DeVon has been in this position since April 2023. He previously served as the middle market banking leader for North Texas focused on delivering Truist’s universal banking platform to clients throughout North Texas. Prior to that, he served as Managing Director-Energy Corporate Banking in Truist Securities’

DeVon joined Truist Securities’ predecessor, BB&T Capital Markets, in 2010 as part of the bank’s national corporate banking expansion effort focused on delivering the firm’s comprehensive suite of capital structure advisory, strategic advisory, financing, risk management and other bank solutions to midstream and downstream energy clients. Prior to joining Truist, DeVon was a Large Corporate Banker at Comerica Bank focused on growing diversified C&I relationships in Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Mr. Lang earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Louisiana State University and a Master of Business Administration from the Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston. Passionate about financial literacy, Mr. Lang is on the Board of Junior Achievement of Dallas and is serves on the Dallas Citizens Council.

## KENNY MCCRAW

CEO of Kristallin Consulting Im Kenny McCraw, an accomplished IT Solutions Architect with extensive expertise in IT Service Management, IT Operations Management, and IT Infrastructure/Security enablement. Throughout my career, I’ve successfully led technology implementations across various industries, consistently delivering customer-centric results. My approach combines strategic planning, meticulous project management, and a deep technical proficiency.



## PROF. DR. ALEXZANDER ASEA

Prof. Dr. Alexander Asea, is an inspiring serial entrepreneurial patent-holder President & CEO of two biotech companies, and a Professor of Medicine in 4 research intensive academic institutes. He has a passion for delivering life-saving R&D, manufacturing, care delivery, biomedical innovations, strategic decision making and fiduciary responsibilities. Alexander has over 300 scientific publications, 1 issued patent and 5 pending patents.





## CHUKUKA CHUKUMA

Chukuka is an investment banker, author and entrepreneur. He is a Partner at Racecourse Capital, a private investment and advisory firm with a focus on raising financing for businesses mainly in West Africa. Chukuka has a career spanning about twenty-five years at world class financial institutions like Goldman Sachs, J.P. Morgan, Salomon Smith Barney, Citibank Nigeria, Afrinvest West Africa, and Stanbic IBTC Bank. He has executed over ten billion dollars worth of transactions in corporate and project financings across multiple sectors and three continents. He specializes in structuring and raising large, complex, multi-source and multicurrency financings from cradle (i.e. origination) to grave (i.e. financial close and drawdown). Chukuka is committed to raising the economic potential of Africa through mentorship and investments in human capital, technology and infrastructure.

He sits on the boards of several human capital development and infrastructure companies like: Sponsors for Educational Opportunity Africa (SEO Africa) as a Non-Executive Board Member (Ghana) and Chairman Board of Trustees (Nigeria); Chairman, Evaluation & Staffing Africa (ES Africa); Chairman, Hofstede Insights Nigeria (Hofstede) and Board Member DBH Solutions (DBH). In his spare time, Chukuka feeds his creative interests in film, writing and sports. He leads the Finance & Funding Subcommittee of Nigeria's Presidential Advisory Committee tasked with passing into law The Creative Industry Development Bill. He was a Co-Executive Producer on the award-winning movie 'God Calling' which he marketed internationally, securing both Amazon and Netflix distribution deals. As a writer he Co-Author'd 'In Pursuit – Journeys in African Entrepreneurship'. This book has now been used as reference material for trainings done at Waterloo University Business School and the Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce (CBCC), just to name a few. Football, or soccer as it is called in North America, is the entrepreneurial venture that is next on his radar. Chukuka lives in Dallas and is married with three kids.

## ROBERT W CHIURI

Robert W. Chiuri is Managing of Global Standards Resources & Institute (USA) a company involved in certifications, manufacturing quality audits and management consulting having worked for many international firms in various senior leadership capacities.

Dr. Chiuri is a certified global standards lead auditor, for various accredited audit schemes including Quality Management Systems (QMS), Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS), International Organization of Standardization (ISO), Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI)'s SQF, PrimusGFS and FSSC among others. Dr. Chiuri completed a doctorate in Business Administration and Global Management through the School of Advanced Studies University of Phoenix, Arizona USA in 2015. Dr. Chiuri has completed several peer-reviewed research



studies that are various stages of journal publication including an empirical study on the "correlation between food safety auditing and business competitiveness of small and medium enterprises" in 2019. Dr. Chiuri also has an Executive Masters Degree in International Business and a Masters in Business Administration-Enterprise Development. Dr. Chiuri has had quality and food safety experience in some of the leading food industry companies including Coca Cola, Hostess Wonder Bread, Ronnoco, Kellogg's, Maplehurst and Mars Petcare. Dr. Chiuri has led and managed various departments including operations, supply chain, regulatory compliance, food safety and quality assurance reporting to the senior VPs of these companies. Dr. Chiuri was Corporate Food Safety Auditor for Kelloggs overseeing and preparing food safety audits for 6 locations based at Zanesville Ohio.



## KHALID FEKIH-ROMDHANE

- Successful PRESIDENT & CEO of Longhorn IP, a renowned Patent Licensing Services Company.
- Patent Licensing Professional with cross functional expertise in technical and legal analysis of patent portfolios
- Technical IP licensing lead with a successful track record of asserting and defending patent portfolios in high pressure environments with companies in North America, Europe, and Asia Pacific.
- Inventor on 11 worldwide granted patents and 7 US pending applications
- Accomplished Design Team Leader who led an award-winning team that developed successful memory products



## BENJAMIN HERNANDEZ

Benjamin Fernandes is an award-winning Tanzanian speaker and entrepreneur.

Benjamin grew up in Tanzania, then earned scholarships that took him to America for the first time at the age of 17. At age 21, Benjamin was the youngest African in history to ever be accepted into Stanford Graduate School of Business. He holds an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business and an Exec Ed from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, being the first Tanzanian to attend both institutions. Fernandes was previously a national television personality in Tanzania. After that, he worked at The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in the



United States. In 2018, Fernandes founded Nala, a fintech startup that is on a mission to increase economic opportunity for Africans globally. NALA recently raised \$10m backed by leading US investors such as Y-Combinator, Accel, Amplo and Bessemer Partners. In 2020, Fernandes was listed as the 15th most influential Tanzanian. In 2022, Fernandes was listed in the inaugural ROW100 most influential tech

## MAINAH KAIGI

CPA(K); MBA Senior Consultant - Profirm Consulting Group Inc - qualified as an accountant in June 1988. Worked with KPMG and PriceWaterhouseCoopers in Kenya, Botswana, and South Africa as an auditor and a consultant. Moved to the US in 2002 and worked with several financial services companies. Since 2012 has been self-employed as a small businesses services consultant. Has a great passion for mentoring and growing small businesses.







## FAITH KIUNGA

Faith Kiunga MBA is a Sr. Mortgage Loan Originator licensed in Texas. With an accounting background Faith serves both as an accountant & a Mortgage Originator.. With a great passion in real estate lending, her business is primarily driven by referrals.. She works with several realtors to make the real estate dream for our people come true. So passionate about what she does she has closed over 60 homes in the past year in DFW, Houston, Austin & Lubbock TX. She makes the home buying process simple & effortless. Her motto is to "Make Dreams Come True One Home at a Time"

## PETER AWOIRI

Profession: Information Security Analyst

MSc: Information Security Policy and Management

BSc: Computer Engineering

AAS: Computer Programming

Bio: I am a passionate individual who understands the value of effective leadership. My life goal in life is to guide my generation and the next to individually identify, pursue, and achieve the purpose for which one was born. Here is a nugget: foundation matters. My journey consists of breaking mental barriers - and reaping the benefits every time I broke one.



## FRANK KANOBANA

Frank is Rwanda Native and very passionate about promoting trade and investment in between USA and East Africa, he's also a former chairman of East African Chamber commerce and longest serving board member of EABN.

Frank is owner of Qstar Global a logistic company base in Texas.

Frank is very engaged local Dallas-Fort worth community to improve Rwandan business development as former President of Rwanda community in DFW.



## DR. TAGBO AZUBIKE - BOARD MEMBER



Tagbo is the lead Partner and founder of MediConcierge Ltd, a distinguished strategy and healthcare management consulting firm. He has advised Multilateral Institutions across various sectors and industries, including Healthcare, Agriculture, Technology. He is a seasoned International Healthcare Management expert, boasting extensive local and international insights. His notable accomplishments include selection to membership of the Nigerian Presidential Health Sector Reforms committee, 2019 charged with framing the country's healthcare reforms policies for the next two decades. Combining his healthcare leadership experience as a physician executive and entrepreneur, he excels in forging multi-sectoral stakeholder collaborations. His reputation extends globally, as he serves as a Country Ambassador for Health Finance Institute, Washington DC. He provided leadership in the

strategic planning and project management of the \$300 million African Medical Center of Excellence sponsored by the African Export-Import Bank. This groundbreaking initiative, in collaboration with King's College Hospital, London, focuses on combating high burden non-communicable diseases across Africa and stemming outbound medical tourism. He played a pivotal role while serving as the pioneer Medical Director of Lagoon Hospital, Ikoyi, towards the successful deployment of the \$68 million IFHAA II Fund by leading the integration of the largest private hospital in Nigeria. He also steered the expansion project with building specialized programs like Critical Care, Minimally-invasive Neurosurgery, Urology, Interventional Cardiology, and Nephrology. His diverse training and experience include an internship at the Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, Germany, specializing in Visceral & Cardiothoracic Transplantation. He also pursued Project Management & Innovation studies at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School, USA. With credentials such as PMP® (Project Management Professional) and SASM (SAFe® Advanced Scrum Master) certifications, Dr. Azubike has a robust skill set.

## BILL MORGAN, VICE CHAIRMAN - BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Morgan is an Avistas Founding Principal, CEO and International Management Consultant with 22+ years of proven experience leading major business growth and transformation initiatives relating to secure Information and Communications Technology (ICT) deployments around the world. He is a member of the Security Industry Association and has participated in many other international standards bodies with the development and harmonization of interoperable software security products. Mr. Morgan received his Bachelor of Science in Telecommunications Engineering Technology from Texas A&M University





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