



# NZUKO 2022

AFRICA ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL WEEK

## SPEAKERS

AfricaFora is proud to present Nzuko 2022, bringing Africa, the diaspora, and their allies together. Nzuko 2022 is articulated around Africa Day (May 25), to address its future and reframe the narrative by placing its citizens at the core. Africa's future and successes in facing the health, economic and climate crises will be defined by the strength of the ties between continents; and that can only come through honest and sincere dialogue.

Speakers from over 15 different countries will be joining us on May 24, 25 and 26 to proffer expert solutions on a variety of topics ranging from development to culture, health and diaspora relations. Join us online for enriching and lively discussions, to reflect on the future of Africa and its relationship with the world.

Attendance is by registration only, so please [register here](#) or on our website [africafora.com](http://africafora.com).

This event is supported by



## Speakers

### **His Royal Highness Eze Dr Nnamdi Harry Ugwuala** **Royal patron of the day**

HRH Eze Dr Nnamdi Harry Ugwuala is the patron of Nzuko 2022. He currently leads the Isiala/Isiugwu Autonomous Community. HRH Dr Ugwuala has been the managing director and chief executive of Harry Ugwuala & Sons for 30 years now. Former chairman of the Ugwunagbo and Ohangwa Traditional Rulers' Councils, he is currently the second Deputy Chairman of the Abia State Traditional Rulers' Council. In the past, HRH Dr Ugwuala has been the president of the Obioma Ngwa Federation Union and the Abia State community association, Kano State, Nigeria.



### **Clair Mtui** **Culture and media**

Clair Mtui is a communications manager at Unleashed Africa and the founder of MWANA Trends. As a certified and professional performing artist, she has taught in more than 10 schools in Dar es salaam, Tanzania. Mtui works in different fields with the aim of initiating creative thinking and an artistic point of view, believing that art deserves a chance to speak for itself and it has a role to play in various sectors towards a better Africa. These fields include theatre and film making, as well as business administration and marketing. Mtui was awarded the title of sustainable development pioneers in the year 2019.



### **Sylvester Earl Osmond Hanciles** **Empowering people**

Sylvester Earl Osmond Hanciles is the managing director of DigitalBankVault, a digital security company. He is also the communications director pro bono of the proposed innovative new people-centric poverty alleviation approach known as SONIGA. He is a former Sierra Leonean Deputy Minister, at the Ministry of Transport and Aviation and two other ministries between 2009 and 2018. During these years of service, Hanciles played a key role in the establishment and development of the community owned Bontech Technical Training College (Bontech). Hanciles was a principal between 1995 and 2009 and also served in the inaugural Senate and Court of the newly created Njala University.



### **Uzoma Nnganyadi** **Development**

Uzoma Nnganyadi is a trained Mechanical Engineer with over 42 years of extensive multi-disciplinary engineering and management experience. He is a qualified environmental professional & practitioner (QEP), a 4R (Reduce-Re-purpose-Recycle & Reuse) Waste prevention, management plan and systems expert, as well as a Circular Economy expert lead. He is an expert in design, specification, construction and commissioning of Waste to Energy plants, Waste Heat Recovery Units (WHRU) as applicable in the Float glass industry, Pollution Abatement control systems & continuous emission monitoring (CEM) systems as also Fire Fighting Systems.



### **Christoph Ndayiragije** **Development**

Christoph Ndayiragije is a Burundian based in South Africa, where he studied Business management at the University of South Africa. He is currently a businessman and pan-Africanist and author of the book Africa, the rising economic power. Soarer sooner than expected. He is also the founder of MAFI (the Movement For Africa's Financial Independence).



## **Vivian Oluchi Iro-Uchime** **Empowering people**

Vivian Oluchi Iro-Uchime is the CEO and Principal Partner Vivian's Legal Consult. In the past, she served as Senior Special Assistant to the Executive Governor of Abia State on Diaspora Affairs from 2015-2019, and on Girls Child Education from 2020 to 2022. She holds the position of National Coordinator National Council for Women Societies in the Netherlands. Iro-Uchime was a board member as well as the General Secretary to the Board of the International Catholic Church in Amsterdam between 2008 and 2015. She worked as a consultant and counsellor with the Christian Aid group. She was also a pioneer consortium member of Nigerian Diaspora Investment Summit (NDIS 2018).



## **Chibu Akukwe** **History and storytelling**

Chibu Akukwe is a co-founder of Pedro's, Africa's first indigenous premium spirit, made from 100% organic palm spirit. Prior to Pedro's, Chibu held a variety of roles in finance and business management in the USA, working across multiple industries such as investment management, manufacturing, real estate and financial services. Akukwe's passion is to create a quintessentially African and best-in-class organisation, within Nigeria. Since then, he has been lending his finance experience and entrepreneurial skills to propelling the growth of the continent's first indigenous premium spirit brand and beyond this, continues to enjoy finding new solutions to the various challenges brought about by such a venture.



## **Obi Emelonye** **Culture and media**

Obi Emelonye is a writer, producer and director. He is now firmly established as the most prominent of a new generation of African filmmakers taking the magic of independent cinema to the world. Emelonye is a former professional footballer and lawyer and is now a Doctoral researcher in film at Goldsmith University of London as well as a senior lecturer in filmmaking at the University of Huddersfield, UK. His writing, producing and directing credits include the multi-award winning **The Mirror Boy**; the record-breaking **Last Flight to Abuja**; the mould-breaking series **Crazy, Lovely, Cool** and the one-of-its-kind medico-spiritual drama series **Heart and Soul**.



## **John Amanam Sunday** **History and storytelling**

John Amanam Sunday a.k.a Immortal is an artist and the CEO of Immortal Cosmetic Art. He has a patent as the first African to produce hyper-realistic prosthesis and he owns the only indigenous company in Africa to produce hyper-realistic flesh covers for amputees of the African skin. Sunday is on a mission to restore confidence and comfort to amputees all over the world and Africa in particular. He has been honored with several awards for his pioneering works and aims to spread the vision that art is a creative tool for problem solving.



## **Elizabeth Tchwenko-Fabu** **History and storytelling**

Elizabeth Tchwenko-Fabu is the Founder and CEO of Auth'Afrique, a textile company that uses fabric as an authentic expression of African heritage and identity. She is an experienced executive who advocates for the economic independence of the African Continent. She is an expert in procurement, oil and gas and negotiations.



## Annkio Briggs Development

Annkio Briggs is an award winning Environmental and Human rights activist. She is the founder and director of Agape Birthrights, a non-governmental organisation that promotes human, environmental, developmental and political rights in Nigeria. In 1995, Briggs joined the resistance against the dictatorial government of the late General Sani Abacha. She has committed to drawing attention to the suffering and the lack of development in the Niger Delta, as well as the devastation of the region caused by International Oil Companies and their joint partners, the Federal Government of Nigeria, in the venture of oil and gas exploitation. Since 2012, Annkio Briggs produces, directs and hosts a live phone-in radio programme: **Saving the Niger Delta with Annkio Briggs**. She is and remains an advocate for Self Determination, 100% ownership of resources, and calls for a restructured Nigeria.



## Chioma Phillips Irewolede Development

Chioma Phillips Irewolede is the editor of Msingi Afrika Magazine, the host of Msingi Afrika Television and, together with her husband, Samuel, are co-authors of the book *A People Called Afrika: Rebuilding the Afrika of Our Dreams*. She believes passionately in the critical role and place of Africa and Africans and is working towards the transformation of mindsets that will lead to the realization of the fulfilment of Afrika's full potential. The online platforms of Msingi Afrika Magazine and Msingi Afrika Television aim to share the true story of Africa, overturn the stereotypes and propaganda about the continent and people. It highlights Africa to inspire, encourage, uplift, remind and motivate Africans and the diaspora to be an active part of the change that the continent needs.



## Adeyinka Olaiya Diasporas

Adeyinka Olaiya is a Brazil based Nigerian Artist, writer, journalist. documentarist. An advocate of Yoruba arts, culture, tradition and divinity, Adeyinka Olaiya promotes African culture and tradition in Latin America, he has co-published and written several academic and professional articles on culture and tradition in Brazil. A member of Ife Art School and movement, Adeyinka Olaiya is a research fellow at the African Cultural Centre in São Paulo, Brazil. He is the Ambassador for Aje in the Americas.



## Pr. Adelson Silva de Brito Diasporas

Professor Adelson Silva de Brito is a Priest of the Sapatá Vodun Cult at Casa de Azonsu. Initially confirmed as Ogã (Master) of the Cult of Vodun Nanã, he was later elevated to the position of "Mawo" of the Cult to the Clan of Vodun Sakpata, religious leader of The House of Azonsu, a liturgical bridge between two religious traditions: Yoruba-Nago and Jeje (Nagô-Fón). brought both to Brazil by enslaved people from the West Coast of Africa. Mawo Adelson is also one of the founders of NUPE (Nucleus for Research and Documentation of the Afro-Western Intangible Legacy in Bahia), a pivotal work tool in the task of rescue the liturgical foundations of Jeje-Yorubá-Nagô traditions under threat of disappearance. He currently undertakes the rescue and recording of liturgical texts and chants of the Afro-religious Jeje-Iorubá-Queto-Nagô traditions of Bahia, preserving the survival of this legacy in a hostile environment, characterized by religious intolerance, racism and ethnocentrism.





**Nii Amarah Amarteifio**  
**Culture and media**

Nii Amarah Amarteifio is strategic communication expert, a journalist, an event consultant and the CEO of Linmart Media Solutions. He has spent most of his career in the media as broadcast journalist, producer, and public relations, event hosting, event organisation, concept development, script writing, and event management. He worked extensively as a media manager and coordinator for the Energy and Environment Forum in River State, Nigeria and South Africa in 2014 and media director for Sheroes International Forum in Accra and Dubai. He is a part time consultant at the Foreign Investment Network.



**Monique Burt Williams**  
**Black and African women in leadership**

Monique Burt Williams is the CEO of Cadence Counsel, a certified Women's Business Enterprise. She is deeply committed to helping corporations and other organizations diversify their in-house legal divisions as they strive to reflect a global economy. Burt Williams formerly worked for a prominent litigation boutique, and subsequently joined the legal division of a Fortune 100 workforce solutions company. She directed national business and strategy development for one of the largest privately held legal outsourcing providers in the country. Burt Williams is a member of YPO Chicago – Windy City Chapter.



**Kirubel Teshome**  
**Health and tech**

Kirubel Teshome is a communications officer for the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa. Teshome is an avid pan-African who is passionate about environmental, social justice, and human rights activism. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English literature from Addis Ababa University in 2005. He has over ten years of experience in environmental advocacy and communication in both national and international NGOs. His interest is curating African narrative on food sovereignty at the center of discourses about development, environment, climate change, biocultural diversity, and social justice.



**Dion Johnson**  
**Black and African women in leadership**

Dion Johnson, also known as the Womanologist, is an ex-midwife and Director in UK public services, where she pioneered, co-ordinated and led special services serving highly vulnerable and marginalised client groups. Johnson is a multi-award-winning Women's champion with the re-empowerment of women at the heart of her work. She works behind the global leadership scenes as Master Coach, Strategic Ally and trusted advisor to some of the most influential women across sectors and industries. She is challenging and changing the inner narrative about what it means to be a credible influencer in today's fast changing work space.



**Fr Dr Anselm Adodo**  
**Health and tech**

Fr Dr Anselm Adodo is a Catholic Priest and founder of Nigeria's foremost herbal research Institute, the Pax Herbal Clinic and Research Laboratories. He has over twenty years of experience in research in Ethnography, Ethnobotany, phytomedicine and Medical Sociology and Anthropology. Fr. Adodo is a visiting lecturer in Traditional African Medicine and Transformation Studies in Africa at the Institute of African Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, an adjunct research fellow of the Institute of Medical Research (NIMR), a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Botanists and Director of African Centre for Integral Research and Development, a founding member of the London-based Trans4m Communiversities Associates (TSA), and a Research Associate at University of Johannesburg, South Africa.



**Dr Igor Miranda**  
**Health and tech**

Dr Igor Miranda has a BSc and an MSc in electronic engineering and holds a Ph.D. in Industrial engineering. Since 2013, he has been a professor at the Federal University of Recôncavo da Bahia, Brazil. His research interests are artificial intelligence, digital systems, and signal processing. Miranda is co-founder and collaborator of the Mancala Institute, a non-profit organization dedicated to research, development, and science communication in black and indigenous perspectives.



**Christopher Ehret**  
**History and storytelling**

Christopher Ehret is distinguished research professor at the University of California. He received his Ph.D. in African history and historical linguistics from Northwestern University. He has undertaken extensive historical, linguistic, and anthropological fieldwork in Africa. His published works include eleven books and around a hundred research articles. These works focus especially on bringing to light the many neglected aspects of early African history and on identifying and establishing new sources of evidence for revealing that history. Two current books of his are *The Civilizations of Africa: A History to 1800* (University of Virginia Press, 2nd edition, 2016) and *Ancient Africa: A Global History* (due out from the Princeton University Press later this year).



**Daniella Sachs**  
**Black and African women in leadership**

Daniella Sachs, is the founder of Know Your Tourist (KYT), a tourism innovation design agency that is reimagining destinations as we know them. Sachs is a South African-born disruptive tourism innovation designer. She has vast international experience in unlocking tourism opportunities, and entrepreneurial experience in agri-, creative- and travel-tech start-ups. An Africanist at heart, Sachs publishes regularly on unlocking Africa's tourism potential, and the future of African tourism.



**Sanja Djurdjulov**  
**Diasporas**

Sanja Djurdjulov is a liaison executive for African Business Chamber in Serbia. ABC is a young chamber with high goals which strives to improve market opportunities, through strengthening its influence and engagement. She and her collaborators run the project with the mission to revive building of economic, industrial and commercial relations, promote strengthening of cultural and friendly collaboration again between African, Serbian and companies from countries in the region. ABC and Djurdjulov's vision is to achieve quality business connections, promoting growth and development of countries, providing support in this process and using the overall potential of the market. She seeks to connect African, Serbian and regional countries' markets on national, cultural and traditional level again.



**Tochukwu Clinton Chukwueke**  
**Empowering people**

Tochukwu Clinton Chukwueke is an inventor with three Patents, Change Agent and Engineering Consultant. He is the CEO of Advanced Engineering Centre, a lab for engineering innovation, digital fabrication and precision manufacturing and the founder of Clintonel Innovation Centre, Nigeria's first Makerspace. Chukwueke is the founder of Hardware Nigeria Community, the national network of Nigerian inventors, makers and hardware entrepreneurs and the project lead for Engineering for Industry, a project to bridge the engineering skills gap in Nigeria, enhance industry - academia collaboration and drive industrialization. He is also the team lead for Skill Up Abia and a recipient of several national and international awards.



## Intervenants

### **Dr Neuza Maria Alves da Silva** **Session francophone**

Dr Neuza Maria Alves da Silva est la première Juge Fédéral noir au Brésil. Elle a rejoint la magistrature brésilienne en 1987 en tant que juge suppléant du travail au Tribunal Régional du Travail. Alves da Silva a été approuvée au concours de Juge Fédéral, elle a prêté serment en 1988, étant remplie dans l'état de Rondônia. Elle a été assistante de la 1ère Cour fédérale de Bahia jusqu'à ce qu'elle assume la pleine propriété de la 5ème Cour fédérale. Le Dr Alves da Silva a occupé le poste honoraire de Vice-président du Conseil pour la Défense des Droits de la Femme (CDDM) du Secrétaire à la justice de l'État de Bahia.



### **Koffi Jacques Olivier N'guessan** **Session francophone**

Koffi Jacques Olivier N'guessan est le fondateur et manager de l'entreprise TYEGRO-CI. Il fait partie des 300 meilleurs entrepreneurs mondiaux pour le développement durable. Remarqué par son esprit d'innovation et sa rigueur, il a reçu bon nombre de prix, y compris le prix du meilleur jeune entrepreneur agricole africain, celui du meilleur jeune entrepreneur en Afrique lors du gala annuel d'Anzisha Prize à Johannesburg et le prix de l'entrepreneur le plus innovant en Afrique lors du Green Africa Innovation Booster et celui du meilleur entrepreneur green ivoirien au prix Sprint à Abidjan.



### **Josette Bruffaerts-Thomas** **Session francophone**

Josette Bruffaerts-Thomas est PDG du cabinet de conseil, Competitive Intelligence Management (CIM), à Paris et présidente-fondatrice de l'association Haiti Futur, dédiée à l'éducation, à la culture et à l'entrepreneuriat en Haiti et présidente de l'association Haiti Patrimoine. Elle a mené une carrière d'enseignante, de consultante et de coach en Haiti et en France. Par le passé, Bruffaerts-Thomas a travaillé au Ministère de l'Agriculture comme directrice des ressources humaines, puis s'est spécialisée en veille/intelligence économique. Elle a obtenu plusieurs prix dont le prix de la femme noire leader par l'association européenne des femmes entrepreneurs et la médaille du Sénat français pour l'Amérique latine.



### **Dr Victor Mancir da Silva Santana** **Session francophone**

Dr Victor Mancir da Silva Santana est enseignant-chercheur à l'Institut de Physique de l'UFBA. Intéressé depuis sa jeunesse au domaine des sciences de la nature et a réalisé ses études en Physique à l'Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA) puis un doctorat dans une convention de cotutelle entre l'Université de Rennes I (France) et l'UFBA dans le thème de la spectroscopie électronique. Il a été Professeur à l'Instituto Federal de Bahia, à Salvador, dans la période de 2013-2019.



## Musician

### **KUKU**

Nigerian American singer-songwriter KUKU bridges the gap between his Yoruba ethnicity and the occidental. His haunting multi-octave voice, percussive folk guitar stylings, and conscious yet playful song writing create his unique sound that is as much culturally resonating as it is cosmopolitan. KUKU has 6 studio albums, movie and advertisement soundtracks, numerous international concerts, and several renowned collaborative releases on his blossoming resume. His unapologetically titled 7th album 'Kiss My Ass' is next.



## Moderators

### Adachukwu Onwudiwe

Adachukwu Onwudiwe is the founder of Crater Library, and festival manager of Crater Literary Festival. She is also the community manager for Society of Igbo Professionals (SIP), and a creative writer and editor for the Tales from the Hearth Africa podcast. She is a graduate of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka where she studied Library and Information Science.



### Krystal Gaillard

Krystal Gaillard is the programme officer for the European Young Leader (EYL40) programme at Friends of Europe where she manages the organisation's remarkable leadership programme, which also includes transatlantic and MENA profiles. She previously worked for the Peace, Security and Defence programme at Friends of Europe. She has also held several roles as a freelance researcher (West African peace and development), assistant researcher (political participation and diversity) and editor-in-chief of a public policy and governance academic journal. She is a member of the steering committee of WIIS Brussels (Women in International Security).

