



INSPIRING
WOMAN
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AMINA @65
OYAGBOLA

INSPIRING LIFE OF LAW, LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY

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You Can Learn It**



**Kemi
Ajumobi**

Founder/Group CEO, IWA Group
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Welcome!

Dear Readers,

It's that time of the week again and IWA is here to serve you.

I admire learning from people's stories and journeys. I also love to celebrate people. One of such ways is birthdays, where I also get to read different views on the celebrant.

When our cover personality's secretariat reached out to me for the surprise celebratory messages they planned for her, I was certain of sharing from my heart because she is such a positive force. Then I saw what others wrote and I said to myself, "I can't see this alone" hence the reason for this edition.

Our cover personality is AMINA OYAGBOLA, and we celebrate her at 65 for her inspiring life of Law, Leadership and Legacy.

She is the Chairperson of WISCAR (Women in Successful Careers), and has over 30 years of legal expertise.

We trust that these words from each person's message will inspire us on the importance of living a life of impact and positive influence.

Here are other articles in this edition:

HER POINT OF VIEW: Reinventing Yourself at 50: When Success Is Not the Final Destination. By Chinyere Okorochoa.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE: Invisible Labour: The Emotional Work Women Executives Do (and Rarely Talk About) By Wola Joseph-Condotti.

FINANCIAL AdviseHER: Money Is A Language, You Can Learn It. By Sola Adesakin.

GENDER INSIGHT: The Role of Women and Nigeria's Declaration of "2026, the Year of the Family. By Asmau Benzies-Leo.

HOLISTIC LIVING: Connected To Heal: Why Relationships, Not Routines Are The True Foundation Of Human Wellbeing. By Dr. Maymunah Yusuf Kadiri.

TRIBE WITH THE VIBES: 5 Money Habits and What They Do to You.

WE'VE GOT MEN: PATRICE MOTSEPE, Chairman, African Rainbow Minerals.

WOMAN AT THE HELM: MATILDA ASANTE-ASIEDU, Second Deputy Governor, Bank of Ghana.

You know how we do...we are seeing you here again next week for another enriching edition of IWA.

Until then, live to do good!



COVER

AMINA OYAGBOLA at 65

INSPIRING LIFE OF LAW, LEADERSHIP AND LEGACY

Kemi Ajumobi



Amina Oyagbola is a seasoned legal professional with over 3 decades of experience. She

was a former human resources and corporate services executive at MTN Nigeria. Beyond HR, her experience also includes working in banking and finance, oil and gas sectors.

She is the managing consultant of AKMS Consulting Ltd., a senior partner of Oyagbola Chambers, and a Chevening Scholar.

Most worthy of mention is that she is the founder and chairperson of WISCAR (Women in Successful Careers), a not-for-profit gender empowerment and strategic mentoring and leadership initiative for professional career women.

She recently turned 65 and her organisation collated inspiring words of celebration from family, friends, associates, staff and loved ones.

The words truly reflect the hearts of all the well-wishers and in this special edition, we share them with you.

Happy 65th BirthDay celebration to you Ma'am, may your years be long, your heart be merry and your joy be full!





**Agatha Emina
MD, Wild Fusion**

Mrs. Amina Oyagbola consistently empowers women to lead with confidence and clarity, inspiring me to do the same. Through WISCAR, she has created a lasting impact by shaping strong, values-led leaders across Nigeria. Happy Birthday Ma - your legacy continues to multiply!

**Akaoma Onyemelukwe
Women in Leadership Global**

I am excited to celebrate you. Your most enduring impact is that you have played a leadership role in the forming of most women leadership organizations in Nigeria. Your investment in girls through WISCAR, your championing and passion for women, marks you as a trail blazer. Happy Birthday Ma. The world is better for having you in it.

**Amara Agbim
Founder and CEO, The Nanny Academy
Member, Governance, Programmes &
Advocacy Committee**

When I count my business blessings, WISCAR, and by extension, Mrs. Amina Oyagbola is at the very top of that list. Your courage and generosity in founding the WISCAR platform have empowered me to reach higher, grow bolder, and impact more lives. Thank you for believing in women like me. Happy 65th Birthday, Ma!

**Asmau AIMS Smaila
Associate Director
Sustainability/Government Relations**

To a truly radiant visionary whose leadership is as luminous as your smile, which lights up every room and reflects a heart of pure impact. Through WISCAR (and more), you have not only blazed trails but paved roads for many of us. Happy 65th Birthday, Mrs. O - may every blessing you've sown return to you multiplied!

**Abosede George-Ogan
Founder and Executive Director, WILAN
Global**

Happy 65th Birthday Mrs. O. Thank you for your leadership. It has been such a delight to partner with you as part of the women in leadership coalition. I celebrate all your many achievements and your relentless pursuit of excellence for women. More grace to you!

**Adebimpe Ayo-Elias
HR Director, Airtel Networks
Member, Governance, Programmes &
Advocacy Committee**

Dear Mrs Oyagbola, Happy 65th Birthday to a diligent, elegant, and inspiring leader. Thank you for being an impactful leader. Wishing you more glorious years ahead. Best wishes, Bimpe Ayo-Elias

**Adekemi Adisa
GM, Sustainability and Shared Value,
MTN Nigeria**

Mrs. Oyagbola embodies consistency in every season. Watching you show up, build, and mentor with no applause taught me that real influence happens in the quiet moments. Because you stayed the course, others found theirs. Happy 65th Birthday, Ma!

**Afiniki Mangzha
Country Director, IWAYEC Foundation
and Former Executive Secretary WISCAR**

Happy 65th Birthday to Mrs O., a distinguished leader whose discipline and strong sense of purpose have defined an inspiring legacy. What stands out is your ability to remain focused and decisive, even in the midst of competing priorities. Thank you for pouring into us Ma. Happy birthday!



Boma Alabi OON SAN
Senior Partner, Primera Africa Legal
Member, Finance & Sustainable
Fundraising Committee

Amina Oyagbola is an extraordinary leader who understands the power of teamwork and delegates astutely, focusing on the strength of each individual member of the team. She is a selfless and courageous leader, who consistently puts the needs of the group before her own. Happy Birthday Amina!

Bridget Oyefeso-Odusami
Head, Brand and Marketing, Stanbic
IBTC Holdings

Amina Oyagbola was a visionary leader who transformed mentorship into lasting impact. Through WISCAR, she empowered generations of women to lead with confidence, integrity, and purpose. She led with grace, conviction, and an unwavering belief in women. Her legacy lives on - in lives changed and leaders raised.

Bukola Evbuomwan
Director, Edidot College Lagos

Happy 65th Birthday, Mrs Amina Oyagbola. Working with you at MTN Nigeria 14 years ago remains one of the most defining experiences in my career. Your leadership, clarity, and strength left a lasting imprint on me. Wishing you joy, good health, and continued impact.

Bukola Smith
MD/CEO, FSDH Merchant Bank
Advisory Board Member
Chairperson, Finance & Sustainable
Fundraising Committee

Mrs. Oyagbola is remarkably visionary and strategic. Her deep commitment to developing the next generation of female leaders is evident in the systems she has built, which have elevated

mentorship into institutional reform. I admire how she selflessly leverages her relationships to advance the growth of countless women. She is a case study of how a leader can shape both people and policy.

Chinwe Bode-Akinwande
Head Sponsorships, Partnerships, Events
and Collaboration, FirstBank

Mrs O is simply amazing, selfless, an epitome of intelligence and love. Very professional, always on time and a giver. She practices what she preaches. Love her! Happy birthday ma'am. Thank you for your warmth, your wisdom, and all the doors you have opened for women!

Dr. Chukwuemeka Onyimadu
WEE Specialist, UN Women

Mrs Oyagbola is best described as a bold and purposeful leader. She leads with clarity, conviction, and a strong sense of direction, leaving little room for complacency. Her leadership style is disciplined and, at times, strict, but always driven by a genuine desire to see excellence, growth, and meaningful results. Her most enduring impact is the culture of ambition she has cultivated through her work and mentorship. She has shaped not only careers but also mindsets, encouraging others to embrace purpose and courage in their personal and professional journeys. As she marks her 65th birthday, she is celebrated for the strength of her character, the clarity of her vision, and the many lives she continues to influence. May the years ahead bring her continued fulfillment, joy, and the satisfaction of seeing her legacy continue to grow.

Debola Deji-Kurunmi
Founder and CEO, IMMERSE Coaching
Company & Visionary Compass; Founder
and Executive Director, Ideation Hub Africa

"Today, we celebrate an extraordinary legacy spanning six and a half decades, defined by significant impact and influence through mentorship, modelling, and matriarchy. Happy Birthday, Ma! Enjoy a vibrant season ahead!" - Debola Deji-Kurunmi

Deborah Owolabi
Principal, VortexSphere

Mrs Amina Oyagbola is a truly remarkable and inspirational champion of womankind. Warmest birthday wishes ma'am - may your impact wax even stronger.

Dr. Detoun Ogwo
ED, The Skills Development Practice

Mrs. Amina Oyagbola embodies a rare kind of leadership where quiet conviction translates into lasting, formidable impact. Her belief in the work of our social enterprise decades ago helped shape a school of thought and opened doors that still swing wide today. Happy 65th Birthday Ma - the ripples of your life's work are still spreading!

Dolapo Agbede
CEO/Lead Consultant, Will Way Paradigm
Services Limited
Member, Governance, Programmes &
Advocacy Committee

Celebrating you specially today and always dear Mrs. O! Thank you for creating the safe space for real women to share their truth on navigating life and career, counting costs and leading with excellence. Your impact is immeasurable. Happy 65th Birthday!



Ejine Nzeribe
Managing Consultant, People First
Consulting and Services Ltd.

AMINA is an Achiever, Motivator, Innovator, with a Natural disposition and Admirable personality who lives up to her name. Happy Birthday Ma!

Ekemini Akpakpan
Executive Secretary, WISCAR

It has been a rare privilege to work with Mrs. Oyagbola. She leads by example, embodying every quality she expects of others as leaders. She takes every opportunity to teach tirelessly and is unwavering in her commitment to excellence and to the growth of those around her. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Esther Akinnukawe
Chief Human Resources Officer, MTN
Nigeria

As we celebrate Mrs. Oyagbola at 65, my gratitude is deeply personal, shaped by five defining years of working closely with her and learning from her elegance, conviction, and uncompromising pursuit of excellence. I vividly recall watching her take on a demanding Ethics Certification journey and emerge, as always, with strength and distinction - an enduring reminder that excellence truly defines who she is. Through WISCAR and beyond, her lasting gift is the many lives she has intentionally mentored and transformed. Happy 65th Birthday, Mrs. Oyagbola! May the years ahead be as impactful, fulfilling, and rich in legacy as those already lived.

Etemore Glover
CEO, Impact Investors Foundation

Dear Mrs. Amina Oyagbola, your vision, discipline, and unwavering commitment to women's advancement continue to set a standard that inspires us. Wishing you a birthday as remarkable as the legacy you're building - Happy 65th!

Fabia Ogunmekan
Principal Consultant, ADABA Initiatives;
Advisory Board Member, WISCAR
Advisory Board Member
Member, Memberships & Partnerships
Committee

Special Tribute to Amina Oyagbola. On this your milestone birthday Ma'am, I celebrate you not just as the remarkable boss and mentor you have been, but as the friend you've become. Thank you ma'am for your encouragement and the platform you always willingly provide. Happy 65th Birthday!

Faith Barde

Relationship Manager, First Bank of Nigeria Limited

Happy 65th Birthday, Mrs. O. Meeting you has truly been a blessing. From serving as your Relationship Manager at the bank to becoming a WISCAR mentee, and now a proud WISCAR for Life, my journey with you has been deeply meaningful. Your leadership is defined by your passion for seeing women rise.

Through you, we have learnt to open new

doors, step into them with courage, and hold them open for others coming behind us. What many see as difficult, you have made a shared calling through your grace and purpose. As you celebrate 65, I pray the years ahead bring you as much inspiration, strength, and joy as you have given to so many.

Faith Zekeri
Partner, Lummina Law Firm

Mrs. Amina Oyagbola is a very intentional and inspiring person. The opportunity to work with and learn from her directly was such a privilege. She leads by example and she holds herself and everyone around her to high standards. Mediocrity has no place with her. As she marks this milestone, I pray that this phase of her life will be more impactful and successful than anything she has done before. May she reap the fruits of her labour and be blessed with joy all around her.

Femi Ojo
Managing Partner, Foster Associates

Mrs Amina Oyagbola's leadership is exemplary, defined by integrity, results-oriented yet grounded in empathy and respect. As a client, she has influenced me by modeling patience, clarity, and respect in professional engagements. She consistently embodies trustworthiness, and I remember how her guidance once brought alignment to a difficult process. Her greatest impact is the strong, value-based relationships, confidence and trust she builds. Wishing her continued influence, renewed strength, many more graceful and fulfilling years ahead. Happy Birthday Ma.

Folabomi Salami
Vice-Chair, WISCAR Communications, PR and Events Committee
Vice-Chairperson, Communications, PR & Events Advisory Board Committee

Mrs. Oyagbola exemplifies purposeful leadership and grace. Through WISCAR, she has raised a generation of empowered women and continues to inspire many more, including me. Happy 65th birthday Mrs O, may this new season be your most fulfilling yet!





others up and leaving lasting impressions. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Foyinsola Oyebola
Dawn of Life Consulting

I served under Mrs. Amina Oyagbola for almost ten years whilst at MTN Nigeria Communication Plc. She brought excellent leadership skills to the company. She is a great role model who contributed to my career growth and personal development. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Funke Agbor

Amina has been a woman of impact since her early days as a young lawyer at Chief Rotimi Williams' Chambers nearly 40 years ago. I am not surprised by her many achievements across various fields. Most importantly, through WISCAR, she has continued to nurture and mentor women. Happy 65th Birthday, Amina!

Folake Ani-Mumuney
CEO & Founder, Arcadia Advisory Africa
Advisory Board Member
Member, Communications, PR & Events
Advisory Board Committee

Dear Mrs. Amina Oyagbola, on your 65th birthday, I celebrate not just your extraordinary achievements with WISCAR, but the warmth, wisdom, and personal encouragement you so generously extend to those around you. Your life is a masterclass in leading with purpose. Wishing you abundant joy and continued grace.

Folake Ogundipe
Executive Director, Cadbury NG Plc
Member, Finance & Sustainable
Fundraising Committee

Happy 65th birthday dear Mrs Oyagbola! Your visionary leadership as the pioneer of WISCAR has transformed the landscape for women striving toward executive excellence. Through your relentless commitment, you have shown us that purpose-driven leadership creates

legacies that outlast titles. Wishing you more grace, joy, and impact!

Folake Owodunni
Emergency Response Africa
Member, Memberships & Partnerships
Committee

Dear Mrs. Oyagbola, Happy 65th Birthday. I am sincerely grateful for your many years of dedication, exceptional leadership, and the inspiration you have been to me and to the countless lives you have touched. May this milestone birthday be the beginning of even greater achievements. Wishing you continued good health, joy, and fulfillment.

Folusho Olaniyan OON
Member, Governing Council, Chartered
Institute of Directors Nigeria

Mrs Oyagbola as first vice president of CIoD has led with quiet strength and unwavering integrity, shaping not only the direction of the institute, but the people within it. As a role model, she has shown that true leadership is about building

Funke Amobi
Executive Director Operations,
StanbicBTC Bank
Advisory Board Member
Chairperson, Governance, Programmes &
Advocacy Committee

Today we celebrate a woman whose life and career has been defined by excellence, service, and impact - Amina Oyagbola. On this special birthday Madam, I don't just want to thank God for what you've achieved, but for who you are. A woman of deep conviction, immense grace, and extraordinary courage. Happy Birthday Ma!

Funke Opeke
Founder, MainOne
Advisory Board Member

Dear Amina, on the occasion of your 65th birthday, I celebrate you, your contribution to my journey, and the enduring impact of your commitment to the advancement of women through WISCAR. I pray that this new year of



your life brings you renewed energy, great joy, and even greater impact. Happy 65th Birthday!

Gbenga Bello
Office Manager, Oyagbola Chambers

Happy 65th Birthday, Ma'am. Wishing you continued good health, wisdom, and success in the years ahead. Thank you for your inspiring leadership. Enjoy your special day!

Habiba Balogun
Principal Consultant, Habiba Balogun Consulting
Advisory Board Member
Chair, Advocacy Subcommittee, Governance, Programmes & Advocacy Committee

Happy 65th Birthday to my darling sister, my inspiration, my encourager, my role model. You have always stood as a woman of quiet strength and unwavering principle, carrying yourself with a sense of protocol and elegance that commands both respect and admiration. There is something deeply reassuring about who you are, steady, grounded, and clear in your values. To many, you may have seemed strict, a guardian of standards and expectations. But to those of us who truly know you, you have always been a safe place, someone we could turn to for honest, non-judgmental advice, and wise guidance when it mattered most. That balance is rare, and it is one of your greatest gifts. From you, I have learned what it means to lead with both firmness and fairness. You have shown me the importance of managing relationships thoughtfully, addressing difficult issues with courage, and holding people accountable while still holding space for them. These lessons continue to shape how I navigate life and work. What makes your impact so enduring is your ability to build systems that last, structures that include, uplift, and empower others. Everywhere you have been, you have left things better than you met them, and people stronger than they were before they encountered you. As you mark this

beautiful milestone, my prayer is that the countless seeds you have sown in people, in relationships, and in institutions will continue to sprout, bloom, and flourish. May they bring you deep joy, pride, and the quiet satisfaction of a life so meaningfully lived. Happy Birthday, dear sister. You are deeply loved and profoundly appreciated.

Hauwa Haliru
CEO, Nigeria Governors Spouses Forum

Happy Birthday, Mrs. O. I truly admire the powerful and formidable role you continue to play in shaping women. Your work has consistently elevated the standard for women's leadership in Nigeria, and your investment in the next generation is a gift that keeps giving. Many happy returns!

Helen Onu
Programmes Officer, WISCAR

Hearing you speak at the CIOD event about how your leadership journey began offered me deep insight - not only into your humble beginnings, but also your humility, commitment, diligence, and consistency. That singular moment has profoundly shaped my approach to leadership. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Ibukun Owolabi
Founder, Shepherd and Crest

Mrs. Amina Oyagbola has been an inspiration to me. I started out as a mentee with WISCAR and became a mentor because of her influence and encouragement. She gave me the confidence that has led to my active involvement in WISCAR. Her leadership continues to inspire and shape future women leaders. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Inyang Osazuwa
GM Organisational Effectiveness and Performance, MTNN
Advisory Board Member
Vice-Chairperson, Memberships & Partnerships Committee

Happy 65th dear Ma'am. Working with you was a defining chapter in my career. Your fierce pursuit of results, sharp eye for detail, and unwavering standards shaped how I show up every day. You taught me that leadership is not a title - it is a daily commitment to excellence. Thank you, and happy birthday!

Inyang Sami-Orungbe
Managing Partner, Averti Professional Managers

Tribute to Mrs. Amina Oyagbola at 65 - from the Partners of Averti Professional Managers. Today, we proudly celebrate an exceptional woman, distinguished professional, and visionary leader, Mrs. Amina Oyagbola. You have inspired us all through your commitment to excellence, women's empowerment, and purposeful leadership. Happy 65th Birthday!

Iswat Badmus
Senior Programmes Officer, WISCAR

Mrs Amina Oyagbola is not just a leader, but a builder of people, a nurturer of potential, and a woman deeply committed to purpose. From my very first conversation with her, I experienced a rare combination of strength and warmth that is truly hers. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Kemi Dallass
MD, Gardner Integrated Services Limited
Member, Communications, PR & Events Advisory Board Committee

Happy 65th birthday, Mrs. O. Thank you for the privilege and opportunity to create impact under your inspiring and exceptional leadership. May God continue to strengthen you, uphold you, and grant even greater influence in the season ahead. You are deeply appreciated!

Kemi Jeje
CEO, WholeEats Africa

Mrs Oyagbola would lift every aspiring woman in any way she can. When I met her I was in the very early stage of building my brand, she didn't just give me a platform - she gave me trust in advance, which gave me the confidence to show up even bigger. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Kemi Ajumobi
Founder/Group CEO, Inspiring Woman Africa (IWA)

Dearest Aunty Amina, a beautiful soul in every ramification. A resplendent beacon for inspiration and women's advocacy. Your endearing nature makes it easy to enjoy your presence, an attribute you naturally carry everywhere you go, shining through to the admiration of both young and old. Influential and humble, experienced and graceful, brilliant and beautiful - I could go on. Queen AMINA! Yes Aunty, you are a Queen! Thank you for your love, warmth, support and kind words through the years. I celebrate you today and always will. Love you!

Kester Osahenye
President, Chevening Alumni Association of Nigeria

Happy 65th Birthday to Mrs Oyagbola, she is an Amazon, an uncommon professional, a HR expert, Corporate Affairs professional and consummate Lawyer. She brought people-focused impact to MTN, took the Corporate Affairs world by storm, and founded WISCAR which remains her crowning achievement. God bless you Ma!

Kevwe Ikanone
Communications and PR Officer, WISCAR

Working within WISCAR has made it a warm experience observing Mrs. O's leadership - an exemplary leader who is graceful, intentional, precise, and deeply

thoughtful. I always look forward to hearing her speak; there is always something powerful to take away. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Lawal Ibrahim Olajide
Project Admin Officer

Her leadership is defined by quiet strength and intentional impact. She leads with clarity, purpose, and genuine care for people. I've seen how she consistently empowers others to grow while staying grounded in her own values. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Lola Esan
Partner, EY
Advisory Board Member
Vice-Chairperson, Governance, Programmes & Advocacy Committee

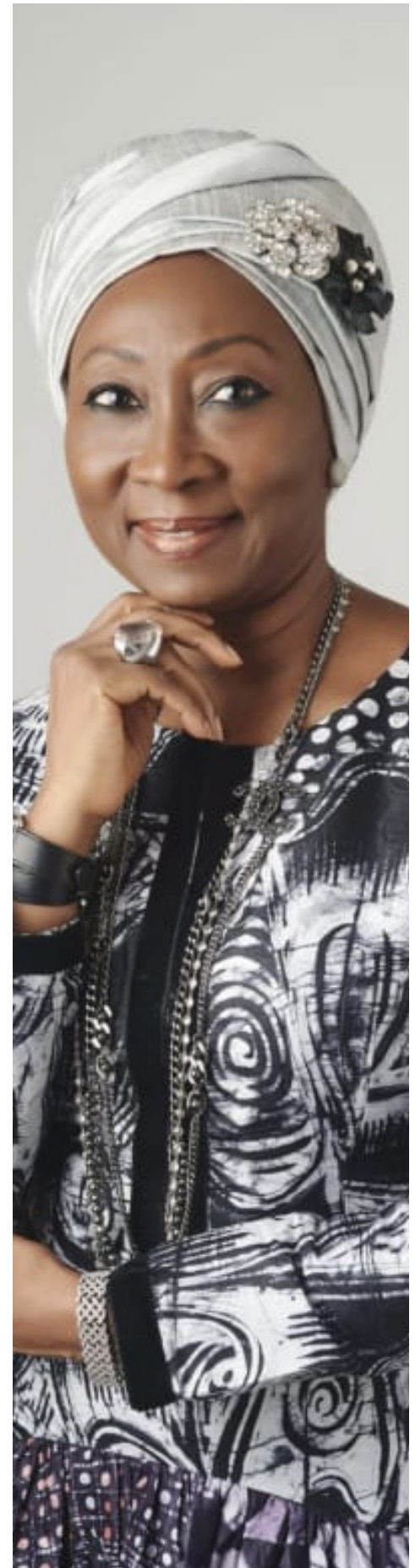
Happy birthday, Mrs O - your impact in raising and empowering women leaders is truly inspiring. Through your investment in WISCAR and beyond, you've opened doors and shaped futures in ways that will last for generations. Wishing you a year filled with joy, fulfillment, and the same strength and grace you so generously give to others.

Mary Ajudonu
HR/Business Coordinator, Oyagbola Chambers

Dear Mrs O, working with you is truly a privilege, and I'm constantly learning from your excellence and dedication. Happy 65th Birthday to you! Wishing you a beautiful birthday and many more remarkable years of impact and grace.

Maryam Uwais
Board Member, WISCAR
Advisory Board Member

Her consistency and focus on supporting younger women is a gift beyond measure. Happy 65th Birthday, Ma!





Engr. Nimot Muili
ARUP, Lagos Office | Associate (Partner)

Mrs. O's leadership exemplifies principled service, discipline, and a steadfast commitment to excellence - qualities that have profoundly shaped both individuals and institutions. Her enduring legacy of empowering women leaders reminds us that true leadership is measured not by titles, but by lives transformed. Happy 65th Birthday!

Njoku Onyedikachi David
Finance Officer

Happy birthday, Mrs. Amina. Your amazing, results-oriented leadership distinguishes you from your peers, and your eye for detail makes your impact impossible to miss because excellence always follows you. Wishing you a wonderful birthday, filled with joy, grace, and continued success.

Nnenna Jacob-Ogogo
Group Head SheVentures & Impact Segment, FCMB

As you celebrate the blessing of 65 years God has given to you, I want to thank you for your enduring passion for empowering women. When I think of the number of women that have been mentored within our industry through your platform, it reminds me of the power of one individual's vision. Happy Birthday Ma!

Ojumeaka Sandra
Human Resources Manager

Mrs. Amina is someone who is passionate about the work that she does - grooming people of exceptional standards to create a ripple effect in the society. Through the WISCAR platform, I, who was once a mentee, became a mentor. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Oladotun Adeogun
MD, Hallmark Health Services Limited

Thank you Mrs Oyagbola for being who you are - a woman raising other women. The WISCAR platform has been a pillar of support for me over the years. I am proud to be associated with you and all you do for others. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Olaniyi Yusuf
Managing Partner, Verraki Partners

Amina has crafted a legacy defined by institutional transformation and a tireless commitment to gender equity in Nigeria. Her journey from a legal practitioner to a HR leader, a national business leader, and a champion of women's advancement is both remarkable and inspiring. Happy 65th Birthday!

Olubukola Jude-Oriakhi
United People Global

Happy Birthday, Mrs. Oyagbola! Wishing you joy, good health, and many more wonderful years ahead. Have a truly special day!

Oluebube Onyirioha
Communications & Advocacy Manager, WISCAR

Happy 65th Birthday, Mrs. O! Your vision and dedication in founding this organisation have touched countless lives and continue to inspire all of us who are privileged to carry that work forward. May this season bring you as much joy as you have given to so many others.

Olufunmilola Odunlami
Principal Partner, FAO Legal Consult

Dear Mrs. Oyagbola. Congratulations on your 65th birthday. Your visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to professional women are truly

commendable; the impact of your work will undoubtedly resonate for generations to come. Wishing you all the best in this new chapter!

Olufunto Igun
Managing Consultant, Sorami Enterprises

Mrs. Oyagbola is a values-driven leader who balances professional excellence with humanity, and it is this combination that has enabled her to influence and transform many lives. She consistently embodies what it means to lead with integrity and intention. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Oluwaseyi Kehinde-Peters
Founder, Pan African Women Empowerment Network (PAWEN)

The epitome of a leader is one who raises other leaders, and Mrs Oyagbola embodies this truth with remarkable grace. From my days at MTN, where she served as HR Director, I admired and learned so much from her; and watching from afar the tenacity and vision with which she built WISCAR gave me a role model as I built PAWEN. Happy 65th birthday Ma, thank you for being a light and a standard for so many of us.

Oluwatosin Solabi
PM, IDYHA
Member, Communications, PR & Events Advisory Board Committee

Dear Ma, Happy Birthday to you. I just wanted to take a moment to celebrate you and appreciate the beautiful person you are. Your kindness, warmth, and grace never go unnoticed, and it's always a joy to witness your remarkable leadership. Wishing you a wonderful 65th birthday filled with love and happiness!

Omolara Michael-Nwadu
Acting CEO, MoMo Payment Service Bank
Member, Finance & Sustainable
Fundraising Committee

An old saying goes: "the words of our elders are words of wisdom". Thank you for all the times you imparted me with your wise words regarding career and family. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon you and give you peace. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Ore Famurewa
Executive Director, Corporate Affairs

Happy 65th birthday, Amazing Amina. Your visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to empowering women through WISCAR continue to inspire generations of leaders. As a mentor of WISCAR and a co-board member, you have consistently led by example - thank you for your extraordinary impact!

Oriyomi Anthony
Editor, Witty Inventions Consult

When I think about Mrs Oyagbola, I am constantly reminded of passion, commitment, courage, boldness, doggedness, innovation, excellence, and a 'never say never' spirit. From her, I have learnt the importance of never settling for less, of pursuing purpose with intentionality. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Osarieme Ezekiel
Managing Partner, Oakwell Partners

As Amina Oyagbola marks 65, we celebrate not just the years, but the character and grace she embodies. She is a thoughtful and purposeful leader whose quiet strength, wisdom and consistency have uplifted many and shaped the culture of excellence she champions. Happy 65th Birthday!



Osasuyi Dirisu
Executive Director, Policy Innovation
Centre

Dear Mrs. Amina Oyagbola, you are a rare kind of leader - one whose impact transcends boardrooms to the everyday women you have intentionally lifted, guided, and inspired over the years. You do not simply occupy spaces; you transform them. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Owen D. Omogiafo OON
President/Group CEO, Transcorp Plc

Mrs. Oyagbola leads with grace, kindness and with a smile that lights up the room. She is a positive role model to several women, showing that indeed you can have it all. As she celebrates her 65th birthday, I wish her many more years of joy, impact, and fulfilment. Happy Birthday Ma!

Pai Gamde
Chief Talent Officer, Coronation Group

I call her Aunty Amina. As you mark this milestone, I wish you continued impact and fulfilment. You have already shaped so much, and there is clearly even more ahead. Congratulations and Happy 65th Birthday!

Peju Adebajo

Happy 65th birthday to a cherished sister - we first met at UBA in the 90s and forged a bond that decades have only deepened. I am proud to have been among those with whom the vision of WISCAR was first shared, and proud of all it has become. Here's to you, Amina - keep shining!



Rabi Adetoro
Head Human Resources, MoMo PSB
Member, Communications, PR & Events
Advisory Board Committee

Amina embodied what it means to be a true Human Resources practitioner, across presence, articulation, and depth of thinking. She set a standard that made excellence the only acceptable outcome for anyone privileged to learn from her. Her belief in me was not just encouraging; it was catalytic as it gave me the confidence and platform to grow into the professional I am today.

Rita Ifidon
Ex-Powergas
Member, Finance & Sustainable
Fundraising Committee

I first met Mummy O. in 2021 - at a 10-minute virtual session where I pitched why I wanted to be a member of WISCAR. What followed was nothing short of a miracle - within a matter of weeks, I didn't only become a member, I became part of the WISCAR family. Thank you for that open door, Ma. Happy 65th Birthday!

Rita Olarewaju
GM HR & Corporate Services, Aradel
Holdings Plc

Happy Birthday Mrs O. I am thankful for the privilege to have worked with you and to experience first-hand your spirit of excellence, advocacy, recognition, mentoring and solid support. This has influenced my own leadership journey significantly. Wishing you more grace and impact in the years ahead!

Sally Udoma
Friend and Fellow ALIWA Fellow

Amina, you have made a positive impact on so many lives. I'm in awe of your achievements! You're one of the most dynamic people I know: determined,

decisive, outgoing, super organised, a true leader. Wishing you many more beautiful years of impact and joy!

Sarah Omuafobu

To be influenced by Mrs. O is to be challenged to pursue a higher version of oneself through the lens of excellence. Your influence has reshaped my approach to work, teaching me that true leadership is not about titles but about consistently raising the standard for others. Happy 65th Birthday Ma!

Suzanne Iroche
CEO, Art Inspiration Ltd
Advisory Board Member

Happy Birthday dear Amina. You are a powerful voice for gender equality and a champion of women's empowerment - leading with integrity in the fight for equality. Indeed you are a woman for all seasons. Wishing you many more wonderful years!

Temitope Jemerigbe
CEO, DKK

Big sis, you continually pour into others, and we honour the incredible impact you make. It's a joy to celebrate you. Cheers to 65!

Titilayo Akisanya
Executive Coach & CEO, Theta Alpha
Consults Ltd.
Advisory Board Member
Chairperson, Memberships & Partnerships
Committee

Hearty congratulations to you dear Amina on your 65th Birthday! With your vision, focus and relentless grit embodied in your gentle mien, you have not only broken barriers but built pathways for others to follow. With WISCAR as a trailblazer, you have redefined what is possible, challenged the status quo, and inspired generations to rise with confidence and purpose. Your leadership is reflected in

the lives you have touched, the voices you have amplified, and the change you have championed. At 65, surely your story stands as a powerful testament of God's grace and enablement in fulfilling His mandate. May that grace continue to abound in you, from you and through you. Enjoy!

Toki Mabogunje
Advisory Board Member, WISCAR
Advisory Board Member
Vice-Chairperson, Finance & Sustainable
Fundraising Committee

Happy Birthday to a Phenomenal Woman. Amina, your life's work has impacted generations of women. May you continue to be a leading light. I celebrate you.

Tokunboh George-Taylor
Founder/CEO, SKOT Communications
Advisory Board Member
Chairperson, Communications, PR & Events
Advisory Board Committee

Mrs O is a disciplined leader with a strong passion for building strategic relationships. Happy 65th Birthday!

Toyin Kekere-Ekun
CEO, Lotus Financial Services Limited

Happy 65th Birthday to a wonderful role model! Your grace and warmth inspire love. Your strength and leadership inspire determination in all of us. Wishing you excellent health and many more years filled with joy and continued impact.

Uwa Osa-Oboh
Head, Corporate Development, African
Capital Alliance

Fearless and visionary are words that come to mind when I think of you, Amina. You have blessed, and continue to positively inspire me, right from the time we first met, circa 2006. Your role in the growth and advancement of women in Nigeria is unparalleled. Happy 65th Birthday!



Wonuola Adetayo
Managing Director/Chief Executive,
SoftSkills Limited

Dear Mrs Amina Oyagbola, on this occasion of your 65th birthday, I congratulate you on a life of impact and legacy worthy of commendation and emulation. Your work in empowering women has transformed countless lives and created a generational ripple effect. May this new season bring you abundant joy and even greater impact!

Yetunde Moito
INNOVEST AFRIKA

Amina Oyagbola is a blueprint for corporate excellence. Knowing her closely has been the ultimate Master Class in skillful, authentic, and empathetic leadership. At 65, her legacy is defined by the doors she has opened, the leaders she has shaped, and the futures she has made possible. Happy Birthday Ma!



WOMAN EXECUTIVE

Invisible Labour: The Emotional Work Women Executives Do (and Rarely Talk About)

By Wola Joseph-Condotti



There is a layer of leadership that is rarely documented. It does not show up in quarterly reports. It is not tracked in performance dashboards. And yet, it is often the glue that holds organisations together. It is the invisible labour of leadership. And for many women executives, it is a quiet, constant assignment carried with

grace, but often without recognition.

The Work Behind the Work

Beyond strategy, operations, and execution, many women leaders are doing another kind of work:

- We are mentoring the struggling team member who does not feel confident enough to ask for help.
- We are mediating tensions before they escalate into conflict.

- We are absorbing emotions in meetings, reading the room, softening difficult conversations.
- We are encouraging, often when we ourselves are running on empty.

We remember birthdays. We notice disengagement. We check in when someone is unusually quiet. This is not written in our job

descriptions. But it is expected. And over time, it becomes normalised.

The Silent Cost

The challenge is not that we care. The challenge is that this care often goes unacknowledged and unstructured. Emotional labor, when left unmanaged, becomes a slow drain. You leave meetings not just mentally tired, but emotionally depleted. You carry conversations long after they have ended. You become the safe space for everyone without having one for yourself. And because this work is invisible, it is rarely compensated, rarely measured, and rarely shared. So we continue. Until one day, we realise we are leading from exhaustion, not from overflow.

Why It Matters

Let us be clear: this invisible labour is not trivial. It builds trust. It sustains culture. It improves team cohesion. It often determines whether a team thrives or fractures. In many ways, it is the human infrastructure of leadership. But like all infrastructure, it must be maintained or it will collapse under pressure.

Leading with Empathy—Without Losing Yourself

The goal is not to become less empathetic. It is to become more intentional. We must begin to distinguish between empathy as leadership strength and emotional overextension as a leadership risk. Here are a few truths I have learned:

1. You are not the solution to every emotional need.

You can support, guide, and listen but you are not called to carry every burden.

2. Boundaries protect your leadership.

Saying, “Let us escalate this appropriately,” or “Let us revisit this in a structured setting,” is not cold, it is wise.

3. You need safe spaces too.

Every leader needs a circle where they can exhale. Mentors. Peers. Friends. Spaces where you are not the strong one.

4. Structure emotional labour where possible.

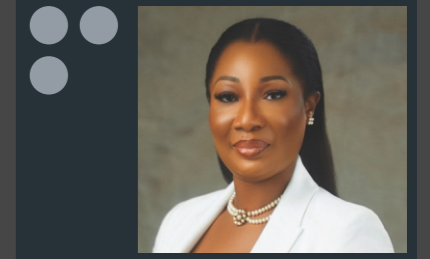
Mentorship programmes, HR support systems, and clear reporting lines help ensure that emotional leadership is shared and not silently assigned to one person.

A Biblical Reflection

Even Jesus (who embodied perfect compassion) did not carry every burden alone. He healed. He listened. He wept. But He also withdrew. He rested. He created space between Himself and the constant demands of the crowd. There is wisdom in that rhythm. Compassion without boundaries leads to depletion. Compassion with discernment leads to impact.

Final Thoughts

To every woman executive carrying more than her title requires: I see you. The conversations you hold. The tensions you diffuse. The encouragement you give when no one is watching. It matters. But so do you. You are not just a leader of people. You are a person who must be led, cared for, and restored. So lead with heart. But guard your energy. Give generously. But not endlessly. Because the goal is not just to build strong teams, It is to remain a whole leader while doing so. And that is the kind of leadership that truly lasts.



Wola Joseph Condotti

Chief Executive Officer, Eko Electricity Distribution Company

Wola is the CEO of Eko Electricity Distribution Company (Eko Disco).

Prior to her current role, she was the Group MD/CEO of West Power & Gas Limited, the parent company of Eko Electricity Distribution PLC (EKEDP) and six other affiliate companies with interests in both conventional and renewable energy sectors. In addition to this role, she serves as the Director of the Power and Renewable Division at the Women in Energy Network (WIEN) in a non-executive capacity.

Wola Joseph Condotti was also the pioneer Chief, Legal & Company Secretariat at EKEDP. During her tenure, she also held multiple key positions simultaneously including Head of Regulatory Compliance, Chief Human Resources and Administration Officer, Supervising Chief of the Customer Service Department, and Data Protection Officer. Her previous experience includes roles as General Counsel/Company Secretariat Lagoon Home Savings and Loans, and Legal Associate at Banwo & Ighodalo.

Wola holds a law degree from the University of Ibadan, an LLM in International Finance Law from Harvard Law School, and an MBA from INSEAD Business School. She is also an International Finance Corporation (World Bank) Board Evaluation Certified Professional and Corporate Governance Trainer.

Wola's achievements have earned widespread recognition. Most recently, she received the inaugural Leadership Excellence Award of the Year at the Legal Era Africa Awards 2024, becoming the first-ever recipient of this category. The award celebrated her historic transition from General Counsel to Group MD/CEO, a milestone applauded for redefining leadership pathways in the legal profession.

She is a member of the Institute of Directors and the Society for Corporate Governance Nigeria. Additionally, she is an associate member of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria, and Women in Management, Business, and Public Service.

GENDER INSIGHTS

Shadows of Brotherhood: Xenophobia, Gendered Violence, and Africa's Moral Test

Asmau Benzie Leo



Across parts of South Africa, disturbing images and testimonies are once again emerging, images that strike at the heart of African unity. Videos circulating widely showing foreign women stripped, beaten, and publicly humiliated; children forced out of classrooms; and men particularly from Nigeria, Zimbabwe, and Ghana are targeted, attacked, and in some cases killed. These are not isolated incidents. They are part of a recurring wave of xenophobic and Afrophobic violence that continues to stain the promise of a united Africa.

At its core, this crisis is not only about

migration or economic competition, it is about dignity, identity, and the dangerous politics of exclusion. Foreign nationals, many of whom have lived, worked, and contributed to South African society for years, are increasingly framed as scapegoats, blamed for unemployment, crime, and inequality. Yet behind these narratives are real human lives; families torn apart, dreams shattered, and communities living in constant fear.

Women and children are bearing the brunt of this violence in ways that are both visible and deeply hidden. The public stripping and assault of women is not merely an act of physical violence; it is a calculated weaponisation of shame. It seeks to dehumanise, to strip away not just clothing but identity, safety, and worth. For many of these women; traders, mothers,

caregivers, the marketplace or street has become a battlefield where their bodies are used as symbols of rejection.

Children, too, are caught in this cruel storm. Reports of foreign children being turned away from schools reveal a troubling erosion of basic rights. Education, which should be a sanctuary and a pathway to hope, is instead becoming another site of exclusion. These children are growing up in fear, internalising messages that they do not belong, that they are less worthy, that their futures are negotiable. The psychological scars of such rejection may last far longer than the violence itself.

For men, particularly young African migrants, the threat is often fatal. They are

profiled, hunted, and attacked, their livelihoods destroyed overnight. Shops are looted, homes are burned, and entire communities are displaced. What we are witnessing is not just xenophobia, but a collapse of empathy, a breakdown of African solidarity, and a betrayal of shared humanity.

This makes the situation all the more painful when viewed through the lens of history. During the dark years of Apartheid, many African nations stood firmly with South Africa's liberation struggle. Nigeria, in particular, played a defining role, providing financial support, diplomatic pressure, and a safe haven for exiled South Africans. Ordinary Nigerians contributed to what came to be known as the "Mandela tax," which is sacrificing from what little they had to support freedom fighters. Across the continent, there was a shared conviction that the freedom of one African nation was bound to be the freedom of all.

Today, that legacy feels painfully betrayed. Equally troubling is the slow and muted response from leadership. The silence or near silence of the Nigerian government in the face of these atrocities is as deafening as the violence itself. In moments like this, neutrality is not wisdom; it is complicity. As Martin Luther King Jr. once warned, "In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends." To remain quiet in the face of injustice is to take sides with the aggressor.

Nigeria, often described as the "Giant of Africa," carries not just economic weight but moral responsibility. Its voice matters. Its actions or inaction set a tone for the continent. Diplomatic caution must not become moral paralysis. There is an urgent need for decisive engagement, like summoning envoys, demanding accountability, ensuring the safety of its citizens, and providing immediate support; legal, psychological, and logistical to the victims.

The African Union, too, must rise beyond

rhetoric. As the custodian of Africa's unity and human rights framework, it cannot afford to respond with routine statements while African lives are desecrated in the streets. There is a need for urgent fact-finding missions, enforcement of human rights protocols, and high-level mediation that addresses not just the symptoms but the root causes of xenophobia; economic inequality, political manipulation, and social fragmentation.

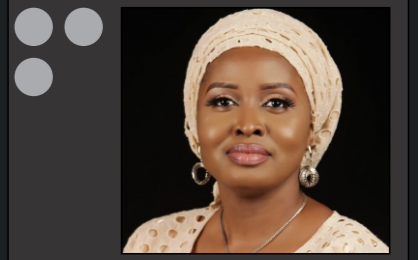
But beyond institutions, this moment demands a deeper reckoning. How did Africa arrive at a place where Africans brutalize fellow Africans with such impunity? How did shared histories of oppression and resistance give way to cycles of exclusion and violence?

What we are witnessing is both pitiful and profoundly shameful not only because of the brutality itself, but because it reflects a failure of memory. A failure to remember the solidarity that once defined the continent. A failure to uphold the dignity that liberation struggles were meant to secure.

The images of women stripped in the streets, of children turned away from classrooms, of men hunted and killed. These are not just news stories, they are indictments. They challenge the very idea of African unity and force us to confront an uncomfortable truth: that the dream of a borderless, compassionate Africa remains fragile.

If Africa is to move forward as a community bound by shared destiny, then this moment demands more than outrage. It demands courage; political, moral, and collective. It demands that nations like Nigeria find their voice, that institutions like the African Union find their strength, and that ordinary Africans reclaim their humanity.

Until that is done, the silence will linger, as heavy and as damaging as the violence itself.



Dr. Asmau Benzie Leo

Executive Director, Centre for Nonviolence and Gender Advocacy in Nigeria (CENCAIN)

Dr. Asmau Benzie Leo is a development practitioner with extensive national and international expertise in gender equality, peace-building, governance, and humanitarian action.

She holds a PhD in Public Governance and Leadership, a Master's degree in Conflict Management and Peace Studies, and executive certifications from leading institutions including Howard University, Harvard University and Glasgow Caledonian University.

As Executive Director of the Centre for Non-violence and Gender Advocacy in Nigeria (CENCAIN), she has led ground-breaking advocacy initiatives on women's political participation, gender-based violence prevention, and security sector reform across multiple World Bank, UN and EU-supported projects.

Internationally, Dr. Leo has represented civil society at the United Nations, contributed to regional dialogues on Women, Peace and Security, and partnered with global networks advancing gender justice and inclusive governance.

She is a UN Recognised Global Ambassador on Women, Peace and Security. Her expertise bridges grassroots action with policy advocacy, making her a respected voice in advancing gender equality and sustainable peace in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.

FINANCIAL AdviseHER

Money Is a Language. You Can Learn It

By Sola Adesakin

It is not a reward for the deserving. It is not a punishment for the careless. It is a system. And systems can be studied.



At some point, most of us absorbed a story about money that was never actually about money. For some, it was a morality story: good people struggle, greedy people prosper, and wanting too much is a character defect. For others, it was a fate story: some people

are just built for it, born into it, lucky, and the rest of us are spectators. For others still, it was a fear story: money is dangerous, it changes people, it attracts problems, it is better to have just enough and not draw attention.

These stories are old. Many of them were handed to us by people who were themselves afraid, or limited, or simply never taught any better. And they are keeping women, specifically, from entering the financial life they are fully capable of building.

Here is a different frame: money is a language. Not a mystery, not a moral test, not a lottery. A language. It has grammar, which is how financial systems are structured. It has vocabulary, which is the terminology of investing, insurance, credit, and compounding. It has idioms and context, which is market behaviour, economic cycles, and the specific financial landscape of your country and industry. And like any language, the earlier you begin learning it, the more fluent you become. But unlike some languages, you can start at any age and still reach a level of competence that changes your life entirely.

The women who feel most trapped by their financial situations are often not trapped by circumstances. They are trapped by the belief that they arrived too late, made too many mistakes, or simply do not have the kind of mind that understands these things. None of that is true. Financial intelligence is not a natural gift. It is an acquired one.

What does learning this language actually involve? It starts with exposure. You cannot become fluent in something you do not engage with regularly. That means reading one finance-focused article per week, not the viral social media kind that tells you how someone made millions without telling you anything real, but substantive, specific content. The CBN publishes consumer education material. The NGX provides investor education resources. Respected finance writers in Nigeria and across Africa

are producing work worth your time. Find them and read them consistently.

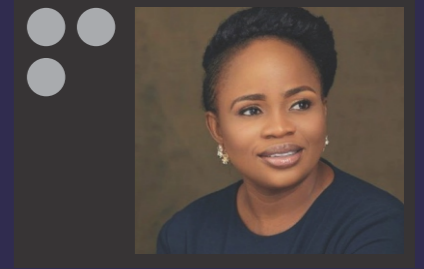
It means practice, which in financial terms means making real decisions, even small ones, and observing what happens. Open a brokerage account with an amount you can afford to learn with. Buy one stock or treasury bill and watch how it moves, read about why, develop your own analysis over time. Understanding something in a book is different from understanding it with your own money on the line. Both forms of understanding are necessary.

It means community. Language acquisition accelerates dramatically in environments where it is spoken regularly. If you want to become financially fluent faster, find people who discuss money with seriousness and specificity, not to brag, but to learn and build together. Investment clubs, professional networks focused on financial growth, mentorship relationships with women who are further along, these are not luxuries. They are infrastructure.

And it means giving yourself the grace that learning requires. You will make financial decisions that do not work out. You will buy something that declines in value, miss an opportunity you later wish you had taken, or hold onto something longer than you should have. These are not signs that money is not for you. They are the cost of tuition in a language that has no classroom, only real life.

The women who will look back at 2026 and feel good about what they built are not the ones who waited until they felt ready. There is no ready. There is only starting. Starting to learn the grammar, the vocabulary, the logic of a system that already governs your life whether or not you engage with it consciously.

Money is not your enemy. It is not a test of your worth. It is a language, and you have everything you need to learn to speak it well. Begin today. The fluency compounds.



By Sola Adesakin

Founder and Lead Coach, Smart Stewards

Sola Adesakin is a highly respected wealth coach and chartered accountant with over two decades of transformative impact in the finance industry. As the visionary founder of Smart Stewards Financial Advisory Limited and Smart Stewards Advisory LLC, she has revolutionized the financial wellbeing of countless individuals and businesses across 40 countries. Her methodical approach to 'make-manage-multiply' money principles has elevated many from financial stress to prosperity, and mediocrity to exceptional achievement.

Sola is a strong supporter of SDG5 and SDG10, as she seeks to close the gender gap and reduce inequality through financial education, financial technology, and access to funding. Sola's dedication to achieving gender equality and reducing inequality is evident in her work as an alumna of the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, an initiative of the US Embassy in Nigeria, and the Cherie Blair Foundation's Road to Growth Program. She is also an alumna of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women program and a member of the Select Global Women in Tech (SGWIT) Mentorship Network of the United States of America. Through the FRUIT Foundation, which she serves as Founder and CEO, she has partnered with the US consulate in Nigeria to champion the economic empowerment of women, assisting them to start and scale their business ventures.

Her impressive academic credentials include a BSc and an MBA degree from Oxford Brookes University and Edinburgh Business School, respectively. She is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants of the United Kingdom (ACCA), and a member of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA). In addition to her impressive credentials, Sola Adesakin is also a Certified Financial Education InstructorSM and a member of the Personal Finance Speakers Association.

HER POINT OF VIEW

Reinventing Yourself at 50: When Success Is Not the Final Destination

Chinyere Okorochoa



Sometimes they begin as a joke, a nickname, or a moment in time. Yet, over the years, they quietly shape how people see us and sometimes even how we see ourselves. I learnt this lesson many years ago during my university days, in a way I never expected.

While I was in university, I entered a beauty pageant called the Miss Dollar Competition. At the time, it was simply one of those exciting campus activities that students participated in for fun. I remember the preparation vividly...

It forces you to pause. To look at the life you have built. To measure the distance between who you were and who you have become. And sometimes, it asks an uncomfortable question:

Is this all there is?

When I turned 50 about seven or eight years ago, I found myself in that exact moment of reflection.

By every visible measure, my life was already successful.

I had spent about twenty-five years

building my career as a lawyer. I had risen from a young associate learning the ropes to becoming a partner in one of the top law firms in Lagos, Nigeria. I had built deep expertise in intellectual property law, received international recognition for my work, and expanded my practice into healthcare law.

My professional life had taken me across the world. I had travelled to more than thirty five countries, attending conferences, meeting global professionals, and learning from cultures far beyond my own.

I had also been given the privilege of leadership and service. I held positions within the Nigerian Bar Association and served on the executive committee of the Healthcare Federation of Nigeria.

On the home front, life was equally fulfilling. I was happily married to my husband of more than twenty-five years, and we had raised three wonderful children together. Two had already completed university and begun working in Fortune 500 companies, while the youngest was still studying.

From the outside, it looked like a life many people would dream of. But something inside me was restless.

The truth is, I was bored. Not unhappy. Not ungrateful. Just... aware that there was more inside me waiting to be expressed.

That realisation unsettled me at first. For years, young professionals had been approaching me for mentorship. Women especially wanted guidance on navigating

their careers, building confidence, and advancing in their professions. I helped whenever I could, usually one person at a time.

But as I approached that milestone birthday, the requests were increasing and the conversations were becoming deeper. Many women were searching for direction. Many were navigating challenges I had faced earlier in my own career.

And quietly, a thought began to grow inside me. Perhaps mentoring women was part of my purpose.

Around that same period, I started hearing more about legacy, about sharing knowledge, about transforming experience into impact. I began to feel strongly that I wanted to do more than just practice law. I wanted to help other women rise.

But there was one problem. I thought I had to choose.

In my mind, becoming a coach or mentor meant stepping away from being a lawyer. It felt like starting an entirely different life. And after building a career for over two decades, that was a frightening thought. Still, the idea would not go away.

So, I began exploring. I attended coaching programmes and leadership trainings, searching for clarity. Then one day, during one of those sessions, a coach said something that changed my thinking forever.

He said, "You do not have to stop being one thing in order to become another. Human beings are not one dimensional. Fulfillment comes when you allow yourself to express the different parts of who you are."

That sentence landed deeply in my spirit. In that moment, I realised I had been asking the wrong question. The issue was never whether I should stop being a lawyer. The real question was whether I was willing to allow another dimension of myself to emerge.

And the answer was yes. That decision marked the beginning of a new chapter in my life.

I went on to obtain coaching certifications and immerse myself in training programmes. Slowly, I began building something alongside my legal career, a platform dedicated to mentoring and empowering female professionals. Seven years later, that decision has transformed my life in ways I never imagined.

Today, I run the Heels & Ladders Career Mentorship platform, where I mentor and coach women who want to accelerate their careers. I developed the Career Acceleration Mentorship Course, an online programme helping women gain clarity, confidence, and strategy for career growth.

I now speak at conferences, leadership events, and professional gatherings, sharing lessons from my journey. And this year, I launched my book *Heels and Ladders: A Career Acceleration Handbook for Female Professionals*, a project born from decades of experience and a deep desire to help other women rise. Looking back, I smile at the fear I once had about starting something new at 50.

What I have discovered is this. Reinvention is not about abandoning who you are. It is about expanding who you are. Sometimes success can become comfortable. Familiar. Predictable. But growth often begins the moment we allow ourselves to explore the parts of us that have been waiting quietly for expression.

So, if you are reading this and feeling that subtle restlessness inside you, that gentle voice telling you there is more you want to do, please listen. You are not too old. You are not too established. You are not too late. You are simply evolving.

And sometimes, the most powerful chapters of a woman's life begin exactly where everyone else thinks the story is already complete.



Chinyere Okorochoa

Partner in the Law Firm of JACKSON, ETTI & EDU

With over three decades of experience as a trailblazer in the legal profession, Chinyere Okorochoa has established herself as a leading voice in law, leadership, and career growth for women. As a partner in one of the most prestigious law firms in the country, she has not only navigated the complexities of a competitive industry but has consistently broken barriers to become a sought-after leader, mentor, and advocate for women in the workplace.

Chinyere's career journey is a testament to her resilience, vision, and versatility. She has held numerous leadership positions, served as a director on multiple boards, and is widely admired for her strategic thinking and ability to inspire teams toward excellence. Beyond her professional accomplishments, she has also graced stages as a speaker, sharing insights on leadership, career growth, and the unique challenges women face in their professional lives.

A devoted wife and proud mother of three, Chinyere understands firsthand the challenges of balancing the demands of a thriving career with a fulfilling personal life. Through her own experiences, she has mastered the art of work-life integration, demonstrating that women can achieve extraordinary professional success without sacrificing the joys of family and personal well-being.

Her career development platform, *Heels & Ladders*, is dedicated to mentoring and guiding women who aspire to redefine success, achieve career mastery, and lead with purpose. Whether you're navigating leadership challenges, striving for balance, or looking to amplify your influence, Chinyere's expertise will help you transform ambition into achievement.



WOMAN AT THE HELM

Matilda Asante-Asiedu

Second Deputy Governor, Bank of Ghana

Matilda Asante-Asiedu is the second deputy Governor of the Bank of Ghana. Her portfolio of almost 30 years boasts of her expertise in banking, marketing communications, and media experience. She is a chartered banker with vast leadership experience.

As the second deputy governor, she serves on the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank contributing to the formulation and implementation of policies that promote financial stability and a sound financial system.

Also, as the supervising governor for the banking supervision, other financial institutions' supervisions, financial stability, finance, banking, medical, collateral registry, resolution and restructuring departments, she also serves as a non-executive director on several key national institutions, including the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Cocoa Marketing Company (CMC), Ghana EXIM Bank, and the Data Protection Agency (DPA) among others.

A feat which cannot be ignored is her recognition as the pioneer of Women Banking in Ghana, and parts of Africa, where she led Access Bank's

multiple award-winning initiative.

Asante-Asiedu holds an MBA from the GIMPA Business School and an MA in Journalism Studies from Cardiff University, UK. She is an alumna of the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford (UK), the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (USA), Marquette University's Les Aspin School for Governance (USA), and the Chartered Institute of Bankers, Ghana.

A recipient of several awards, her opinion on the power of women in Ghana's economy is praiseworthy. According to her, women in Ghana are no longer mere participants in the economy but are co-architects of its present and future.

"From Makola's vibrant markets to agribusiness value chains and digital enterprises, women are the backbone of Ghana's MSME sector creating jobs, supporting families and strengthening economic resilience." She said.

For Matilda, this itself is proof that women's leadership is central to national transformation. "As a long-standing advocate for women's economic empowerment, it is particularly meaningful to witness the growing

momentum." Matilda stated.

She buttresses her point by referring to available data which confirms that women have, on average, better loan repayment rates than men, and yet face a comparatively higher bar for loan approval. "In Ghana and Kenya, micro-lending fintechs targeting women have reported default rates below 2%, against an industry average of 5-7%. This is also documented across multiple microfinance institution portfolios globally." Matilda insists and adds "Beyond repayment, the returns on investing in women ripple outward in ways no other segment can match. A UNDP study shows that up to 90% of women's earnings are reinvested in families and communities, compared to 40% for men." She noted.

Giving more facts to her submission, according to Matilda, "The Boston Consulting Group, after analysing five years of accelerator data, found that women-founded and co-founded businesses generated 10% more cumulative revenue than men-led firms. The conclusion is clear: the opportunity cost of not investing in women is not merely a social concern. It is, in the truest sense, a commercial tragedy." She submits.



WE'VE GOT MEN

Patrice Motsepe

Chairman, African Rainbow Minerals

Patrice Motsepe is the Chairman, African Rainbow Minerals (ARM). ARM is a diversified mining and minerals company with operations in South Africa. ARM mines and beneficiates iron ore, manganese ore, chrome ore, platinum group metals (PGMs), nickel and coal and also has a strategic investment in gold through Harmony Gold Mining Company (Harmony).

Motsepe first founded Future Mining before it developed to become a successful contract mining company. He then formed ARMgold in 1997 which listed on the JSE in 2002.

He led ARMgold into a merger with Avmin and Harmony Gold in 2003. Following the merger Avmin changed its name to African Rainbow Minerals (ARM) and he became the founder and Executive Chairman of ARM.

He is known for quotes like:

“All our businesses comprise of the BEST people money can buy. My policy is hire the best and pay them well”

“My parents insisted that we

should always be respectful, never forget where we come from and that we are part of the challenges facing our people.”

“The export of oil, the export of minerals, will for many decades continue to be a critical part for the growth of African economies. The emphasis is on diversification. We have for many years - not just in South Africa but in many parts of the continent - spoken about beneficiation. And I think part of the secret, in relation to beneficiation, is you have got to make it attractive, profitable for the private sector - and it will take off. You may have to look at mechanisms like tax concessions... You will not have to worry about beneficiation if it makes commercial sense.”

“One has to set high standards... I can never be happy with mediocre performance.”

Patrice and his wife, Precious Moloji-Motsepe joined the Giving Pledge in January 2013 which was started by Warren Buffett and Bill and Melinda Gates. Motsepe committed to give half of the wealth, which is owned by the Motsepe family, to the poor and for philanthropic purposes during his lifetime and that of his wife and beyond.

According to Forbes Magazine, US\$500 million was donated by the Motsepe family to the poor and for philanthropic purposes.

In March 2020, Motsepe family, in partnership with companies and organisations that they are associated with, including ARM, pledged R1 billion (US\$57 million) to assist with South Africa and Africa's response to the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Patrice Motsepe is a member of the Board of Trustees of the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Global Network Advisory Board of the WEF Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the WEF International Business Council (IBC). He is also a member of the Harvard Global Advisory Council and the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM).

Patrice Motsepe was a partner in one of the largest law firms in South Africa, Bowmans and was also a visiting attorney in the USA with the law firm, McGuireWoods.

He is a recipient of numerous business and leadership

awards and recognitions. He bagged an LLB and Doctorate of Commerce Honoris Causa (University of Witwatersrand), Doctorate of Commerce Honoris Causa (Stellenbosch University), Doctor of Management and Commerce Honoris Causa (University of Fort Hare) and BA Law and Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa (University of eSwatini, formerly the University of Swaziland.)

Motsepe is the founder and Chairman of Ubuntu-Botho Investments, African Rainbow Capital (ARC), African Rainbow Energy and Power (AREP) and UBI General Partner Proprietary Limited. He is also the Deputy Chairman of Sanlam and Chairman of Harmony Gold.

He is the President of CAF (Confederation of African Football) and Vice President of FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association). He was previously Chairman of Mamelodi Sundowns Football Club.

HOLISTIC LIVING

Connected To Heal: Why Relationships, Not Routines Are the True Foundation of Human Wellbeing

By Dr. Maymunah Yusuf Kadiri

In an age where wellness has been reduced to routines, supplements, and solo self-improvement, we are missing one of the most powerful forces that determine how long and how well we live: human connection. Health is not built in isolation. It is shaped in conversations, sustained in communities, and restored in relationships.

In the heart of Lagos lived a woman named Amina, whose life quietly reflected this truth. She was not wealthy, nor did she have access to elite healthcare systems. What she had was something far more powerful—deep, meaningful relationships. Her days were filled with shared meals, laughter, and a strong sense of belonging. She was surrounded by people who knew her, cared for her, and showed up for her. When illness came, as it inevitably does, it did not meet her alone.

Amina's diagnosis was serious. A persistent cough had evolved into a severe lung infection requiring urgent medical attention. But what shaped her recovery was not just the treatment she received; it was the presence of people. Her friend Nkechi stood by her side, not just as a visitor, but as emotional strength. Her community rallied around her, offering meals, prayers, and support. In that moment, care became collective

and that changed everything. Modern medicine often focuses on prescriptions, procedures, and protocols. Yet, growing scientific evidence continues to reveal a deeper truth: relationships are as critical to health as diet, exercise, and medication. A landmark meta-analysis published in PLOS Medicine found that individuals with strong social relationships have a 50% increased likelihood of survival compared to those with weaker social ties. This is not anecdotal, it is evidence-based.

Social connection regulates stress, strengthens the immune system, and improves cardiovascular health. People who feel supported tend to have lower blood pressure, healthier coping mechanisms, and better recovery outcomes. Conversely, chronic loneliness has been linked to increased risks of depression, anxiety, heart disease, and even early mortality.

Beyond biology, relationships shape behaviour. We do not live in isolation. Our habits are influenced by the people around us. When we are embedded in communities that prioritise healthy living, whether through shared meals, physical activity, or emotional openness, we are more likely to adopt those behaviours ourselves. Health, in this sense,



becomes contagious.

Equally important is the role relationships play in how we cope with life's inevitable stressors. The ability to share burdens, to be heard without judgment, and to receive reassurance during uncertainty is not a luxury, it is a psychological necessity. Without it, stress accumulates, silently eroding both mental and physical health.

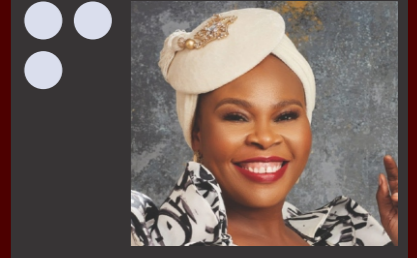
Yet, despite this knowledge, modern lifestyles are increasingly disconnecting us. Urbanisation, digital dependence, and the pursuit of individual success have created a paradox, we are more connected than ever, yet deeply alone. Many people now have wide networks but few meaningful relationships. And it is the depth, not the number, of

connections that truly matters.

Holistic living demands a shift in perspective. It requires us to see health not as a personal project, but as a shared experience. It calls for intentional investment in relationships, not just when things go wrong, but as a daily practice.

This means showing up for people. It means building communities where vulnerability is not punished but embraced. It means creating environments—at home, at work, and in society where people feel safe, valued, and supported.

The implications extend beyond individuals to systems. Policymakers, organisations, and community leaders must begin to recognise social connection



**Dr. Maymunah
Yusuf Kadiri**

Psychiatrist-In-Chief at Pinnacle
Medical Services

Dr. MAYMUNAH YUSUF KADIRI (aka DR. MAY) popularly referred to as "The Celebrity Shrink," is a multiple award winning Mental Health Physician, Advocate & Coach. She is the convener of "The Mental Health Conference" and the Medical Director and Psychiatrist-In-Chief at Pinnacle Medical Services, Nigeria's leading and foremost Psychology and Mental health clinic prominent in the application of innovative clinical approaches in the management/treatment of a wide range of psychological, emotional, and behavioral related disorders.

Dr. Kadiri is a dynamic Consultant Neuro-Psychiatrist and a Fellow of the National Post Graduate Medical College of Nigeria (FMCPsych) with almost 20 years' experience as a practicing Physician. She is a trained and certified Rational Emotive and Cognitive Behavioural Therapist from Albert Ellis Institute, New York, USA. She is also a certified Trauma Counsellor and Neurofeedback Practitioner.

Dr. Kadiri has wide experience in psycho-therapeutic techniques and has perfected her skills whilst in private practice and whilst working for a variety of organizations. She is a recognized radio and television guest Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist. She also contributes to articles published in magazines and newspapers.

She is the only Nigerian with the 14Ps....Physician, Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Psychotherapist, Practitioner (NLP, BFB, NFB), Public Speaker, Published Author, Producer (movies), Proficient Coach, Parent, Philanthropist, People oriented, Public Health Advocate and Passionate about God and life.

The founder of Pinnacle Health Radio, African's #1 online health radio and a non for profit organization, "Pinnacle Medicals SPEAKOUT Initiative" which is geared towards creating Mental Health literacy in Nigeria and beyond.

The Executive producer of award winning movies, Pepper soup (focused on drug abuse) and Little Drops of Happy (focused on depression, postpartum depression and suicide) and creator of the most innovative mental health app in Africa, HOW BODI.

TRIBE WITH THE VIBES

5 Money Habits and What They Do to You



By Zainab Aderounmu

Your relationship with money may seem regular; I earn, I spend, I might save or not, I might or might

not invest. Interestingly, every financial situation is birthed from a set of reinforced habits over time, which in turn were formed from the money scripts we were giving in childhood.

Why is this important? It is because, how you deal with money might be holding you back more than you

actually pay attention to it. I'll give a personal story. I once attended an event, where there was a milkshake and hot chocolate stand. As I was running low on cash that morning, I talked myself out of going up to the stand to get some hot choco even though I craved it badly. I convinced myself, 'it'll probably be over the money I currently have, so I can't afford it'.

By mid-day, I saw my seat mate sipping a milkshake, and thought to ask her. Alas, she revealed that it was from that hot choco stand and it was absolutely free! Free!? In that moment, I realised that I allowed my current financial stance stand in the way of curiosity. I could have at least asked, and instead of automatically assuming I couldn't afford it, I ought to have thought up creative ways to afford it.

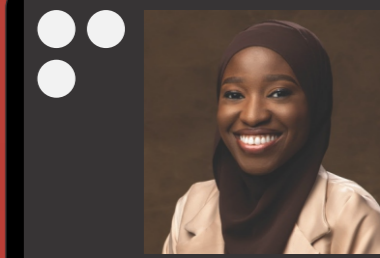
Some money habits set you free, while some might hold you back. Let's explore some of them.

1. Save First, Buy Later:

This habit tends to make savers, people who are always thinking ahead, which is great. The downside, however, is if you overflog it. It leads to you becoming a hoarder, who may have so much money, but still feel a sense of lack. It stems from a not-enough mindset. That is, when you feel money isn't enough so you must save every penny to avoid the consequences of not having.

2. Give First, Think Later:

I've seen enough over-givers to know it never ends well. I once had a friend who would give out her every penny without paying attention to her own needs. 'God will provide,' she'll say. And even though God does provide, she still bears the brunt for a few weeks before repeating the cycle all over again.



Zainab Aderounmu

Zainab Aderounmu A. W. is a First Class graduate of English Language and the Overall Best Graduating Student from the Lagos State University, Lagos Nigeria. She's a professional Master of Ceremonies, known as 'The Hijabi Compere', a public speaking coach and Communications Professional. She is currently a Youth advisor to the European Union where she doubles as the Spokesperson and Head of Communications & PR for the Youth Sounding Board.

3. Spend Now, You-Only-Live-Once:

This is the social butterfly who knows that money isn't the end, but a means to an end. So, they spend now and live the life of their dreams. Unfortunately, this often translates into a lack of future financial planning or buffers for anticipated emergencies.

4. Avoid It, God will Provide:

Avoiders may often find themselves in a financial conundrum because they weren't paying attention to the situation in the first place. They're not sure where they stand financially, they hate looking thought the numbers so debts pile.

5. The Balanced Mix:

The best approach to money is to have a mix of everything, except being avoidant of course. Saving first, means paying yourself first and giving room for investments. However, oversaving shouldn't be the reason you can't afford basic things. Therefore, spend, give and track the flow of all of it. Most importantly, develop a 'how can I afford it' mindset rather than, 'oh, I can't afford it. One is elevating, the other is disempowering.



A Journey Through Traditional Beauty & Flavor


Inside Clay Food Shop & The Henna Place

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The Henna Place

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With multiple branches across Nigeria, including three branches in Lagos, The Henna Place has become a go-to destination for brides, beauty lovers, and women seeking intentional, soul-restoring care from head to toe, it's a place to cleanse, unwind, and reconnect with yourself the traditional way.

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