Citizenship, Democracy and The Culture of Transactional Politics in Nigeria

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Shehu Musa Yar’Adua Centre
Abuja

November 13 - 14, 2018
A national conversation on the culture of transactional politics and its impact on participatory democracy and accountable governance in Nigeria is imperative.
Introduction

The transactional nature of Nigerian politics is a major driver of corruption and ethno-religious tension. Clientelism – the exchange of goods and services for political support – remains the dominant culture. The absence of institutional mechanisms to legitimately finance political parties and candidate campaigns means that politicians must rely on often illicit and always opaque funding to acquire and retain power. These resources are frequently used to mobilize ethno-religious sentiments or unleash violence against opponents.

Although campaign expenditure is hardly ever disclosed in Nigeria, it is understood that meeting the demands of overwhelming clientelism constitutes the major part of political spending. Incidents of large-scale vote buying have featured in almost all observation reports of elections in Nigeria – including every recent off-cycle election.

It goes without saying that any successful attempt to curb corruption in Nigeria must effectively reform the country’s culture of patronage and the mechanisms for funding its political parties.

The 2019 general elections represent a potential flashpoint for violence, fuelled by illicit cashflow and rampant divisive behaviour. If left unchecked, these features of our political culture could drive Nigeria to the brink – with grave humanitarian consequences for the sub-region and the rest of the world. Interventions to address these challenges must be brokered through institutions and influencers that have leverage within affected communities.

A national conversation on the culture of transactional politics and its impact on participatory democracy and accountable governance in Nigeria is imperative.

In June 2018, the Shehu Musa Yar’Adua Foundation in collaboration with the Olusegun Obasanjo Library, convened a retreat to explore the drivers of tension and identify strategies to address them. Audience interaction established the link between corruption and divisive conduct in Nigeria. The Foundation recognizes the opportunity to sustain the conversation by bringing together stakeholders, youth leaders and influencers to develop strategies to track divisive behaviour and encourage positive participation in the 2019 elections.

We thank the Ford Foundation and Trust Africa for their generous support for this initiative.

The Yar’Adua Foundation is proud to contribute to the growth of civic spaces in Nigeria. We remain committed to providing platforms for dialogue that foster a prosperous and inclusive nation.
## Programme Schedule

### Money and the 2019 Elections

**Tuesday, November 13, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00am – 9:00am</td>
<td>Arrival and Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00am – 11:30am</td>
<td>OPENING PLENARY</td>
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<td><strong>Performance</strong></td>
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<td><em>Age Beeka</em></td>
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<td><em>We Must See A New Nigeria</em></td>
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<td><strong>Welcome</strong></td>
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<td><em>Mallam Murtala Yar’Adua</em>, Yar’Adua Foundation</td>
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<td><strong>Remarks</strong></td>
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<td><em>Dr. Kole Shettima</em>, Director, MacArthur Foundation</td>
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<td><strong>Opening Address</strong></td>
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<td><em>Professor Mahmood Yakubu</em></td>
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<td>Chairman, Independent National Electoral Commission</td>
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<td><em>Political Campaign Finance Reform in Nigeria</em></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Guest Speaker</strong></td>
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<td><em>Professor Benjamin Page</em></td>
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<td>Northwestern University, Chicago</td>
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<td><em>An Equal Voice for Every Citizen</em></td>
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<td>11:30am – 12:30pm</td>
<td><strong>Tea Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30pm – 1:30pm</td>
<td>MOCK PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE</td>
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<td><strong>Performance</strong></td>
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<td><em>The Leaders We Deserve?</em></td>
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<td>Arojah Royal Theatre</td>
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<td>The Arts &amp; Civic Table</td>
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<td><strong>Moderator</strong></td>
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<td><em>Ms. Kadaria Ahmed</em>, Daria Media</td>
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A Presidential Debate is an important catalyst for the entrenchment of democracy in society; providing an opportunity for candidates to appeal directly to the voting public for their support and demonstrate how their vision compares to their opponents.

Historically, Nigerian presidential aspirants have shied away from public debates. The mock debate lampoons our anti-debate political culture and makes the argument that candidates and political parties must win votes based on the strength of their agenda, not the depth of their pockets.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30pm – 1:45pm</td>
<td>Mentimeter Survey</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Amara Nwankpa</td>
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<td>Director, Public Policy Initiative, Yar’Adua Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:45pm – 3:15pm</td>
<td>PANEL DISCUSSION: Political Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discussants: Ms. Ayisha Osori, Open Society Initiative for West Africa</td>
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<td>Choreographed Political Processes: Ignored Citizenry</td>
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<td>Honourable Chudi Offodile, Author and Political Commentator</td>
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<td>Primary Elections: Changing the Way We Choose Candidates</td>
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<td>Professor Jibrin Ibrahim, Centre for Democracy and Development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Transactional Politics: Vote Buying, Clientelism</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:15pm – 3:30pm</td>
<td>Summary/Close</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mr. Chinedu Nwagu, Project Director, Trust Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:30pm – 4:30pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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**Expected Impacts**

- Increased awareness and understanding of the connection between transactional politics and poor governance outcomes in Nigeria.
- Commitments from key stakeholders to reform political campaign financing post-2019.
- Increased accountability and transparency with respect to financing political activities in Nigeria.
- Reduced public sector corruption in Nigeria.
# Programme Schedule cont’d

## Countering Divisive Behaviour around the 2019 Elections

**Wednesday, November 14, 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30am – 9:30am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
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</table>
| 9:30am – 10:00am | **Welcome**  
Mr. Amara Nwankpa  
Director, Public Policy Initiative, Yar’Adua Foundation  
**Remarks**  
Mr. Innocent Chukwuma, Director, Ford Foundation  
**Performance**  
Mr. Deji Ige  
*One Nigeria* |
| 10:00am – 12:30pm | **TRACKING DIVISIVE BEHAVIOUR**                                      |
|                | **Presentation**  
Mr. Y. Z. Yau, CITAD  
*Monitoring Hate Speech* |
|                | **Early Warning & Incident Management:**  
Mr. Benson Olugbuo, CLEEN Foundation  
*Mapping Hotspots* |
|                | **Discussants**  
Mrs. Kemi Okenyedo, Partners West Africa Nigeria  
Ms. Chioma Agwuegbo, TechHer  
Mr. Ahmad Jumare, NEEM Foundation  
Ms. Cynthia Mbamalu, YIAGA Africa Initiative |
| 12:30pm – 1:00pm | **Mentimeter Survey**  
Mr. Amara Nwankpa  
Director, Public Policy Initiative, Yar’Adua Foundation |

### Session Objectives

- Strategies for sharing information
- Hashtags for reporting incidents
- Effective election observation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00pm – 2:00pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00pm – 2:15pm</td>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>Ms. Efe Oraka, Guitarist</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15pm – 4:00pm</td>
<td>LESSONS LEARNED/MOVING FORWARD</td>
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<td>Breakout Sessions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Interfaith Networks</td>
<td>Ms. Saratu Diyele Umar Kiro, JDPC</td>
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<td>Ms. Saadatu Fali Hamu, Legal Practitioner</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Professional Networks</td>
<td>Honourable Ngunan Addingi</td>
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<td>Member, Benue State House of Assembly</td>
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<td>Mr. Abdulkareem Tijani, Socio Economic Research &amp; Development Centre (SERDEC)</td>
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<td>Social Networks</td>
<td>Mallam Hamzat Lawal, Connected Development (CODE)</td>
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<td>Ms. Sandra Ezekwesili, Radio Host: Cool FM, Port Harcourt</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00pm – 4:45pm</td>
<td>Report of Breakout Sessions</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:45pm – 5:00pm</td>
<td>Summary/Close</td>
<td>Mr. Paul Nwulu, Ford Foundation</td>
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Abeokuta Retreat Review

June 21 - 23, 2018

Promoting National Cohesion and Building Platforms to Counter Divisive Behavior

Since the struggle for independence, Nigeria has experienced division and tension between and among various ethnic identities. Efforts to resolve conflicts have been deployed, but latent acrimonies and mutual suspicions remain due to a combination of socio-economic and political factors, compounded by perceived and existent injustice.

The Yar’Adua Foundation, in partnership with the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, convened a three-day retreat to explore drivers of tension in Nigeria and identify strategies to address them. Supported by the Ford Foundation, the retreat established a community of stakeholders committed to addressing challenges confronting unity in Nigeria.

The retreat was attended by over 150 participants (42% women and 58% men) representing each state of the federation. Parliamentarians, academics, civil society actors, youth and student leaders, social influencers, peace builders and conflict managers received and considered presentations from a cross-section of thought leaders and experts including Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR, Hajiya Saudatu Mahdi, MFR, Professor Eghosa Osaghae and Professor Sam Egwu.
What do Nigerians have in common?

Do you think our leaders made things better or worse?

What part of Nigeria does conflict affect the most?

Why don’t we get along?

What is hate speech?

What contributes to the conflict there?

How can Nigerians be united?
RECOMMENDATIONS

Government

- Government must take concrete and committed steps to restore public confidence in its capacity to mitigate conflict, rebuild public institutions and guarantee equal protection of the lives of all Nigerians.
- As required by the constitution, government must develop and deploy strategies and narratives to promote dialogue for national cohesion. Public agencies such as the National Orientation Agency, established for this purpose, must re-direct public enlightenment and engagement using narratives that unite and present alternative narratives.
- Civic education, based on ethical values of mutual love, trust, tolerance, and respect for people, should be integrated into the curricula at all levels of education in the country.
- Government’s investment in public goods, including education, public health, jobs and productivity must provide sustainable livelihoods in order to reduce tensions from competition over scarce resources.
- Government must ensure the effective application of the electoral act and other relevant laws against divisive conduct by political actors.
- Leadership at all levels should promote national cohesion by demonstrating shared values of mutual respect, tolerance, patriotism, hard work, creativity, integrity and peace.
- Government should take all practical steps, including legislation, to eliminate the use of indigeneship as the primary means for establishing the geographic origin of citizens applying for employment, political appointments, land rights or accessing other government privileges and services.

Political Parties

- Political parties and actors have a duty to sanitise political competition and eliminate the use of emotive religious, ethnic or hate speech to further their objectives.
- Political parties should provide meaningful opportunities for under-represented groups to participate in politics – including women, youth and vulnerable people.
- Political parties should adopt and institutionalize internal democracy and meritocracy.
- Political parties should significantly reduce financial and procedural hurdles that prevent average citizens from participating in political contests.

Media

- The media should ensure compliance to their code of ethics in reporting contentious issues and avoid being used as instruments of mobilization along ethnic and religious lines.
- To guard against the impact of fake news and libellous reports, the media should utilise standard professional processes for verification and factual reporting.
- Traditional and social media actors should create and disseminate content and stories that promote national cohesion – including testimonies that counter and dislodge offensive stereotypes.
- Citizen journalists should promote cohesion and imbibe the culture of sharing only information that is verifiable.

Private Sector and Professional Associations

- Corporate organizations and professional associations should finance and promote the articulation of narratives and activities that encourage tolerance, understanding and cohesion.

Faith Based Organizations

- Religious leaders must teach their followers to approach religion and faith as a mission to build communities rather than tear them down.
- Faith based platforms should self-regulate the conduct of their membership as a means of enforcing cohesive preaching and dialogue across diverse faiths.
Civil Society

- Members of civil society should use their social capital in communities to promote inclusive narratives that foster a shared national purpose.
- Civil society must facilitate the collective development of issue-based counter narratives to underscore the benefits of eliminating social divides that inflame hate, ethnic, religious or political tensions.
- CSOs should endeavour to identify, recognize and celebrate individuals from different ethnicities exhibiting unifying conduct and vision.
- CSOs should create awareness regarding the dangers associated with hate speech to drive positive behavioural change.
- CSOs should create and utilise existing safe spaces to foster honest and constructive dialogue on solutions to the challenges facing Nigeria’s unity.
- CSOs should develop, deploy and ensure compliance with standards and ethics for citizen media engagement and citizen journalism.

All Nigerians

- Nigerian citizens, irrespective of ethnic identity or religious and political affiliation, should support collective efforts to address division.
- Nigerians should desist from uttering hate speech and spreading negative narratives.
- Citizens on social media should be cautious about sharing information that might inflame or aggravate tensions and take steps to verify sensitive news before sharing with their networks.
- Citizens should challenge and counter political or radical extremists who try to mobilize ethnic and religious division using social or traditional media.
- Nigerians should reinforce positive narratives about each other through inter-faith and inter-cultural relations or activities.
- Citizens have a duty to participate in civic processes, especially elections, and support candidates based on character, qualifications and position on issues rather than ethnic identity or religious affiliation.

CONCLUSION

Factors driving ethnic and religious strife in Nigeria are human constructions. It follows that with deliberate and consistent collective action, Nigeria can be transformed to a peaceful, inclusive and equitable society for all its citizens. This requires responsible formal and informal leadership to mobilize, lead and guide individual and collective actions that promote national cohesion at various tiers of government, the private sector, faith and traditional institutions as well as media, academia and civil society.

Similarly, countering divisive behaviour will require brave reforms in our current governance structures to empower leaders as they resolve escalating conflicts at the community level which is most often the entry point of conflict or its escalation. Responsible and responsive governance is required at all levels to restore people’s confidence in the Nigeria project.

Nigerians should recognize that we have all been affected at one time or the other by ethnic or religious strife. We must therefore acknowledge each other’s pain and transform it into something that binds us together rather than drives us to further violence.
Citizenship, Democracy and the Culture of Transactional Politics in Nigeria

Profiles

PROFESSOR MAHMOOD YAKUBU

Mahmood Yakubu is Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and a Professor of Political History and International Studies at the Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA). He attended Usman Danfodiyo University, where he became the first and, to date, only Nigerian from the North to obtain a first-class degree in History. Prior to his appointment as Chairman of INEC, he served as the Executive Secretary to the Tertiary Education Trust Fund. He also served as Assistant Secretary in charge of finance and administration during the National Conference in 2014 and as a member of numerous committees. He is a Fellow of the Historical Society of Nigeria and the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations. Under his leadership at INEC, the Commission is committed to conducting free, fair, credible and transparent elections by introducing innovations that further protect and strengthen the integrity of Nigeria’s electoral process.

PROFESSOR BENJAMIN PAGE

Benjamin Page is a Professor of Political Science at Northwestern University, Chicago and co-author of *Democracy in America? What Has Gone Wrong and What We Can Do About It*. The book offers suggestions on changing the way candidates are chosen and elections conducted, reforming governing institutions, and curbing the power of money in politics. Professor Page has worked as an Assistant Professor for many institutions including Dartmouth, the University of Chicago, and the University of Wisconsin. He previously served as Vice President to the Midwest Political Science Association and has received multiple political, economic, and social science fellowships throughout his career. He is currently engaged in a large collaborative project to study Economically Successful Americans and the Common Good.

DR. KOLE SHETTIMA

Kole Shettima is the Director of the MacArthur Foundation’s Africa Office in Abuja. The Foundation focuses on promoting an atmosphere of accountability, transparency, and good governance in the country by reducing retail corruption and strengthening Nigerian-led anti-corruption efforts. Prior to joining the Foundation in 1999, he taught at the University of Maiduguri, the University of Toronto, and at Ohio University. He also serves on the board of several organizations and has been published in academic journals including Africa Development, Review of African Political Economy, African Studies Review and Journal of Asian and African Studies.
HONOURABLE MURTALA YAR’ADUA

Murtala Yar’Adua is Treasurer, Board of Trustees of the Shehu Musa Yar’Adua Foundation. He previously served as Minister of State, Defence (2010-2011), and is Director of Hamada Holdings Nigeria Ltd, Kaduna. Murtala is the eldest son of Shehu Yar’Adua and was turbaned Tafidan Katsina in 2002, a traditional title he inherited from his late father.

MR. INNOCENT CHUKWUMA

Innocent Chukwuma is a globally renowned advocate for human rights and leading researcher/change manager on police and policing governance in West Africa. He serves as Regional Director, Ford Foundation Office West Africa, whose mission is to reduce poverty and injustice, strengthen democratic values, promote international cooperation and advance human achievement. Innocent was the founding director of the CLEEN Foundation and has served as Chair of the Altus Global Alliance and visiting faculty at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where he designed and taught a course on management of nonprofits in the global south.

MR. PAUL NWULU

Paul Nwulu serves as Ford Foundation’s Program Officer to promote public engagement with the media in order to accelerate social change. Paul has more than 15 years experience as a content developer and lecturer in media production and theory. He served as an associate professor of communication and multimedia design at the American University of Nigeria, Yola, and held a tenured position at Western Michigan University, U.S. He has conducted extensive research on media technologies and social behavior and change.

MS. AYISHA OSORI

Ayisha Osori is the Executive Director of Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA). She is a lawyer and author with years of experience consulting on good governance, gender equality, women’s economic and political participation and ending violence against women. Her recent book, _Love Does Not Win Elections_ provides unique insight into the Nigerian political process. She is the former CEO of the Nigerian Women’s Trust Fund.

PROFESSOR JIBRIN IBRAHIM

Jibrin Ibrahim is a scholar-activist and Senior Fellow with the Centre for Democracy and Development, CDD. He received a degree in Political Science from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and a doctorate in Politics from the University of Bordeaux in France. He was a Professor of Political Science at Babcock University, Ilishan and a Research Professor at the Institute of Federalism in Fribourg, Switzerland. Prof. Jibrin has lectured, published and consulted extensively on democratisation and governance in Africa.
HONOURABLE CHUDI OFFODILE

Chudi Offodile is a Legal Practitioner, Notary Public and former Member of the House of Representatives where he served as Chairman of the Public Petitions Committee. He has served as Chairman of the Special Committee on Joint Venture Oil Operations (2001-2003), Public Petitions Committee (2003-2005), and Member of Parliament of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) (2000-2005). He authored *The Politics of Biafra and The Future of Nigeria* and has written several articles published in Nigeria’s notable newspapers.

MR. CHINEDU NWAGU

Chinedu Nwagu serves as Project Director for TrustAfrica’s Anti-Corruption and Criminal Justice Fund. For over a decade, Chinedu has worked on issues of justice sector reform in Nigeria. He previously served as Programme Manager with CLEEN Foundation, where he focused on elections, criminal justice and accountability of law enforcement agencies. He is a lawyer with a master’s degree in Human Rights and Democratization in Africa from the University of Pretoria, South Africa.

MR. AMARA NWANKPA

Amara Nwankpa is Director of the Yar’Adua Foundation’s Public Policy Initiative; established to promote national unity, good governance and social justice by creating platforms to engage citizens, policy makers and stakeholders in national conversations that foster an inclusive and prosperous Nigeria, particularly with regard to resource governance and credible elections. He has been active in youth mobilization and advocacy on energy and elections since 2009. He has a Bsc. in Electrical/Electronic Engineering from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana.

MR. PATRICK OKIGBO

Patrick Okigbo is the Founder and Principal Partner at Nextier, a public sector advisory firm with competencies in policy research, strategy, finance, monitoring and evaluation, and strategic communications. Patrick advises leaders across the Nigerian public sector on economic development policies, corporate strategies, revenue generation, and investment promotion. He is a regular commentator on national economic and social issues and serves on several boards and technical committees.
MR. BENSON OLGUBUO

Benson Olugbuo serves as Executive Director of CLEEN Foundation, established to promote public safety, security and accessible justice in Nigeria. He was the Anglophone Africa Regional Coordinator for the NGO Coalition for the International Criminal Court and led the campaign for the ratification and domestic implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the Agreement on Privileges and Immunities of the Court in sub-Saharan Africa. He was awarded the prestigious Fox International Fellowship at Yale University and Research Associateship by the University of Cape Town.

MRS. KEMI OKENYEDO

Kemi Okenyedo serves as Executive Director of Partners West Africa Nigeria, dedicated to enhancing citizen participation and improving security governance in Nigeria and West Africa. She previously served as Executive Director of CLEEN Foundation and has several years experience in NGO management and litigation practice. She provided support to the British High Commission West Africa Conflict Security & Stabilization Unit on Transition from Military Operations to a Stabilized Community Policing Approach in the North East.

MS. CHIOMA AGWUEGBO

Chioma Agwuegbo is the Founder of TechHer, a community of learning, support, and collaboration for women in technology. She is Program Manager at Reboot, leading projects that bring media, civil society, and government together to advance social justice. Chioma also supports communication and strategy for the Not Too Young To Run Movement, a coalition of active citizens who successfully advocated for a reduction in age for candidacy for elective office in Nigeria.

MR. AHMAD JUMARE

Ahmad Jumare is Programme Manager, Communications & Advocacy at Neem Foundation, committed to improving the lives of those affected by insurgency and preventing violence through building inclusive communities, raising the standards of psychological services, and supporting conflict prevention and peacebuilding initiatives at the community level. He previously worked as SA on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) affairs to the Director of Behavioural Analysis and Strategic Communications in the Office of the National Security Adviser.

MS. CYNTHIA MBAMALU

Cynthia Mbamalu is a gender rights activist and lawyer. She co-founded the YIAGA Africa Initiative, to promote democracy, human rights, good governance and youth political participation. Cynthia played an instrumental role in the Not Too Young to Run movement, advocating for a constitutional amendment to reduce the age for contesting elections in Nigeria.
Profiles contd.

MS. SARATU DIYELE UMAR KIRO

Saratu is a legal practitioner and member of the Justice, Development and Peace Commision (JDPC), Sokoto. She holds a Master’s Degree in International Human Rights Law and has worked as a volunteer for the Birmingham City Council, contributing to efforts to end modern day slavery in the UK.

MS. SAADATU FALI HAMU

Saadatu is a legal practitioner and outgoing Curator of the Abuja Global Shapers Hub, an initiative of the World Economic Forum. She supervises the Amana Initiative, a collaboration with the US Embassy in Nigeria that seeks to build trust between youth and security agencies in Northern Nigeria.

HONOURABLE NGUNAN ADDINGI

Ngunan is an Honourable Member, Benue State House of Assembly and Chairman, Committee on Education, Science and Technology. She works to encourage women’s participation in the Nigeria political process. She is also the Managing Director, Beekas Invest Ltd.

MR. YUNUSA ZAKARI YAU

Y. Z. Yau is a frontline activist and senior member of Nigerian civil society who has been a consistent voice against hate speech since 2014. Y. Z. is the Executive Director of Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), a non-governmental and non-profit organization committed to the use of information and communication technologies for the development and promotion of good governance.

MR. ABDULKAREEM TIJANI

Abdulkareem Tijani is a development practitioner, community mobilizer and Executive Director of the Socio-Economic Research and Development Centre (SERDEC). He holds a B.sc in Political Science, MA in Development Studies and professional qualifications in project management, public policy and administration. He has several years experience engaging with stakeholders on budget transparency issues, human rights, and Conflict and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
MALLAM HAMZAT LAWAL
Hamzat Lawal is an activist who has led grassroots campaigns in over 40 African countries and specializes in issues associated with climate change, open data and development policies as they affect rural communities. He is Co-Founder & Chief Executive of Connected Development (CODE), a non-governmental organization whose mission is to improve access to information and empower local communities in Africa.

MS. SANDRA EZEKWESILI
Sandra Ezekwesili is a broadcast journalist, radio presenter, public speaker, community leader and compere. She hosts the breakfast radio show, “Good Morning Nigeria” on Cool FM 95.9 in Port Harcourt.

Performance

AROJAH ROYAL THEATRE
Arojah Royal Theatre is a professional theatre consisting of over 35 actors, actresses, dancers, singers and instrumentalists dedicated to creating exciting and innovative theatrical productions of the highest national and international caliber to entertain, educate and inform. A member of the National Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (NANTAP), Arojah Royal Theatre has a rich repertory of African and contemporary dances, plays and campaign dramas that illuminate, entertain and challenge audiences.

THE ARTS AND CIVICS TABLE (TACT)
TACT is an organisation working to make a difference in the quality of civic engagement between citizens and government to encourage and develop a civic engagement culture that would facilitate citizen participation in the social, cultural and political processes in our communities. TACT promotes awareness of political, personal, and civic rights and responsibilities and facilitates individual and collective action by identifying, discussing, debating and addressing issues of public concern.

AGE BEEKA
Age Beeka is a writer, international singer/songwriter and musician. He has performed at events including the Opening Ceremony of the American Embassy office in Abuja, the US national day celebration in Abuja, performing alongside the American Navy Band, and the South African High Commission marking of Late Nelson Mandela’s 95th birthday. He has written many articles, poems and books and is a member of several literary societies.
Performance cont’d

**MS. EFE ORAKA**

Efe Oraka is a captivating 19-year-old R’n’B/Soul singer. She began singing at the age of three and has been writing music since she was eight. At age twelve, she released her debut album *The Beginning*. Efe plays the guitar, ukulele, piano and drums.

**MR. DEJI IGE**

Deji Ige is a performance poet and writer, known for crafting and delivering thought provoking spoken word poetry with a focus on social reform. An Abuja Spoken Word Poetry Slam Champion and TedX speaker, he has a Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy, Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism and a Master’s Degree in Media Arts.

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**Media Participants**

**MS. KADARIA AHMED**

Kadaria Ahmed is a journalist, media entrepreneur, and television host. She began her career at the BBC in London where she was senior producer for *Focus on Africa* and *Network Africa*. She also served as the editor of Next, where she drove the editorial agenda for the organisation.

In 2011, she moderated Nigeria’s presidential election debate on live television, and in 2014 she co-created, produced and presented *Straight Talk*, an interview programme designed to probe and confront Nigeria’s decision makers on matters of relevance. Kadaria is currently a member of the judging panel of the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism and sits on the Board of Trustees of Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism and the Promasidor Quill awards. She is also a member of the Nigerian Guild of Editors and the Nigerian Institute of Directors. In 2017 she launched *The Core* on Channels TV and founded Daria Media Ltd.

**DARIA MEDIA LTD**

Daria Media Limited is a media company focused on providing factual, accurate, unbiased and balanced Nigerian news, information and entertainment. Daria Media hosts public events that empower citizens to hold public and private sectors accountable, build social consciousness and promote nation building.

**WAZOBIA TV**

Wazobia TV, part of the AIM Media Group, serves the Nigerian public with innovative and quality original content. AIM Media features four television channels and thirteen radio stations including Cool FM, Nigeria Info FM and Arewa FM, providing news and information, entertainment, youth and sports programmes. Wazobia is the pioneer broadcaster of Pidgin English and the largest grassroots television and radio network in Nigeria.
YAR’ADUA FOUNDATION

The Shehu Musa Yar’Adua Foundation was established by the friends, family and associates of Shehu Yar’Adua to honour the legacy of one of Nigeria’s foremost contemporary leaders and inspire future generations with his life of service.

Our mission is to promote national unity, good governance and social justice by creating platforms to engage citizens, policy makers and stakeholders in national conversations that foster an inclusive and prosperous Nigeria.

FORD FOUNDATION

The Ford Foundation is a global, grant-making philanthropy that works to disrupt inequality in all its forms.

We are guided by a vision of social justice – a world in which all individuals, communities, and people work toward the protection and full expression of their human rights; are active participants in the decisions that affect them; share equitably in the knowledge, wealth, and resources of society; and are free to achieve their full potential.

Across eight decades, our mission has been to reduce poverty and injustice, strengthen democratic values, promote international cooperation, and advance human achievement.

TRUSTAFRICA

TrustAfrica is an independent foundation that works to secure the conditions for democracy and equitable development throughout the continent. The Foundation convenes dialogues, catalyzes ideas, and provides grants and technical assistance to organizations working to advance these goals. Our programs currently focus on three issues; Democracy and Civil Society - securing the conditions for democracy by strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations; Equitable Development - fostering African enterprise and extending the benefits of economic growth to all members of society; and African Philanthropy - leveraging new and traditional forms of African giving to advance democracy and development and to minimize reliance on external donors.

TrustAfrica supports initiatives designed to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to secure democracy; foster sustainable and equitable development; and leverage African philanthropic support for democratization.