



Directors & Board Advisors — Profiles & Bios

Meet the visionary leaders driving AFRICA's most celebrated cultural and business festival forward. This document presents the distinguished Board of Directors of FESTAC AFRICA Festival — a collective of accomplished engineers, ambassadors, professors, and executives united by a shared passion for AFRICA's transformation and global elevation.

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Executive Summary

FESTAC AFRICA Festival's expanded leadership team represents one of the most accomplished and geographically diverse groups on the continent. Spanning Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, the USA, and Asia, our leadership now includes ten extraordinary directors and seven distinguished board advisors. This collective brings together decades of expertise across energy, technology, media, agriculture, diplomacy, governance, and entrepreneurship.

Collectively, the leadership embodies FESTAC AFRICA Festival's core mission: to celebrate, elevate, and transform the African narrative on the world stage. From Engr. Yinka Abioye's three decades at ExxonMobil managing over 500 service stations across 14 African countries, to Grace Mumo's pioneering work in mobile banking for 15 Nigerian banks and her leadership of The Luxury Network franchise across 40+ countries — each member brings irreplaceable value and continental reach.

Our leaders include globally renowned figures such as Engr. Patrick Obath, recipient of Kenya's Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW) and the National Peace Prize, and Professor Michieka, Founding Vice Chancellor of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Fellow of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences. Ambassadors Abraham Vatakencherry and Elkana Odembo contribute global strategic alliance expertise spanning aerospace to healthcare across more than two decades of international service.

Together, this expanded team steers FESTAC AFRICA Festival with a clear vision: to reframe Africa's story — moving beyond narratives of poverty and conflict to showcase the continent's extraordinary people, breathtaking destinations, thriving economies, and boundless creative potential. Their combined influence across private sector boards, international development agencies, and government advisory roles positions FESTAC AFRICA Festival as a truly transformative platform for the continent and the world.

5

Directors

Executive leadership driving FESTAC AFRICA RENAISSANCE

8

Board Advisors

Distinguished global advisors providing strategic counsel

35

Global Ambassadors

Champions of FESTAC AFRICA across the world

8

Countries

South Africa · Kenya · Nigeria · Ghana · Tanzania · USA · Mauritius · UAE

Board of Directors

Ten distinguished leaders from across Africa and the world, united by a shared commitment to excellence, governance, and the elevation of the African continent.

1

Engr. Yinka Abioye

USA | Nigeria — Director & Chairman

2

Grace Mumo

South Africa | Kenya — Director & Group CEO

3

Dr. Seni Shoroye

Nigeria — Director

4

Dolapo Aina

Nigeria — Director & CFO

5

Esther Ibidoyin

Nigeria — Director & Secretary General

Organisational Structure

FESTAC AFRICA RENAISSANCE — Governing Body

Board of Directors

Strategic governance and executive leadership (10 Members)

1 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2 **Engr. Yinka Abioye**
Director | Chairman

3 **Grace Mumo**
Director | Group CEO

4 **Dr. Seni Shoroye**
Director

5 **Dolapo Aina**
Director | CFO

6 **Esther Ibidoyin**
Director | Secretary General

Advisory Board

Strategic counsel and specialist guidance (7 Advisors)

1 ADVISORY BOARD

2 **Patrick Obath**
Board Advisor

3 **Dr. Farzam Kamalabadi**
Board Advisor | Special Advisor to the President of Botswana

4 **Abraham Paul Vatakencherry**
Board Advisor

5 **Zuhura Ogada Odhiambo**
Board Advisor

6 **Amb. Elkana Odembo**
Board Advisor

7 **Prof. Emeritus Ratemo Michieka**
Board Advisor

8 **Adv. Pardon Tapfumaneyi**
FESTAC Mandate Partner

Engr. Yinka Abioye

USA | Nigeria — Chairman, Investor & Business Optimization Professional



LinkedIn Profile: [linkedin.com/in/yinka-abioye](https://www.linkedin.com/in/yinka-abioye)

Engr. Yinka Abioye is a distinguished Chairman, investor, and business optimization expert who has spent decades empowering African entrepreneurs and advising multinational corporations. During a nearly 30-year tenure at ExxonMobil, he managed retail operations across 14 countries and oversaw over **500 service stations**. His hands-on leadership was defined by a commitment to reaching deep into local markets to drive sustainable growth.

A proven turnaround specialist, Engr. Yinka reversed negative business trends to achieve a turnover exceeding **\$350 million**. His strategic financial management included reducing receivables by **95%** and recovering over **\$2 million** in bad debt while facilitating smooth business transitions. Today, he serves on numerous boards and has personally mentored over **5,000 young African entrepreneurs**, serving as a vital partner for organizations looking to scale across the continent.

30

Years at ExxonMobil

Nearly three decades of continental energy leadership

500+

Service Stations

Managed across 14 African countries

5K+

Entrepreneurs Mentored

Young African leaders empowered across the continent

\$350M

Business Turnover

Reversed negative trend to achieve record results

Grace Mumo

South Africa | Kenya — Group CEO, The Inspire Group | FESTAC AFRICA CEO

Grace Mumo is a multi-award-winning leader recognized in 2024 as an **Inspiring Fifty African Woman in Technology** and **Africa's Most Influential Woman in Africa 2022**. With deep corporate expertise, she pioneered **mobile banking for over 15 banks in Nigeria**, driving financial inclusion and shaping regulatory frameworks for international compliance across the continent.

As Group CEO of The Inspire Group, Grace leads a diverse portfolio including the first **Luxury Network International franchise for Africa**, represented in over 40 countries, and the **Africa Luxury Brands Association**. A sought-after international speaker and board member, she is dedicated to her core belief: **"TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE THE AFRICA WE WANT!"**, elevating the continent's narrative through innovation and excellence.



LinkedIn Profile: [linkedin.com/in/grace-mumo](https://www.linkedin.com/in/grace-mumo)

Email: Grace@festacafrika.org



Global Awards Winner

Multi-time global award winner including Inspiring Fifty African Woman in Technology 2024, Africa's Most Influential Woman 2022, and SADC Regional Winner in Media.



Mobile Banking Pioneer

Pioneered mobile banking for over 15 banks in Nigeria, driving financial inclusion for the unbanked and shaping regulatory policy across Africa.



Luxury Network Africa

Launched The Luxury Network International's first African franchise, now active in over 40 countries globally, with Kenya as the flagship market.



Africa Brand Advocate

Founding the first Africa Luxury Brands Association to govern the industry and elevate African brands to international platforms on equal footing.

Dr. Seni Shoroye

Nigeria — Director, FESTAC AFRICA Festival

Dr. Seni Shoroye is a distinguished leader and Director of FESTAC AFRICA Festival, bringing a wealth of expertise in media, entertainment, and African cultural development. With a strong background in broadcasting and content creation, Dr. Shoroye has been instrumental in shaping narratives that celebrate and elevate African culture on the global stage.

His career spans decades of work across USA as a medical Doctor and champions healthcare matters within the FESTAC AFRICA Portfolio bringing healthcare practitioners together to deliver free healthcare to the community during the festival week.



LinkedIn Profile: [linkedin.com/in/seni-shoroye](https://www.linkedin.com/in/seni-shoroye)

Cultural Champion

Advocate for African arts, culture, and creative economy

FESTAC Director

Core member of the FESTAC AFRICA Festival leadership team

Dolapo Aina

Nigeria — Director & CFO, FESTAC AFRICA Festival



LinkedIn Profile: [linkedin.com/in/dolapo-aina](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dolapo-aina)

Dolapo Aina serves as Director and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of FESTAC AFRICA Festival, bringing rigorous financial leadership and strategic oversight to the organisation. With a strong background in finance, accounting, and corporate governance, she ensures the fiscal integrity and sustainability of FESTAC AFRICA's continental operations.

Her expertise spans financial planning, budgeting, risk management, and compliance across international markets. Dolapo is a trusted financial steward committed to transparent governance and the long-term financial health of FESTAC AFRICA Festival as it grows its footprint across the continent.

Corporate Governance

Ensuring fiscal integrity, compliance, and transparency

Risk Management

Overseeing financial planning and risk across international operations

Esther Ibidoyin

Nigeria — Director & Secretary General, FESTAC AFRICA Festival

Esther Ibidoyin serves as Director and Secretary General of FESTAC AFRICA Festival, providing essential administrative leadership and organisational coordination across the board. Her role is central to the governance structure of FESTAC, ensuring seamless communication, compliance, and operational efficiency at the highest level.

With a background in administration, governance, and organisational management, Esther brings precision, dedication, and a deep commitment to the FESTAC mission. She is the backbone of the board's administrative operations, facilitating effective decision-making and ensuring all governance processes are executed with excellence.



LinkedIn Profile: [linkedin.com/in/esther-ibidoyin](https://www.linkedin.com/in/esther-ibidoyin)

Organisational Management

Ensuring operational efficiency across FESTAC structures

Governance Excellence

Upholding compliance and best practices at board level

Advisory Board

Seven distinguished advisors from across Africa, Asia, and the world, lending their expertise, networks, and strategic counsel to guide FESTAC AFRICA Festival's mission and growth.

01

Patrick Obath — Kenya — Energy, Governance & Sustainability Consultant

02

Dr. Farzam Kamalabadi — Board Advisor

03

Abraham Paul Vatakencherry — Asia — Global Strategist & Alliance Builder

04

Zuhura Odhiambo — Kenya — Business Management & Revenue Strategy Expert

05

Elkana Odembo — Kenya — Global Influencer, Mentor & Strategist

06

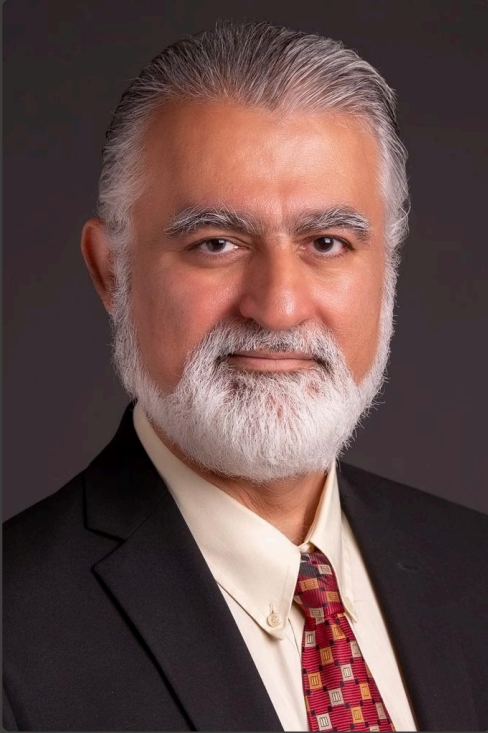
Prof. Emeritus Ratemo Michieka — Kenya — Academic & Environmental Scientist

07

**Adv. Pardon Tapfumaneyi — UK | Zimbabwe
FESTAC AFRICA Mandate Partner**

Dr. Farzam Kamalabadi

Special Advisor to the President of Botswana | Investor & Board Advisor, FESTAC AFRICA Festival



LinkedIn Profile: [linkedin.com/in/farzam-kamalabadi](https://www.linkedin.com/in/farzam-kamalabadi)

Dr. Farzam Kamalabadi is a distinguished Special Advisor to the President of Botswana, where he oversees Special Projects and Investment Portfolio for the nation. A notable investor and trusted strategic counsel, he brings deep expertise in international business strategy, investment, and cross-cultural leadership to his role as a Board Advisor for the FESTAC AFRICA Festival.

With a career spanning multiple continents, Dr. Kamalabadi has built a reputation as a key advisor to organisations and governments navigating complex global markets. His strategic counsel, grounded in decades of experience across finance and governance, is instrumental in shaping international partnerships and driving long-term strategic direction.

Special Advisor to the President

Strategic advisor to the President of Botswana on special projects and investments

Investment Portfolio — Botswana

Oversees Special Projects and Investment Portfolio for Botswana

Global Strategic Counsel

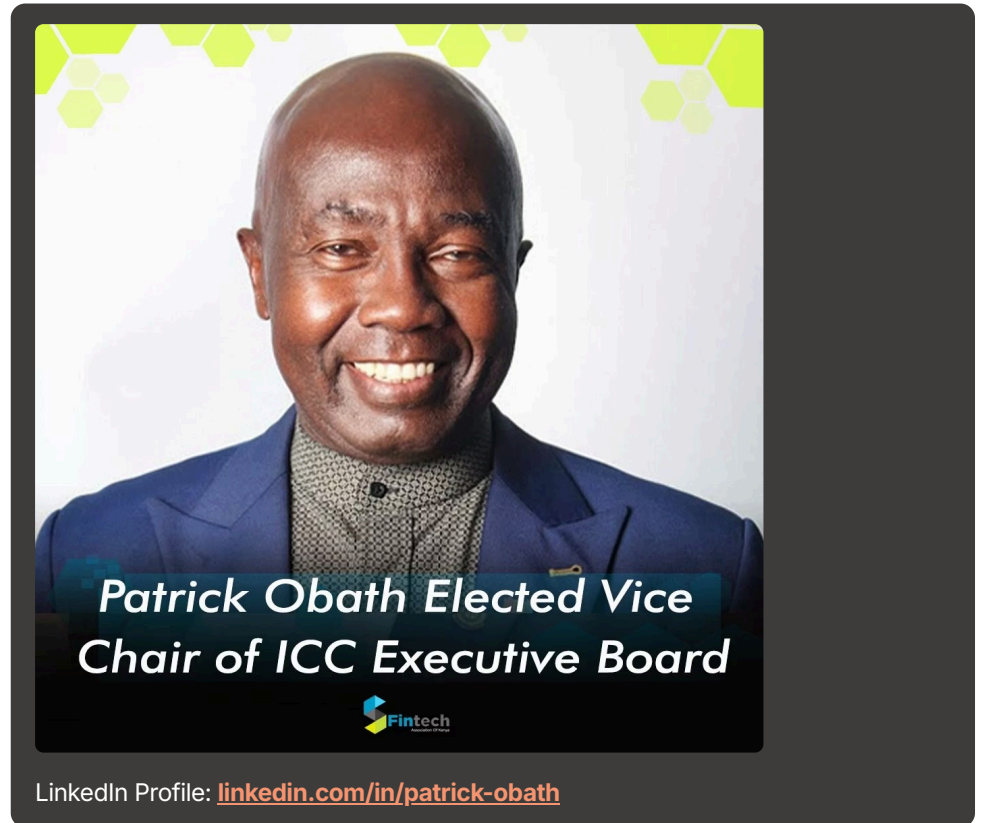
Trusted advisor on international business strategy and governance

Engr. Patrick Obath

Kenya — Energy, Governance & Sustainability Consultant | Certified Executive Leadership Coach

Engr. Patrick Obath is a distinguished consultant in Energy, Extractives, and Engineering, with a focus on leadership, governance, and sustainability. A Certified Executive Leadership Coach, he has led diverse projects across social, government, and development sectors throughout Africa. His extensive board leadership includes roles as Chairman of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) and current Chairmanship of Adrian Kenya, PZ Cussons EA, African Alliance Kenya, Trade Catalyst Africa, and Java House Africa.

A BSc graduate in Mechanical Engineering, Patrick is a Fellow of the **Aspen Global Leadership Network (AGLN)** and the **African Leadership Initiative (ALI)**. A dedicated Rotarian and former District Governor, his distinguished career is marked by national honors, including the **Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW, 2008)**, the **National Peace Prize (2011)**, and the **Order of Moran of the Burning Spear (MBS, 2011)**.



OGW (2008)

Order of the Grand Warrior — Kenya's national honor for distinguished service

National Peace Prize (2011)

Recognized for outstanding contributions to peace and national development

MBS (2011)

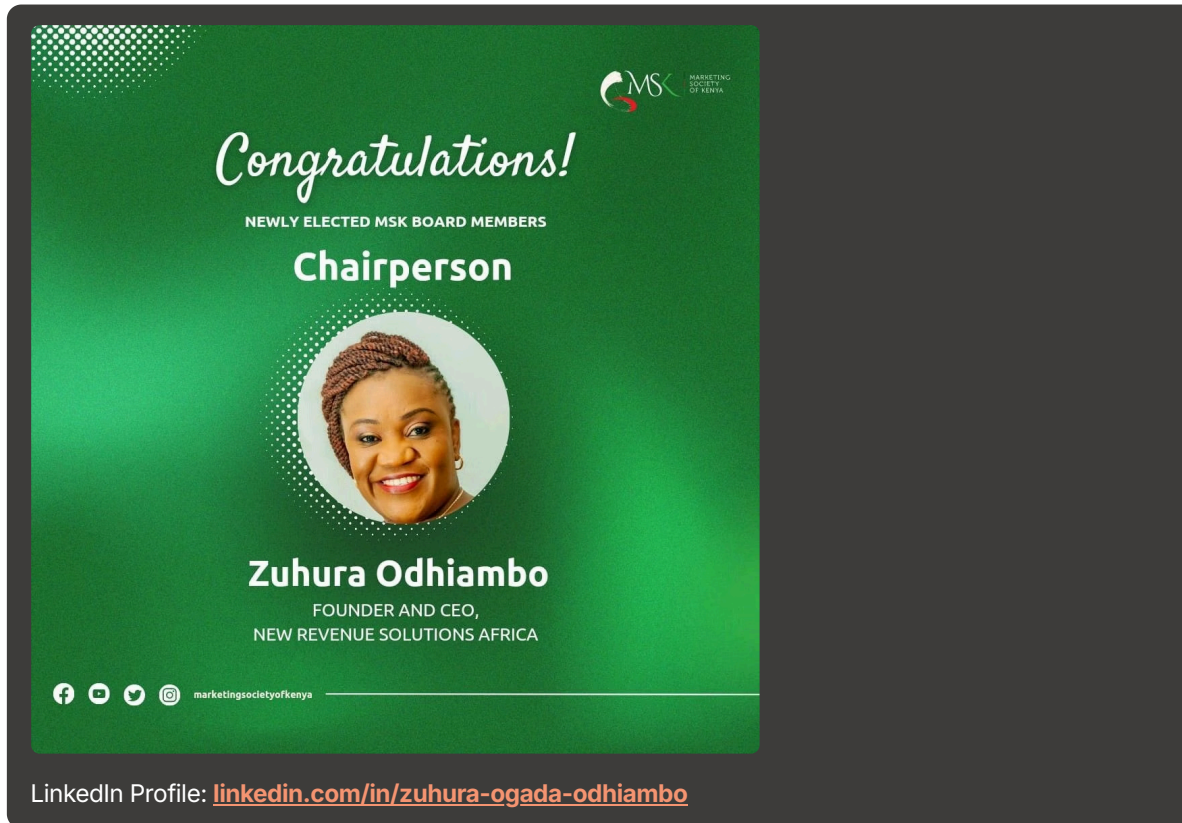
Order of Moran of the Burning Spear — Kenya's prestigious national decoration

AGLN Fellow

Fellow of the Aspen Global Leadership Network and African Leadership Initiative

Zuhura Ogada Odhiambo

Kenya — Business Management, Communication & Revenue Strategy Expert



Zuhura Ogada-Odhiambo is a business management and revenue strategy expert with **15 years of marketing experience**. As Founder and CEO of **New Revenue Solutions Africa**, she drives organizational transformation through data-driven strategy and commercial development. Her media sector leadership spans **10 years across Nation Media Group, Capital Group, and CNBC**, where she served as Commercial Director.

A champion for diversity and industry growth, Zuhura has led the **first Female Governor's Network in Kenya**, served as Chairperson of the **Events Managers Association of Kenya (EMAK)**, and acted as East Africa Lead for the **30% Club**. She is a dedicated mentor at leading universities and an active member of the **Women Corporate Directors (WCD)**, continually advocating for gender diversity and excellence in board leadership.

LinkedIn Profile: [linkedin.com/in/zuhura-ogada-odhiambo](https://www.linkedin.com/in/zuhura-ogada-odhiambo)

First Indian Film Festival Kenya

Initiated Africa's first Indian Film Festival in August 2019, a landmark cultural milestone.

Female Governor's Network

Leader in forming Kenya's first Female Governor's Network for improved county service delivery.

30% Club E.A. Lead

East Africa lead advocating for gender diversity on boards across the region.

New Revenue Solutions Africa

Founder and CEO of a data-driven revenue acceleration company transforming East African businesses.

Professor Ratemo Waya Michieka

Kenya — BSc, MA, PhD, FKNAS | Academic, Environmental Scientist & Scholar

Professor Michieka is an agricultural and environmental scholar at the **University of Nairobi**, holding degrees from **Rutgers University** and postdoctoral training from **IITA**. He served as the **Founding Vice Chancellor of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology** for 13 years and later as **Director General of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA)**, where he authored **Kenya's first State of the Environment report**. His expertise in Weed Science and pest control has significantly influenced regional sustainable farming practices.

A prolific author of **three books** and numerous academic papers, Prof. Michieka is a **Fellow and Honorary Secretary of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences** and currently serves as **Chairman of the Kenyatta University Council**. He has played a pivotal role in revitalizing the **Inter University Council of East Africa** and establishing the **African Institute for Capacity Development (AICAD)**, continuing his legacy of promoting science, technology, and environmental conservation across the region.



LinkedIn Profile: [linkedin.com/in/ratemo-michieka](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ratemo-michieka)

Founding Vice Chancellor

Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology — served for 13 years

Director General, NEMA

Led Kenya's National Environment Management Authority; authored Kenya's first State of Environment Report

FKNAS Fellow

Fellow and Honorary Secretary of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences

3 Books Published

Including East African Weed taxonomy translated into Kiswahili and his autobiography

Amb. Abraham Vatakencherry

Asia — Global Influencer, Mentor & Strategic Alliance Builder

Ambassador Abraham Vatakencherry is a Global Influencer and Strategist with a proven track record of driving results across diverse industries. His expertise in negotiation, business planning, operations, and market research enables him to create innovative solutions that drive growth and profitability across geographies.

Concentrating on **global strategic alliances** with over **two decades of direct experience**, he has led initiatives in sectors ranging from **aerospace to healthcare**. Having served in management and on boards for various global companies and advised multiple chambers of commerce in India, he brings a uniquely international perspective to the FESTAC AFRICA Festival board.

LinkedIn Profile: [linkedin.com/in/abraham-vatakencherry](https://www.linkedin.com/in/abraham-vatakencherry)



Global Strategic Alliances

Specializes in building cross-border partnerships spanning aerospace, healthcare, and beyond.



Expert Negotiator

Proven expertise in negotiation, business planning, and operations management across global markets.



Board & Advisory Experience

Over two decades serving on boards and advising chambers of commerce and industries in India and globally.

Amb. Elkana Odembo

Kenya — Global Influencer, Mentor & Strategist

Ambassador Elkana Odembo is a Global Influencer and Strategist with a proven track record of driving results across international markets. His expertise in negotiation, business planning, and operations enables him to create innovative solutions that foster growth and profitability across a wide spectrum of industries.

Concentrating on **global strategic alliances** with over **two decades of direct experience**, he has led initiatives in sectors ranging from **aerospace to healthcare**. Having served in management and on boards for global companies and advised multiple chambers of commerce, he brings a formidable international perspective to the FESTAC AFRICA Festival board.



LinkedIn Profile: [linkedin.com/in/elkana-odembo](https://www.linkedin.com/in/elkana-odembo)

Global Strategist

Expert in diplomacy and building international alliances.

Board Experience

Over two decades serving on global corporate boards.

Mentor & Influencer

Guiding leaders and teams across diverse sectors.

Adv. Pardon Tapfumaneyi

FESTAC Mandate Partner | Board Advisor



[LinkedIn Profile: linkedin.com/in/pardon-tapfumaneyi](https://www.linkedin.com/in/pardon-tapfumaneyi)

Advocate Pardon Tapfumaneyi serves as FESTAC Mandate Partner to FESTAC AFRICA Festival, bringing legal expertise, strategic partnership development, and a deep commitment to advancing Africa's cultural and economic agenda. As a qualified advocate, he brings rigorous legal and governance insight to the advisory board.

His role as FESTAC Mandate Partner positions him as a key bridge between FESTAC AFRICA Festival and its strategic partners, stakeholders, and mandate holders across the continent. Adv. Tapfumaneyi is dedicated to ensuring that FESTAC's mission is executed with legal integrity, strategic clarity, and lasting impact.

Legal Expertise

Qualified advocate bringing governance and legal insight

Strategic Partnerships

Developing and managing FESTAC's continental alliances

Conclusion

The FESTAC AFRICA Festival leadership team—comprised of 10 distinguished Board Directors and 7 expert Advisory Board members—stands as a powerful testament to the transformative talent across Africa and its diaspora. Led by Directors such as Engr. Yinka Abioye, Grace Mumo, Dr. Seni Shoroye, Dolapo Aina, and Esther Ibidoyin, alongside an esteemed Advisory Board featuring Patrick Obath, Dr. Farzam Kamalabadi, Abraham Paul Vatakencherry, Zuhura Odhiambo, Elkana Odembo, Prof. Ratemo Michieka, and Adv. Pardon Tapfumaneyi, this collective represents a force for global change. Together, they bridge continents, industries, and disciplines to reshape how Africa is perceived, experienced, and celebrated on the world stage.

FESTAC AFRICA Festival is more than an event; it is a movement to move beyond tired narratives and showcase the continent's thriving economies, world-class talent, and boundless potential. Driven by the rallying call, **"TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE THE AFRICA WE WANT,"** our leadership is uniquely positioned to cement FESTAC AFRICA as the definitive platform for African excellence. With this exceptional team at the helm, we are successfully connecting the continent to the world and lighting the way toward a bright, prosperous future.

17 Global Leaders

Combining 10 Board Directors and 7 Advisory experts

100+ Years

Combined executive and leadership experience

Dozens of Awards

National honors, global recognitions & industry accolades

One Mission

Elevating Africa's narrative and potential on the world stage

**Certificate issued by the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission
on Tuesday, October 25, 2022 12:27
Registration Certificate**



Registration number	2022 / 793299 / 08
Enterprise name	FESTAC AFRICA RENAISSANCE NPC
Enterprise shortened name	NOT APPLICABLE
Enterprise translated name	NOT APPLICABLE
Registration date	25/10/2022
Business start date	25/10/2022
Enterprise type	NON PROFIT COMPANY
Enterprise status	IN BUSINESS
Financial year end	FEBRUARY
Type of MOI	NON-STANDARD (COR15.1C)
Main business/main object	BUSINESS ACTIVITIES NOT RESTRICTED.
Postal address	16 COLLINS AVENUE KENSINGTON B RANDBURG GAUTENG 2194
Address of registered office	16 COLLINS AVENUE KENSINGTON B RANDBURG GAUTENG 2194

The Companies and Intellectual Property Commission of South Africa
P.O. Box 429, Pretoria, 0001, Republic of South Africa
Docex 256, Pretoria
Contact centre 086 100 2472
www.cipc.co.za





Contact FESTAC AFRICA Festival

For partnerships, board inquiries, media requests, or general information about FESTAC AFRICA Festival, please reach out to our team. We welcome collaborations from businesses, governments, cultural organizations, and individuals who share our passion for celebrating and elevating Africa.

[✉ info@festacafrika.org](mailto:info@festacafrika.org)

[🌐 www.festacafrika.org](http://www.festacafrika.org)

"TOGETHER WE CAN CREATE THE AFRICA WE WANT."

— Grace Mumo, FESTAC AFRICA CEO

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