



ISSN 2753-1341

# POWERFUL AFRICA

---

*Douglas MBIANDOU*  
**PIONEER OF DIGITAL EDUCATION  
IN AFRICA WITH  
10.000 CODERS**

---

*Rebecca ENONCHONG*  
**THE HOPE OF TECHNOLOGY**

---

*Maroc*  
**COMMITTED TO THE  
ENVIRONMENT**

---

**AFRICAN CREATIVITY IN THE  
SERVICE OF  
HANDICAPAFRICA**

---



# POWERFUL AFRICA

---

May 2021 issue

## Publisher

Bv Agency  
London – Royaume Uni

## Annonceur

annonceur@powerfulafrica.com

## Partenariat

annonceur@powerfulafrica.com

## Contact us

[www.powerfulafrica.com](http://www.powerfulafrica.com)

[info@powerfulafrica.com](mailto:info@powerfulafrica.com)

Publication mensuelle tous droits réservés

**EDITOR IN CHIEF /**  
*Stéphanie SABONO*

## **CONTRIBUTING COMMUNITY MANAGERS /**

*Marie THUILLIER  
Melissa MOKHFI  
Zoe BLEUZE  
Madison CARDIET  
Coumba TOURE  
Chania Lembisa*

## **CONTRIBUTING REDACTEURS /**

*Angie MURONI  
Hana CUCOVIC  
Marie FLOTHA DODARD  
Maïsha STEVENS  
Daouda KONE  
Nahel DELVAL  
Imane Maïssa BERBER*

**TRANSLATER /**  
*Elijah PETTY*

**PHOTOGRAPHER /**  
*Abassabass  
Sayuri*

**GRAPHISTE /**  
*Leo GAUCHET*

subscribe online  
[www.powerfulafrica.com](http://www.powerfulafrica.com)

## *Edito*

Here we are, we are launched, Powerful Africa is now part of our routine. A magazine ambitious by its name, ambitious by its international development. Editions that are similar and different in their personalities, known and unknown, with different ideas, projects and dreams. We all have a mission and each of us has the choice to make a difference in the world. We decided to launch this magazine to try to value the maximum of Afro-descendants wherever they are in the world. And that everyone can know that somewhere else there is a person who can also try his luck.

Not everyone is cut out to create or innovate, or have great ideas, but we can all have the courage and desire to accomplish! Powerful Africa encourages these initiatives. Support is important! To be powerful, you must also know how to make the right decisions at the right time. Let's demand the best from ourselves, let's dare, without expecting anything from others. As Thomas Sankara said: «You can kill a man, but not his ideas. «So if you have ideas, write them down, develop them and implement them! Powerful Africa will talk about them so that the next generation can be inspired, take a cue and do better. This edition is marked by technology in Africa, those projects that are flourishing on the continent and making us proud. Congratulations to all those who contribute to a successful and qualified Africa.

---





---

## *Giving Africa the opportunity for leadership leadership : the ambitious project of Douglas Mbiandou*

---

After 10 years of developing his OBJIS training center in France, Cameroonian entrepreneur Douglas Mbiandou turns to Africa with 10,000 Coders, a visionary project to develop digital skills. To make Africa the number one continent in the field of computer science: this is the challenge Douglas Mbiandou has set himself the challenge of creating 10,000 Coders.

Launched in 2015, this non-profit association aims to develop computer and digital skills in several countries on the African continent. Both a professional network and a multi-faceted teaching center, 10,000 Coders aims to accompany of African youth in their integration into the digital world. The accompaniment takes place in several phases: awareness of the different aspects of the business, a request for support takes place in several phases: awareness of the different aspects of business, a request for support, the creation of a Digital Workplace account, a video challenge showing motivation, preparation for the professional world, a contribution, training and finally success stories.



---

# Rather than flee the continent, be guided to develop there

---

It is by noticing the distress in which a part of the African youth is plunged that Douglas Mbiandou launched his project: «Africans, and young people in particular, use digital technology a lot, but are not actors and flee the continent to go to other countries» he deplores. Refusing to let young people seek to leave their country by any means, he wants to encourage them to stay there while making them visible to the world. He is aware that, in the digital domain Africa has its card to play, mainly by focusing on by focusing on the digital skills of the future. digital future. He does not only express visionary thoughts visionary thoughts: it acts to accelerate the process of skills development directly within countries. The association 10 000 Codeurs offers training in Cameroon and Senegal. Even if these trainings even if these trainings are conducted by professional Douglas Mbiandou considers their role to be that their role is that of «big brothers» for the youth for the youth: «Today's young people do not know the company, the digital professions digital professions, and do not know themselves well. themselves. We have chosen to become benchmarks. « Most have degrees, but their main shortcoming is a lack of skills. But it is these skills that companies companies are generally looking for, and the 10,000 and the 10,000 Coders program is about filling to fill these gaps.

In Abidjan, Yaoundé or Dakar, the training take place in the form of evening classes evening courses from 18 to 21 hours for

an audience between 18 and 35 years old. The objective is to succeed in to insert them into the

professional sphere

with a significant digital skills base to, in the long term, make Africa the leading continent in the world, to make Africa the leading continent in this in the field. The association aims to integrate 10,000 young men and women in digital professions by 2025.

**«I dream of an Africa that is the lungs of the global digital industry through its youth» Douglas Mbiandou**

Two long-term objectives: to respond to the issue of unemployment through training, but also to definitively and unavoidably impose the African continent as a leader in the digital industry. the African continent on the world market. on the world market. The ambitious project of the 10,000 Coders association is based on the exploitation of future skills such as bitcoin, cloud and application development technologies. These skills, well present in Africa combined with the continent's young demographics, will soon the continent's young demographics, would soon enable it to to become a global leader in IT resources.





## Strive Masiyiwa: The man who is breathing

*Strive Masiyiwa is a Zimbabwean businessman who heads Econet Wireless, his own cell phone network company.*

Strive Masiyiwa was born in 1961 in Zimbabwe to an entrepreneurial mother and a minor father. His parents had the means to pay for his education, allowing him to study in Scotland and then in Great Britain, where he graduated from the University of Wales with a degree in electrical and electronic engineering in 1983. After graduation, he briefly worked in the computer industry in Cambridge, England. But wanting to contribute to the recovery of his country after the 1980 war of independence, he returned to Zimbabwe. There, he joined the state-

owned telephone company called Zimbabwe Posts and Telecommunications Corporation (ZPTC), which he left a few years later. Following this, he founded Retrofit Engineering in 1988 which is an electrical contracting company.

His career took a real turn after he decided to create a cell phone network himself. He sold Retrofit Engineering in 1994 to concentrate fully on Econet Wireless, his new company. Although he encountered many legal problems with the ZPTC, which claimed to have a monopoly on tele-





## *ing new life into the digital era of Africa*

communications, and the Zimbabwean government, he managed to open his company after four years of hard struggle.

Today, it is located in the Republic of South Africa, where the economy is the strongest on the continent. Econet Wireless is a successful company that continues to gain ground. At present, it is established in 15 countries: African countries, New Zealand as well as the United Kingdom. At the same time, the company has diversified

into satellite communications, fixed-line telephone services, and Internet services.

Strive Masiyiwa, through his numerous national and international honors, has become a model of success for young African entrepreneurs. His worldview, perseverance, and ethical integrity make him one of the most respectable men in the business world.

# *Afrobytes, the platform for African tech*

The world is increasingly interested in Africa, which is endowed with immense technological potential.

That's why Afrobytes was founded in 2015 by two technology enthusiasts: Haweya Mohamoud and Jean-Benoît Lecomte. Afrobytes is a business event around new technologies. It is the first hub dedicated to the AfricaTech ecosystem.

This project aims to be a bridge between the African technology industry and other international players. It is a platform created by «entrepreneurs for entrepreneurs» to help European companies to establish their presence and foster growth on the African continent.



Africa is at a major turning point as its tech ecosystem is exploding in the number of startups. In 2019, they have put Ethiopia, Morocco, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the center of their knowledge, learn from the success of others, get new customers and tell others about their experience. The project is not only aimed at illustrating the diversity of imagination of the various African countries, but also to illustrate the importance and relevance of such a project, global companies such as Google, Microsoft, and many other players have chosen to participate, thus highlighting their partnerships. Indeed, the project is aimed at new African companies and projects for the continent. They come to Afrobytes to showcase their projects and to meet other players in the ecosystem.

Thanks to this project, but also its huge and young population, the African continent is at the forefront of technological innovation. Grâce à ce projet, mais aussi à son immense et jeune population, le continent africain est à l'avant-garde de l'innovation technologique.

# technology development

local potential.

med (French-Somali) and Ammin Youssouf (her French-Comorian partner). Afrobytes is a tech sector and is located in Paris (because it is easier to access transport and funding).

national communities, to bring together players from all continents. It is a platform for themselves in Africa. Afrobytes hosts and accelerates European start-ups looking for

# AFROBYTES

start-ups and hubs. This is why Afrobytes came up with the concept of «Pitch My Country». The Democratic Republic of Congo in the spotlight. The aim of the event is for start-ups to expand their business. «Pitch My Country» also aims to showcase the local tech environment and start-ups. These startups from all over the world will take turns giving timed presentations to the World Bank or PayPal, digital giants such as Facebook, Google, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Indeed, these big tech players want to accelerate their African strategy through programs and partnerships for their ability to offer operational content.

at the heart of international tech.  
à cœur de la tech internationale.

# Rebecca Enonchong

## *The hope of technology !*

Rebecca Enonchong was born in Cameroon in 1967 to a Cameroonian father and an American mother. During her studies, she sold newspaper subscriptions door to door and became manager in the same company at the age of 17. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in Economics from The Catholic University of America, located in Washington, D.C. Nowadays, she is particularly known for her work in promoting technology in Africa. She is a leading figure in digital



entrepreneurship in Africa. Rebecca Enonchong is an entrepreneur, founder and director of « AppsTech ». « Appstech » is her first company, created in 1999, providing global and digital solutions for companies. Offices have been set up in more than 40 countries including Africa (Ghana in 2001 and Cameroon in 2002). This project seeks to respond to one of the major needs of African businesses, which is data collection. Rebecca Enonchong travels the world to convince foreign investors that the African continent is « a market » like any other. This is why she presented her project at the Afrobytes event, where she explained, among other things, that digital technology is transforming working conditions and fostering growth and employment. This is why she wants to support investment in Africa, as this would improve the business climate but also the society's perspective. In 2014, she was identified by Forbes magazine as one of the 10 most influential female tech founders in Africa. She is the Founder and President of the Africa Technology Forum, focused on helping technology start-ups in Africa. Rebecca Enonchong has gained notoriety as one of the most followed sources for new technology in Africa on Twitter. « Many companies and administrations in Africa do not have a social networking account. They don't see the need. One of my strug-

gles is to change this state of mind, » she says. Enonchong was appointed in April 2017, as president of the board of Afrilabs, the largest pan-African network with over 100 technology innovation centres. The goal is to create an innovation infrastructure that fosters the growth of the knowledge economy in Africa. It is a network of innovation centres in 27 countries with the aim of supporting the hubs where tomorrow's successful entrepreneurs grow. She is also being honoured at the Digital Women's Day in 2019 for her support as president of Afrilabs. As a result, Rebecca Enonchong is more determined than ever to continue what she started and to achieve her goals.





---

## *Royal Academy of Engineering, an academy for future engineers*

---

The Royal Academy of Engineering is the national engineering academy in the United Kingdom.

It was founded in June 1976 with the support of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, who also became the first Senior Fellow and remained so until his death. The Academy aims to advance and promote excellence in engineering. It brings together British engineers from all engineering sectors.

The Academy's current logo is inspired by the Neolithic hand ax, man's first technological advance, which was considered an appropriate symbol for the Academy, supposedly representative of the ever-evolving relationship between mankind and technology.

The President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the elected officials of the Acade-

my, presides over the meetings of the Council. The President is elected for a single term of up to five years. Currently, Sir Jim McDonald has served as President since 2019.

The Fellowship currently includes over 1,500 engineers from all engineering sectors and disciplines. The Academy plays an important role in two policy alliances established in 2009 to provide coherent advice on engineering education and policy across the profession: education for engineering and engineering of the future. As part of its program to communicate the benefits and value of engineering to society, the Academy publishes a quarterly magazine, Ingenia.

The Academy ensures that the selection of candidates for election to the Fellowship best reflects the diverse makeup of society as a whole. In 2008, it established the Proactive Membership Committee to identify and support the nomination of candidates from underrepresented areas, to increase the number of women candidates, engineers from industry and small and medium-sized businesses, those from emerging technologies, and from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

This academy can be an opportunity for underrepresented peoples to do what they love while having a scholarship to enter the academy.



ROYAL  
ACADEMY OF  
**ENGINEERING**



**SOFIA CREDIT S.A.**

**100% made in Africa**

## **Bank Sofla Crédit S.A**

«After more than 10 years of operations, Sofia Crédit is the leader in its category in Central Africa. Despite a difficult environment (lack of infrastructure), it has resolutely chosen proximity since its launch via a progressive national coverage policy. Professionalism, rigor, and quality of service are the foundations of our approach to meet the challenge of financial inclusion. « Since its creation in August 2009, Sofia Banque RCA is a bank located in Bangui, Central African Republic. Sofia Crédit was born out of a desire to help the Central African populations, to fight against poverty which remains a major challenge in underdeveloped countries. The products and services offered by the company to the population are savings, credit, fast money transfer, foreign exchange, issuing of means of payment such as checks and bank cards as well as microinsurance. According to the general manager of Sofia Crédit, Yves Dessandé, the company provides a rate of return ranging from 4% to 6% to customers who have opened a savings account. He also explained its ambition to establish itself elsewhere. Indeed, four branches in the Central African Republic (Bouar, Mbaiki, Sibut, Beloko) will soon be opened, as well as sixteen branches in the interior of the country to support the promoters of income-generating activities. Composed of a team of eighteen people trained in banking techniques and procedures, Sofia Crédit works on banking software «Eloge Bank» as well as two servers that ensure the processing and safeguarding of customer information. The company is committed to women's rights since its objective is to focus on the female population,

which is still underrepresented in financial inclusion despite its dynamism. Finally, Sofia Crédit guarantees the availability of uninterrupted service in times of crisis. It allows people to have security in terms of money.

# Kenya and its revolutionary project: Wastewater treatment in Kiambu and Ruaka

China Hena International Cooperation Group (Chico), is the company that has just launched the construction and rehabilitation of several wastewater treatment facilities in the towns of Kiambu and Ruaka in Kenya. This project will cost \$12 million and will be financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB).

First of all, it is important to remind you of the situation in Kenya and West Africa. Lake Victoria, which is the largest freshwater lake in Africa, is severely polluted. Indeed, the lake is polluted by a variety of substances from plastic waste to chemical fertilizers. The pollution of the lake is not limited to plastics, as industrialization, agriculture, garbage dumping, and sewage discharges have polluted the lake so much that it's compared to a septic tank! All these problems are not without risks, as the lake has caused cholera epidemics. The water supply in the neighboring towns has unfortunately stopped and the inhabitants are forced to travel miles to get water. Not only that, but some inhabitants have no other option but to buy drinking water from the mafia, which controls the





area, and most of the time the prices are very high. As the lake is polluted, the water supply in Kenya's cities is becoming more and more saturated and complicated. So solutions and projects are being put in place such as carrying out a wastewater treatment.

The sewage treatment project came up in 2018 and finally, the work was launched last year in May 2020 by the China Hena International Cooperation Group Co (Chico). The objective of this project is undoubtedly the improvements of the drinking water supply and sanitation services in Kiambu County in Western Kenya and later, it is hoped, in the whole country. The facility will reuse 90% of the water produced by this beverage production unit. At the end of the process, the water will be safe to drink and safe for reuse in some aspects of the production process. This is quite a large project, as it will see the construction of 108 kilometers of trash collectors and reticulation sewers covering the Kiambu and Ruaka areas. The network in the two towns will be extended by 25 kilometers, allowing for the connection of 450 households in the last kilometer. By July 2021, the entire works are expected to be delivered, benefiting 100,000 people in Kiambu County. Thereafter, towns such as Kikuyu, Limuru, Machakos, Kisumu, Narok, Kakamega, Eldoret, Marsabit, Changamwe, Kitui, Wajir, and Nanyuki will benefit from the project.

This project aims to help and prevent the people of Kenya from having to travel many miles for a single bucket of water, to avoid diseases and pandemics. As for the pollution of the country, much remains to be done, but as for the wastewater, projects will be put in place to repair the country.

---



# Morocco: A country committed to the environment

In a century, the population of Morocco has multiplied enormously reaching 36.47 million in 2019 according to Statista. During the XX century, the Moroccan population was about 5 million. This demographic development has generated a huge pressure, on the one hand, to the forest heritage, then on the coasts, and for

the balance of natural environments, but also a strong pressure on water resources. Morocco is not indifferent to environmental issues, aware of climate change and the impact on economic development. Morocco has put in place an environmental strategy for the country. In addition, the Moroccan state has risen among the

most enterprising countries in terms of sustainable development and environment. Today, it is an example for the African continent in terms of the environment.

First of all, one of the objectives of the country is the realization of the «Noor program». This project aims to set up and install a minimum production of electricity from solar energy of 3000 MW and 6000 MW by 2030. The

term «Noor» means light in Arabic. Morocco relies heavily on renewable energy, in fact, the consumption of electricity is increasing from year to year (5% per year) and as for every country, it depends on fossil fuels (90%). To give some figures, the painful addition of 8 billion euros was reached in 2018. But the country has bet on change. In a decade, the country has acquired four solar centers that are planned, wind farms,



photovoltaic and thermodynamic complexes. In addition, Morocco is contributing to a collaborative dynamic on environmental issues. The kingdom is not the only country facing ecological issues, that's why the country has proposed to share with its continental partners, the know-how and good practices to be established, as in the energy and agricultural sectors. This initiative brought together several national companies, intending to propose solutions to the vulnerability of African agriculture to climate change.

It was also in 2016 that COP 22 was held in the city of Marrakech to validate the Paris Agreement (COP 21) to fight against global warming. This global conference, allows the Kingdom of Morocco to present its various projects to fight against environmental impacts, including global warming and fossil fuels, but also to present different ideas to other countries to avoid an environmental cataclysm. In particular, the country presented the «blue belt project», aimed at preserving coastal communities and especially promoting

sustainable fishing. That same year, the «Zero Mika» operation was set up to ban the 25 billion plastic bags that the kingdom used. This figure is gradually decreasing despite the refusal of some traders and smugglers.

At the environmental and ecological level, the Kingdom of Morocco has succeeded in distinguishing itself from other countries with formidable advances. Now, it is time for other countries to be inspired. This world needs it.

# Solar energy in Africa, a daily challenge

Today, more than 1.1 billion people in Africa do not have access to electricity, which is about 14% of the world population. The African continent is endowed with strong potential as far as solar energy is concerned, the solar resource is available in quantity and on a vast space. Moreover, here is a small anecdote, on the continent, there are the countries and some of the sunniest places in the world. To date, only a dozen power plants of more than 5 MW (megawatt) have been connected to the grid in all of sub-Saharan Africa, including four in Senegal alone. However, this solar energy challenge is hampered by some difficulties.

Indeed, most of the difficulties in the realization of infrastructure projects are mostly known, whether it is a political risk, the cost of mobilizing financing, the weaknesses of electrical

networks, or the lack of training of local institutions. The African continent has a chronic shortage of electricity, which is a brake on economic and human development. This deficit is measured by observing three variables: access to electricity, electricity consumption (demand), and installed capacity (supply). All these difficulties make it difficult for Africa to develop

when it could benefit from all the potential it has. Solar energy represents a solution that seems adapted to the specificity of Africa's needs. Its operation allows a great speed of construction and ease of maintaining maintenance, including in isolated places. It is therefore present in several forms such as lighting (with street lamps or solar lanterns), individual kits, off-grid mini-power stations, industrial roofs for self-consumption, or large solar fields. All that remains is financing. Several companies have decided to invest in Africa in order to help the continent to be more developed, including Solarcentury but also

BBE. Many countries have also decided to invest in this challenge as Malawi. Finally, to raise a w a r e n e s s among African students about the challenges of solar energy, the University of Côte d'Ivoire



organized in 2018, in Abidjan, a ceremony for the distribution of 200 copies of a scientific book on solar energy to Ivorian universities. This challenge of solar energy in Africa is a daily struggle, despite many difficulties, Africa manages to get out of it and we look forward to seeing the continent develop perfectly.











# Agri Pitch, A competition to help young African Entrepreneurs

The Agri Pitch Young Agripreneur Competition is an initiative of the African Development Bank, which has partnered with DealRoom, a financing network. This company connects African businesses ready to expand.

The objective of the competition is to instill culture and encourage agribusiness to provide jobs and improve the livelihoods of the youth.

The agricultural projects evaluated are mainly nutrition and the integration of women into the workforce but also into the world of entrepreneurship.

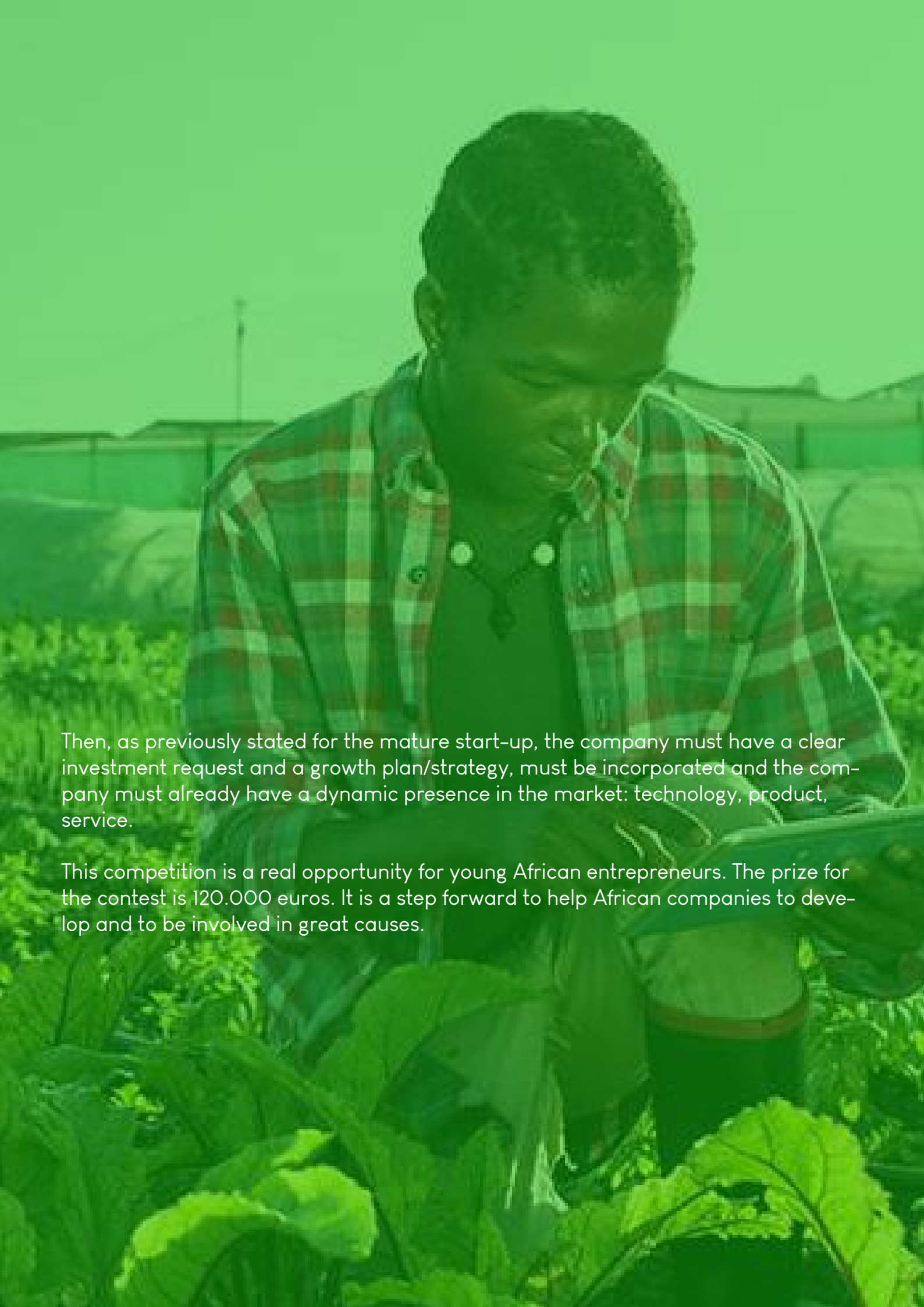
The selection of enterprises is very rigorous and follows many criteria.

An evaluation committee is responsible for selecting the 25 best companies for the rest of the competition. Companies that qualify for the competition will be promoted via the Asoko portal to global investors for matching.

The shortlisted companies then participate in a virtual Agro Pitch competition which usually lasts 4 days. The African Development Bank provides the pre-selection companies with between 10,000 and 40,000 Euros in grants.

The goal of the competition is to select winning ideas that can lead to new products, businesses, programs, projects, and processes while connecting with young entrepreneurs who want to address their own and global challenges. In this case nutrition and the place of women in society...

The many profiles to apply to the competition are: First, for those who are a young start-up (0-3 years), the conditions include having a clearly defined prototype or proof of concept, may or may not have had products introduced to the market, and finally may or may not be incorporated as a registered legal entity (legal status). Secondly, for those who are considered mature startups (more than 3 years old), people and companies that have already had a dynamic presence in the market: technology, product, service..., the company must have a clear investment request and a growth plan/strategy and finally the company must be a registered legal entity (legal status). Finally, the last category of companies eligible for the competition is those run by women. The conditions to participate in the competition are that the company must have at least 51% of women who founded the company or who are owners of the company.

A man with short dark hair, wearing a red, white, and blue plaid shirt, is looking down at a tablet computer he is holding in his hands. He is standing in a field of green plants, possibly a vegetable garden or farm. In the background, there are some buildings and a fence. The entire image has a green tint.

Then, as previously stated for the mature start-up, the company must have a clear investment request and a growth plan/strategy, must be incorporated and the company must already have a dynamic presence in the market: technology, product, service.

This competition is a real opportunity for young African entrepreneurs. The prize for the contest is 120.000 euros. It is a step forward to help African companies to develop and to be involved in great causes.



# *African creativity in the service of handicapafrica*

Being disabled in Africa today is a barrier to education for many people. According to figures from the Association Aide et Action, disability affects nearly 10% of the continent's population. It is in most cases caused by polio and road accidents. People with disabilities are often the target of ridicule. To remedy this and to ensure that a disabled person can live an almost normal life, many young Africans propose various solutions. One of them is John Amamam, a Nigerian artist who uses his artistic talents for the benefit of science.

## *John Amamam or art in the service of medicine*

The Nigerian artist John Amamam has taken up the challenge of making sure that black amputees wear ultra-realistic prostheses. Head of the company Immortal Cosmetic Art, the artist is distinguished by the manufacture of prostheses for people with black skin, a first of its kind. On his Instagram page, he proudly poses with his creations but also with the various beneficiaries. John Amamam is said to have had this idea following an accident suffered by a member of his family. Thus, he reproduces several parts of the body, including fingers, toes, arms, noses, and ears. In his expansion plans, the Akwa Ibom State native plans to open a factory in his home village. This will allow for large-scale production for local consumption but also export to other countries in Africa and the world. This wave of ingenuity to make life easier for people with disabilities has also reached Kenya, where two friends have made robotic prostheses.

*by Daouda KONE*

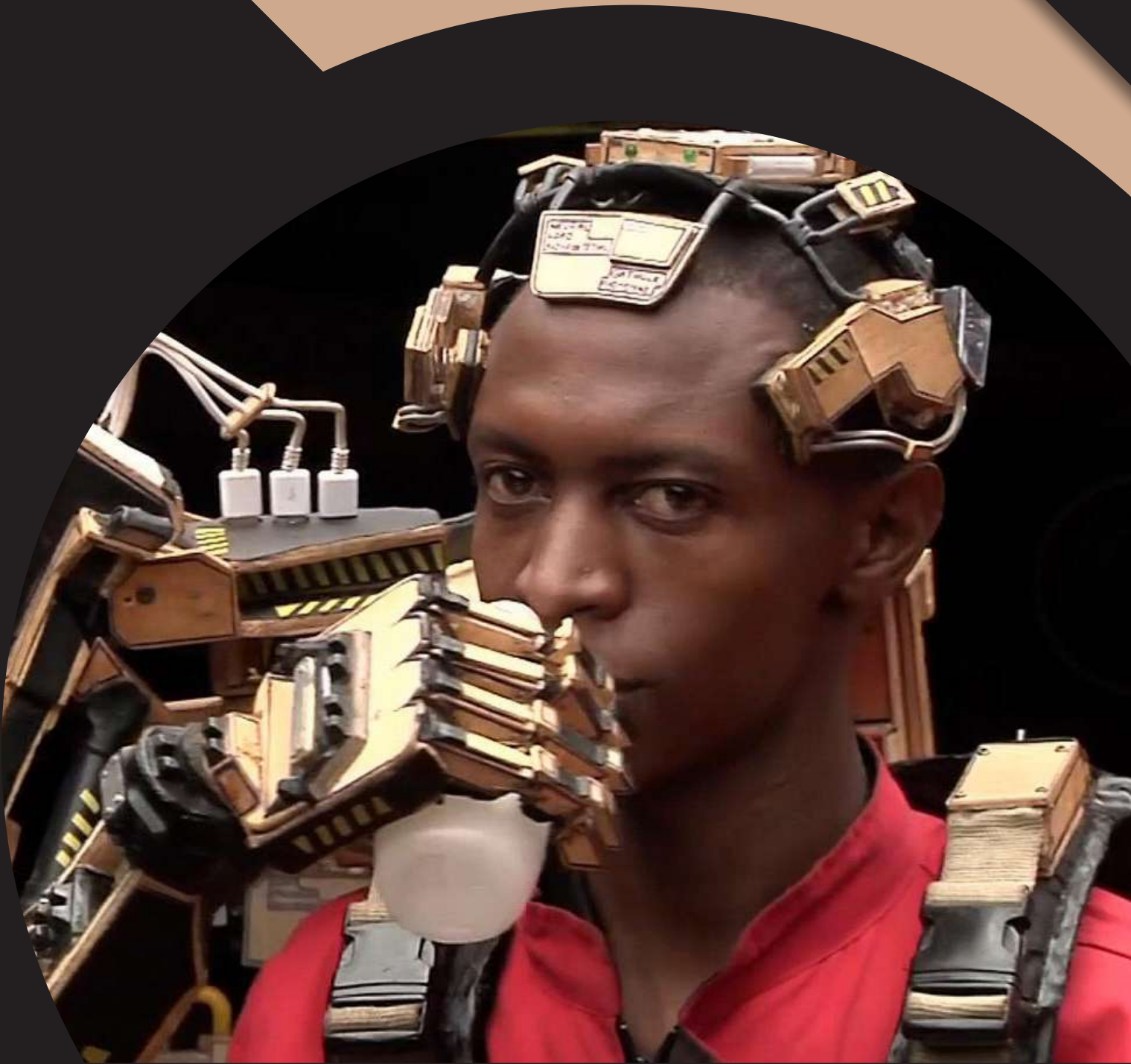




## *Kenyan inventors create a robotic arm*

David Gathu and Moses Kinyua are two Kenyan inventors who have created a bio-robotic arm activated by brain signals. The prostheses are made from recycled wood. According to David Gathu, the aim is to help people with disabilities in their daily activities. The prosthesis will allow the user to move his or her arm as desired. This technology will be of great help in a country with more than one million disabled people.

Long sidelined, these various innovations will enable amputees to be autonomous and then hope to be treated in the same way as able-bodied people in a society where disability is frowned upon.



# VMK phones, a brand made in Africa

*The VMK company officially launched in 2012 by Vérone Mankou, a young entrepreneur, creates African tablets and smartphones. Now the company designs and manufactures its own Congolese phones.*

## *And this is just the beginning of a great adventure !*

VMK stands out from other brands because after being the first African brand to launch cell phones, the brand now manufactures mobile phones on African soil. However, elements such as the process or the screens come from China.

## *Despite this, VMK remains Made in Africa !*

In 2015, Vérone Mankou decided to relocate his production to Congo in order to have a 100% Made in Africa product. His decision to relocate production was made to create value in Congo. He knew it would be a challenge and the challenge was successful because today, production is done only in Congo.

The VMK factory in the Mpila district of Brazzaville (Congo) employs around 100 local workers, 80 of whom work on the assembly line, production, and design of simple cell phones, which are called «feature phones» in professional language. VMK's products include the Elikia S and XS, very successful feature phones. The new factory has a production capacity of 350,000 devices per month.

One of the strong points of the brand is the price. Indeed, the Elikia smartphone costs 11,900 CFA francs, which is equivalent to 18 euros. A phone of the brand costs on average half the price of a conventional phone with the same functionality.

Finally, the VMK brand is a brand that has a lot of potentials and gives renewal on the technology market but also hopes for young African entrepreneurs who are sometimes afraid to launch. Vérone Mankou was able to show that despite the difficulties that can be put in the way, everything is possible.

elikia  
mokè



« We will do locally what we do in China. It's only the raw material that will be imported from Asia because we do not manufacture screens and processors in Congo, for example. » - Véronique Mankou



# *Cameroon: Installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels to light up some of Cameroon's cities.*

The energy revolution is underway, and it is proving itself in Cameroon with the solar installation of electricity in households and communities. Indeed, a lot of damage has been caused by some of the country's generators, sometimes resulting in fires.

The power cuts are becoming annoying for some students as unfortunately, the only way to revise is with a candle, a torch, or even their mobile phone flash. Cities are sometimes plunged into darkness, or there is insecurity. And in some areas where there are bandits and robbers, it is not easy. Despite

these many concerns about power cuts, a solution has been put in place in 2019.

Since March 15th, 2019, the population has been benefiting from a solar photovoltaic

installation of an electricity plant. The project will ensure permanent electricity coverage and will also allow users to control and manage their energy consumption. The government has also donated 250 energy-saving light bulbs. This project has

already provided 350 localities in Cameroon with solar voltaic systems. Cameroon is a country where access to electricity is very difficult, many inhabitants complain about electricity problems and are waiting for changes. This project aims to help its inhabitants in their work (as

some are obliged to exercise their profession in telecommuting) but especially in their way of life. This project gives hope to many of the Cameroonian people.







# *Barack Obama, a man with an astonishing*

---

The first black person to head of the United States, Barack Obama was the 44th American president.

## *How did he get to this point in his life ?*

To begin with, Barack Obama was born on August 4th, 1961 in Hawaii. His father is Kenyan and his mother is an American from Kansas. Two years after he was born, his parents separated. His father, Barack Obama Senior, went on to study at Harvard and then joined the Kenyan government as an economist. In 1971, Barack Obama and his father saw each other only once before his father died in a car accident in 1982.

Barack Obama was raised by his maternal grandparents. He then studied political science specialising in international relations, first at Occidental College in California, then at Columbia University in New York.

After graduation, Barack Obama moved to Chicago. He first worked as a financial analyst and then became a social worker in the inner city.

In 1987, Barack Obama continued his law studies at Harvard Law School. He graduated with honors. He became the first student of color to direct the university's law review. Back in Chicago, he taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago and worked as a civil rights lawyer. In 1992, he married Michelle Robinson, a lawyer in the same firm as him, and it was she, among other things, who pushed him into politics.



In 1996, he was elected to the Illinois Senate for the first time, heading the Public Health Committee. He was re-elected in 1998 and 2000. During his mandates, he became known for his desire to extend the social security system or for his involvement in AIDS research and especially for his opposition to the war in Iraq in 2002.

---

# recordremarquable

In 2007, Barack Obama officially announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination. After several months of primaries, he was nominated as the Democratic candidate against Hillary Clinton. He went on against John McCain, the Republican candidate. Throughout his candidacy, Barack Obama was supported by several public figures including Oprah, a very influential person in the United States. On November 4th, 2008, Barack Obama was elected President of the United States. With his slogan «Yes We Can», throughout his presidency, he went on to create

many laws to help Americans, including Obamacare, which consists of protecting patients and providing affordable care.

Barack Obama was re-elected president in 2012 for his second term. One of his plans during this term was to ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Unfortunately, this bill failed to gain the support of senators.

Recently, in 2020, Barack Obama wrote his memoirs entitled «A Promised Land». This first volume is the memoirs he wrote during his first term as President of the United States, so we can assume that a second volume may be released in the coming years.



# Michelle Obama, an admirable woman

---

Michelle Obama, whose real name is Michelle LaVaughn Robinson, was born on January 17th, 1964 in Chicago. She is an American lawyer and essayist. But you might know her for the fact that she HAS become the first time African-American first lady of the United States, alongside her husband Barack Obama, the first African-American president of America.

---

## But how did she achieve this title ?

After studying at Princeton University and Harvard Law School, from which she graduated in 1988, Michelle worked as a lawyer at Sidley Austin. Her talent and persuasiveness soon led to her becoming an aide to Chicago Mayor at the time Richard Dale. It was during this time that she met Barack Obama, also a young lawyer. Michelle was initially his mentor and she married him in 1992.

In 1993, she became the executive director of a non-profit organization called Public Allies, which encourages young people to work in non-profit organizations. In 1996, in pursuit of this mission, she developed the Community Service Center as Associate Dean of Student Services at the University of Chicago. In 2002, she became the Executive Director of Community Affairs at the University of Chicago Hospital, before moving on to become Vice President of External Affairs at the University of Chicago Medicine in 2005. She has had an impressive career.

This career was further enhanced by her husband Barack Obama's 2008 presidential bid. With this campaign, Michelle Obama quickly became a media figure, particularly for her taste in clothes. Indeed, the American magazine Vanity Fair ranked her among

---





the ten best-dressed people in the world.

During her husband's campaign, she gave speeches that touched Americans.

Although Michelle was initially heavily criticized by the media, she quickly gained a public appreciation for her charisma and determination.

The 2008 presidential campaign will be a major event in the history of the United States. It was during this election, on November 4th, 2008, that Barack Obama was elected President of the United States. Michelle Obama was therefore the first African American first lady in the history of the United States of America, despite its long history of racism in American society.



Since January 2010, she has joined the American Red Cross to support the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Haiti. Throughout her two mandates and even after (Barack Obama being re-elected in 2012), she has been involved in many causes such as the fight against obesity, education for all girls in the world.

In 2018, Michelle Obama published her autobiography which is called «Becoming» if you want to know more about her life. A documentary was also released on Netflix of the same name as her book which was made during her book tour, she talks about her life, her dreams, and what connects her to others.

Michelle is a lady who is admired for all that she has maintained in her life, and we look forward to seeing what she will become in the years forward.

---

by Angie MURONI

# Chadwick Boseman, a legendary man

---

Originally from South Carolina, he grew up in the town of Anderson. The son of a textile mill worker with an upholstery business, Leroy, and a nurse, Carolyn.

Chadwick attended Howard University in Washington. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He also graduated from the British American Drama Academy in Oxford, England. His program at Oxford was funded by the actor, Denzel Washington, through the actress Phylicia Rashad, Chadwick's teacher at Howard.

He was always seeking knowledge, always wanting to know more. His goal was to learn to write and direct. That's why he also studied at the Digital Film Academy in New York where he graduated.

It was in the mid-2000s that he managed to make a name for himself in the public eye. At first, he made small appearances in police series such as CSI Manhattan and New York District. Then he diversified into series such as ER, a series that follows the life of the emergency department of the University Hospital of Chicago,

---

or the series Lie to Me, which tells the story of a deception expert who collaborates with government agencies. But these were only small appearances in the series. Eventually, he landed regular roles in the series Persons Unknown. The series tells the story of seven strangers who wake up in a deserted town with no idea how they got there. Chadwick plays the role of Graham McNair.

On the film side, he directed two short films Blood Over a Broken Pawn and Heaven and then got the role of Floyd Little in The Express (2008), a drama about American football player Ernie Davis. A second sports role did not go unnoticed as five years later he became the main star in the biographical sports film 42 (2013), putting on Jackie Robinson's tracksuit, the first African-American Major League Baseball player. He then appeared in several films after that.

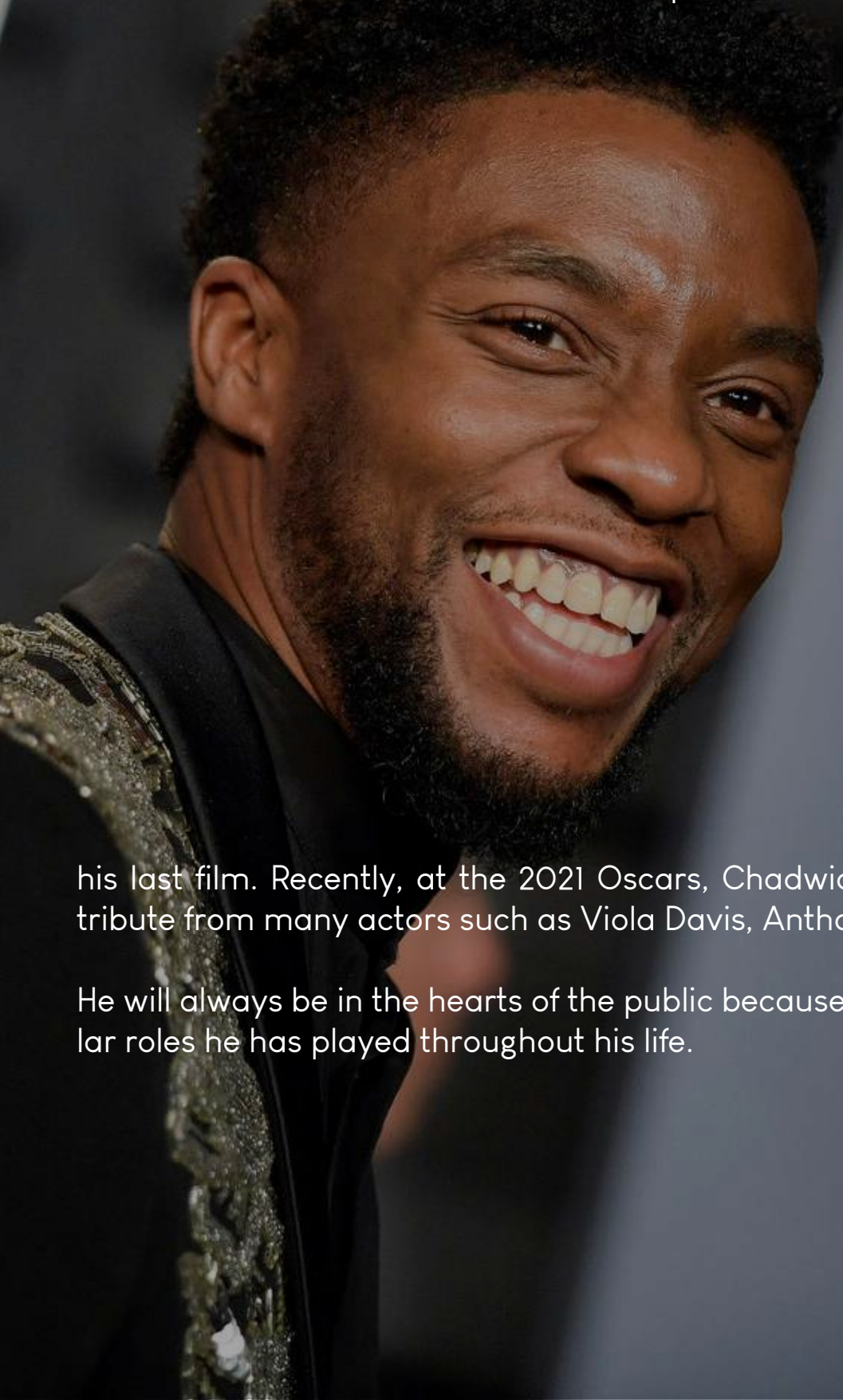
Then he was asked to star in the film Get On Up directed by Tate Taylor. Chadwick plays James Brown, a funk musician. It's a completely different register from what he previously played so far. He knows how to play

---



many different roles in films and this will be further demonstrated by his role in the Marvel production. He took on the character of Black Panther, who was given a solo film in 2018. He has also appeared in Captain America: Civil War, Avengers: Infinity War, and Avengers Endgame.

On 28 August 2020, Chadwick Boseman died of colon cancer. The actor had been secretly fighting the disease for four years. In early 2021, he received the Golden Globe for Best Actor for his performance in Ma Rainey's Blues,



his last film. Recently, at the 2021 Oscars, Chadwick Boseman received a tribute from many actors such as Viola Davis, Anthony Hopkins...

He will always be in the hearts of the public because of the many spectacular roles he has played throughout his life.

# Chloé Lopes Gomes, a fight against racism

---

Chloé Lopes Gomes grew up in the city of Nice, France from a modest background. Her father was a worker and her mother a housemaid.

On her eighth birthday, her mother decided to take her to the Paris Opera to see her first ballet, Swan Lake. It was then that her passion for dance began to develop. Her parents paid for her to take ballet lessons so that she could train and later join a school specialising in dance.

At the age of 14, she entered the Bolshoi School in Moscow, the Moscow State Choreographic Academy. It is one of the most prestigious schools of Russian ballet. She was the first black student to enter this school. She entered the Academy as a scholarship student because her parents could not afford to pay for her boarding and studies. She learned rigor and discipline.

In 2018, she also became the first black woman to join the Berlin Staatsballett. The company hired her in its corps de ballet. According to Chloe, «It was the accomplishment of a childhood dream.» Unfortunately, this dream turned into a nightmare.

Two years later, she denounced the school, a tyrannical ballet mistress, and institutional racism. Through several interviews, she tells us examples about the behind-scenes of



the academy.

In this case, one day, the troupe was preparing to rehearse La Bayadère, the ballet mistress was handing out white veils, she stopped in front of Chloe and said laughing: «I'm not gi-

---



ving you a veil because it's white, and you're black. There is also the fact that the ballet mistress wanted Chloe to use white powder during the performances. There were many racist words,



not the only ones that Chloe suffered during her schooling. In addition, the director of the Staatsballett, Johannes Öhman, who publicly supported Chloe in the face of this racism, decided to

leave the institution. This event was too much for Chloe. The ballet mistress only persecuted her during the two and a half years she spent at the school. At the end of December 2020, the Academy did not want to renew her contract however, due to the magnitude of this story, the Academy agreed to a renewal of her contract for 2021/2022.

Following this story, Chloé Lopes Gomes filed legal action. She will receive a compensation of 16,000 euros. «It's a small victory but it's already a big step for the world of ballet», she says. She recalls that she has been fighting discrimination in classical ballet, where the vast majority of dancers are white.

Recently, the Paris Opera announced that it was reviewing its recruitment conditions to encourage the entry of more artists of color. This is the first step forward in the ballet world.

by Angie MURONI

Credit photo : Photo DR

# *Fally Ipupa: A music we like to listen to but above all a committed man*

We know this great Congolese artist. He was «trained» by a great artist from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the famous Koffi Olomidé, a talented artist who is above all committed to his country. Before talking about his art and his commitments, we must look at the artist and his story.

Fally Ipupa Nsimba was born on December 14th, 1977 in Kinshasa, the largest city in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and spent his childhood in the commune of Bandliin-gwa. The Congo is known for its musical culture and presence in the social life of the villages and its inhabitants, the artist was immersed in music at a very young age thanks to his family. He began by singing in a religious choir, with a small handicap, a stutter, but it was not this slight handicap that prevented him from continuing to sing, since he managed to eliminate it over time.

Later on, he was noticed for his singing and dancing talents. From then on, he joined several groups, before being spotted by the international star of the Congo at the time: Koffi Olomidé. Koffi Olomidé invited Fally to join his group, which was called «Quartier Latin». Together, they released no less than seven albums during seven wonderful years for the artist. Fally learned a lot from Koffi and it was time for him to launch his solo career. In the middle of the year 2000, he signed with the Obouo Music label and released his first album, which was soon certified as a gold record. His talent was

very well received by the public and he won the prize for best Central African artist at the Kora Awards. His success and talent would take him to the Olympia to perform on April 7th, 2007. This was only the beginning of his success as he gained international recognition with the release of his two other albums. He then went on to perform a series of concerts, television appearances, and collaborations with numerous artists in the music world, including Snoop Dogg, Booba, and Youssoupha.

A prestigious year for the artist musically, but also humanly. In 2013, the last album was released in collaboration with his former record company, Obouo Music, but it was also the year in which Fally Ipupa inaugurated his foundation (Fally Ipupa Foundation) to strengthen the social link



in the Democratic Republic of Congo by helping the most disadvantaged. But not only that, because Fally Ipupa is above all a father and has no less than five children. He is therefore committed to the United Nations and UNICEF for education and against malnutrition. For the past two and a half years, Fally Ipupa has been an ambassador for Monusco, the United Nations Mission in the DRC, against the recruitment of child soldiers, a scourge in the east of the country. Unfortunately, the majority of children who join armed groups in the DRC do so «voluntarily», for lack of an alternative. For Fally, the Congo does not need child soldiers, but rather to help them go to school, to educate them for the future of the country and the African continent. The artist is strongly committed to this fight. To raise the necessary funds, Fally does not hesitate to ask his fellow artists and sportsmen, but also entrepreneurs. In addition, the FIF is completing the construction of a borehole to facilitate access to drinking water in Kisen-  
go, a disadvantaged district of Kinshasa. Fally's next project is the construction of a maternity ward. But this is not enough for the artist, he wants to give back what the people give him and participates in campaigns against Ebola and for the eradication of poverty through literacy and education. But this side of the artist remains little exposed and likes to remain discreet about his actions.

Fally Ipupa made his comeback in December 2020 with the release of his sixth album. Recently, the artist performed on February 28th 2020 in front of more than 20,000 spectators at the AccorHotels Arena in Paris, an event concert in partnership with TV5 Monde.

Fally Ipupa is very committed to his country. Through his influence and his foundation, he helps the most disadvantaged. Fally Ipupa is indeed a great singer, but above all, he wants to give back to his public the success that the Congolese people have given him. It is by being an ambassador and supporting the important causes that the country endures, that they are thanked. Thank you Fally!

---





# Boubou Niang

## *The visual artist with millions of followers !*

Who is Boubou Niang (Bouboudesign\_ on Instagram) because many do not know him and it is our goal to make you discover him. Boubou Niang was born on August 18, 1994, in Niomiré in Senegal, his passion is painting. Since he was a child, he likes to draw, paint on shirts and sheets for ceremonies or events.

It was at the age of 14, when he had the chance to leave Niomiré to join his uncle in Italy, especially in the city of Turin. Boubou studies and it is during his studies that he meets different people, notably his art history teacher, who will coach him in his learning to adopt a richer vision on his technical work. All alone, during public events in his neighborhood, he realizes his performances. It is then that he launches on Instagram with videos to show his art.

He is noticed on social media by his way of drawing. These videos are mesmerizing, just watch one to understand. What fascinates us about this artist is his talent! On the one hand, he only needs 5 seconds to analyze the model and the photo he is going to reproduce. Then, he uses everything that his inspiration dictates like flowers, his fingers, his nose, even with the hair of one of his models! But what remains the most impressive is that most of his works are painted with the picture upside down. His success is particularly linked to the realization of several works, representing celebrities including the

famous Beyoncé, Amber Rose, actor Dwayne Johnson, etc...

His ambition is to appear alongside Picasso, who is for him a model, and appear in the annals of art, in painting. His reputation has already succeeded him, as he is spoken of as the greatest African artist. Boubou Niang continues to perform in his art and continues to surprise us.

# Les pyramides, un art ancestral

The Egyptians were the first to build pyramids. Their construction began at the beginning of the Old Kingdom with the 3rd dynasty and ended with the 18th dynasty. Today, there are more than 130 ancient pyramids in Egypt with a height of at least 15m.

Over the centuries, the pyramids have become a symbol of Egypt and are now visited by nearly 10 million tourists every year. But how did the Egyptians manage to create such monuments? The origins of the pyramids go back to the «pre-dynastic» era (6000 BC – 3400 BC) when pharaohs and important people of power were buried in tombs covered with large stones that sloped towards the interior of the building and were called mastabas.

At first, the mastabas of the pharaohs differed from those of the simple notables and rich of the society by their size but over time, the pharaohs were buried in pyramids to show their power. Compared to a pyramid, the mastaba is simple: rectangular, it contains only a single room with a deep well leading to the burial chamber where the mummy of the deceased is kept. This room was closed for eternity after the body was deposited. Depending on the status and wealth of the deceased, additional rooms were added to store the objects that accompanied him on his journey. In the year 3400 BC, the first dynasty was created. It is at this time that mastabas became more popular.

They were massively used until the end of the second dynasty, in 2630 BC. The oldest mastabas in Egypt are located mainly at Abydos and Saqqara, the two main necropolises for the pharaohs of the First and Second Dynasties. Some mastabas were even more elaborate. One or more floors were superimposed to give them height and symbolize the power of the deceased. They are called mastabas with floors. They were the premises of the step pyramid which will be introduced from the 3rd dynasty. The Egyptian pyramids are tombs. The mummified bodies of the pharaohs were placed there so that they could rest in peace for eternity. Pyramids were very important in their religion, which was at the center of life during Ancient Egypt. Their role was to accompany the deceased in his journey to the Sun God: Ra. To do this, the deceased had to cross the «primordial ocean», the source of life on Earth. On the other hand, it was considered that the pharaoh was the only divine person on Earth and that he was the only one who could reach the primordial ocean. At his death, he had to guide the souls towards this place of peace. For him to get there, he had to be buried in a tomb that could carry him there.

The materials used for the construction of such sanctuaries were the stones abundant in the region such as granite, limestone, sandstone, or alabaster. Over time, the pyramids have evolved to become the wonders we know today. The first step pyramid was that of Djoser, the first pharaoh of the 3rd dynasty. Djoser took power in 2630 BC and decided to install his tomb at Saqqara, the necropolis of the pharaohs of the Third

Dynasty. The triangular shape of the pyramid of Djoser is due to its architect Imhotep, who had the tomb enlarged several times, built underground rooms, and added a step pyramid at the top, which he also had enlarged. After modifications, the pyramid of Djoser reached 66m high, a record for the time.

The step pyramid is the simplest pyramid to build, the stones are piled up and staggered at each floor that is built to have a kind of staircase on the external wall of the pyramid. Imhotep was the first to use this construction technique and to create a building like this one.

It is in 2575 BC, with Snufu, grandson of Djoser and founder of the IVth dynasty, that the technique of pyramid construction evolved until the first pyramid with smooth faces. Nevertheless, Snefru had to make some tests before obtaining a real pyramid with smooth faces. His first attempt was the pyramid of Meydum, whose walls began to crumble only a few years after its construction. Snefru built his second pyramid at Dahshur. He succeeded in obtaining a pyramid with smooth faces but the architects had to modify it during the construction because the slope was too inclined and the stones too heavy, they did not allow the stability of the top of the building. Its height was thus decreased to 105 meters, which gives the pyramid an irregular shape. It is now called the rhomboidal pyramid, due to its imperfect slope.

It is this half-successful attempt that pushed Snefru to build a third pyramid, still in the necropolis of Dahshur. The «red pyramid» is the first pyramid with smooth faces in the history of Egypt. Its name is due to the fact that the collapse of a part of its rafting let glimpse the red stones used for its construction. With its 104,40m of height, the red pyramid is the third highest pyramid of Egypt, behind those of Khufu and Chephren. This evolution led to the «era of the giants», a time during which the successors of Snefru built pyramids always bigger than the others.

When Khufu, the son of Snefru, came to power in 2551 B.C, he used ancient techniques to create the tallest pyramid ever built. And he succeeded. He built his pyramid in the necropolis of Giza, where his son and grandson would later build their tombs. With its 146,58 meters high, its 5 million tons, and its 2,5 million blocks of limestone, the pyramid of Khufu is the most imposing of all the pyramids of Egypt. The building site was colossal, it would have required more than 20.000 men and 20 years of construction. His son Khephren followed in his footsteps and created the second-highest pyramid in Egypt, with a height of 143.50 meters while his grandson Mykerinus decided to build a pyramid of more modest size, with a height of 66 meters.

This period was the beginning of the golden age of pyramids and their standardization, introduced by Mykerinos. During the 5th and 6th dynasties, the pyramids with smooth faces were smaller. Userkaf, the first pharaoh of Dynasty 5, continued what Mycerinus had begun. He had a funerary complex built with a pyramid only 50 me-



ters high and surrounded by multiple temples. Another modification appeared as early as 2330 BC, at the end of the Fifth Dynasty; writing was added inside the pyramids. In the funerary room where the mummy was stored, funerary texts were inscribed that served to accompany the deceased at his death.

They explain how the soul of the pharaoh, called Kâ, joined the primordial ocean. In the other rooms, one can find hieroglyphs describing the important facts of the reign of the pharaoh or scenes of daily life.





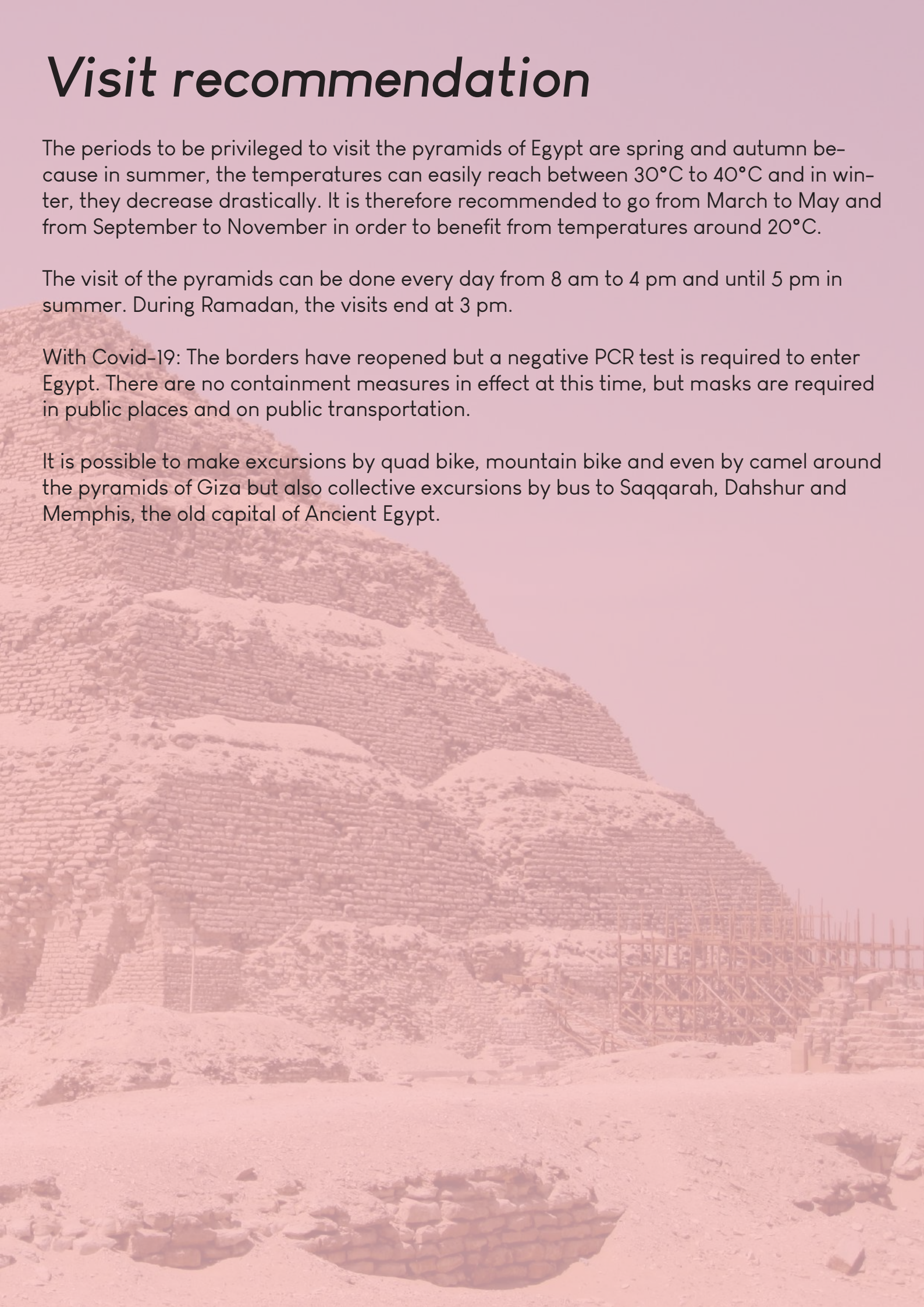
# Visit recommendation

The periods to be privileged to visit the pyramids of Egypt are spring and autumn because in summer, the temperatures can easily reach between 30°C to 40°C and in winter, they decrease drastically. It is therefore recommended to go from March to May and from September to November in order to benefit from temperatures around 20°C.

The visit of the pyramids can be done every day from 8 am to 4 pm and until 5 pm in summer. During Ramadan, the visits end at 3 pm.

With Covid-19: The borders have reopened but a negative PCR test is required to enter Egypt. There are no containment measures in effect at this time, but masks are required in public places and on public transportation.

It is possible to make excursions by quad bike, mountain bike and even by camel around the pyramids of Giza but also collective excursions by bus to Saqqarah, Dahshur and Memphis, the old capital of Ancient Egypt.



# Francis NGANOU : from dream to reality

---

*Francis is a Cameroonian MMA practitioner nicknamed The Predator and has recently become the UFC Heavyweight Champion.*

## *Who is Francis NGANOU ?*

Francis NGANOU was born on September 5, 1986 in Batié, Cameroon. The UFC champion made his debut in France in November 2013, with the first tournament being the heavyweight pancrace tournament (fighter weighing over 93 kg). Francis Nganou fought mainly for regional organizations in various locations across Europe, before the Franco-Cameroonian fighter signed to the UFC or his life will change.

## *Where does Francis NGANOU come from ?*

If we had to remember two words that sum up the story of Francis NGANOU, the words would be: HOPE and PERSEVERANCE. An example for all. Francis had an extremely difficult childhood. The youngest of five children, he was moved from house to house when he was only six years old. At the age of 10, Francis began his first job, which was not the easiest. Indeed, his job consisted of filling buckets of sand in a sand quarry. A back-breaking job for a 10-year-old. The money he earned would be used to pay for his schooling. But for Francis, it was impossible to continue this work all his life, he had no future in this «small job». The boxer was afraid of ending his life like the old people of the village who worked themselves to death and continued to work in this sand quarry to earn a miserable salary.

So Francis decided to leave and move to the country's economic capital, Douala, at the age of 22 to become a professional boxer. As a child, he saw the poster of the famous movie Rocky, hence his inspiration for boxing. But at the age of 22, it was difficult to become a boxing champion, his relatives and friends told him he was crazy. His first fights were hard for him, considering the level he had to face because of his lack of experience. But over the years, he managed to improve and boxing became an outlet for him, a way to channel his energy. His father was a violent man, hitting his mother and brothers. Paradoxically, his father will become a model for him, not to become the man his father was.

At the age of 25, Francis learns that he is ill. He put boxing aside for a while and returned to his village to live with his mother, where he raised pigs. But it was there that he realized that if he wanted to become a champion, he would have to leave to continue

---





boxing and become what he had always dreamed of being. So, it is without telling his family that the Franco-Cameroonian takes the road to exile one day in 2012 with only a small backpack. It is at this moment that the troubles begin for the young Cameroonian. He tries to forget his unfortunate adventure, but every scar reminds him of this extremely dangerous crossing. He will be forced to cross the Sahara desert, with the «help» of a smuggler, loaded on cars with several people (between 5 to 10 people in a pick-up), with very little water. But he managed to cross the desert. He arrived in Morocco, he found himself in the north of the country, and for a year he lived in a forest. He lived there because unfortunately if Francis was caught by the authorities, they would be forced to send him back home. After that, the boxer lingers on his first attempt to cross the sea to Spain on an inflatable boat! But it is after the 7th attempt that Francis arrives in Spain. He arrived in Tarifa in the south of Spain and spent two months in prison for having entered the country illegally. Once released, the boxer joined France by bus. Francis arrived in a hostel in 2013 and was immediately disillusioned. In his home, it was dirty, unhealthy, he did not have this image of France. For him, the hostel was too much, he decided to leave the hostel and sleep in a parking lot in the 12th district of Paris and refused to mix with the others. His only goal was to find a boxing gym. By chance, he found one and met Didier Carmont, the pillar of the club who became one of his faithful friends. He advised him to turn to MMA, judging that his fighting techniques were more in line with this sport and that he had better chances in this discipline.



That's when he met the «MMA Factory», the Mecca of Free Fight in France. Francis wanted to train but didn't have the means, so it is with Fernand Lopez (sports director of the club) that he ensures his rage to win, his performances. Fernand Lopez gave him a chance and he was not disappointed to have known Francis Nganou. Little by little and with many fights in Europe, it is in 2015, two years after his debut in MMA, that he signs with the UFC, the most important world league of MMA. The boxer obtains a work visa in the United States. At the same time, he managed to obtain a temporary residence permit in France. Thus, Francis received his first fees and MMA became his profession. The Cameroonian fighter comes from far away and proves with hope and perseverance that it is possible to accomplish his dreams. *un salaire de misère.*

### *What is he becoming ?*

Francis Nganou managed to become world champion in his category on March 27, 2021, by K.O. The champion believes he has not forgotten his roots. Recently, the predator opened a gym in Batié so that young people could train for free, which was his dream when he was a child. Francis Nganou returns regularly to Cameroon where he is welcomed as a true star. A national pride, a pride to his mother with a course he can be very proud of. Francis continues his road and his accomplishments. We have not finished hearing about him.





# Dr. Boukary Sawadogo

## *To begin, can you please introduce yourself ?*

I'm Dr. Boukary Sawadogo, professor of cinema studies and black studies at the City university of New York's City College. In addition to being a film studies professor, I'm also an author: I have published three books on African cinema and the fourth book on exchanges between Africa and Harlem is scheduled to be released in 2022. I'm a public speaker and filmmaker, I made a documentary entitled *Salut Y'all: African Teachers on the Bayou* and a web series *Aventure africaine à New York* addressing the experience of African immigrants in New York City. I have a keen interest in telling stories of minorities in the US. I'm also the founding director of a festival that I launched last year, the "Harlem African animation festival". It's something that I'm very much interested in because I have a keen interest in popularizing practices and traditions African cinema in the US.

## *Can you tell me about your academic and professional background ?*

In 1999, two years after my high school diploma, I received the Diploma in General Studies (DEUG) in Anglophone Studies at the University of Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Then I obtained a very competitive scholarship with "Organisation Internationale de la francophonie" to study at University Cheikh Anta of Dakar, Senegal. I graduated a Master's degree in Applied foreign languages to tourism and business (English-German) at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar.

Upon my return to Burkina Faso, facing the difficulty of landing full-time employ-

ment, I did small jobs for two years such as translation, conference interpreter, English language instructor, and tourist guide. Then I passed the national competitive exam to be trained as counselors in foreign affairs also known as "conseillers des affaires étrangères" or diplomats. At the Institut Diplomatique et des Relations Internationales (IDRI), I graduated with the degree of *Diplôme d'Études Supérieures en Diplomatie et Relations Internationales* (specialization: foreign policy) in 2006.

As I was finishing my training of diplomat, I also received graduate studies scholarship for a Master at the University of Northern Iowa in the United States. I was at a crossroads, either pursue a Master with the possibility of getting my doctorate or joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was not an easy decision, but I opted to pursue my graduate studies, first getting my Master and then the Ph.D. four years later. I moved to the United States in 2006 where I had to adapt



to the American academic system, with lots of assignments in comparison to the French educational system. I obtained the Master's degree in French Language and Literature, and then the Ph.D. with a specialization in African cinema in 2012.

### ***Do you have any organization, project-based in Africa ?***

For two years now I have founded "Association African film" in Burkina Faso, an organization which is designed to help the grassroots effort in the promotion of African cinema, educate youth in understanding the language of cinema, and also offer alternative conceptual framing of Africa.

### ***Do you have an anecdote example you can share with me ? Whether it is in your everyday life or your academic career, something happened that you didn't expect ?***

You sometimes come across people who still think of Africa as one country, sometimes people ask me "Do you speak African?" thinking that Africa has only one language. I invariably reply that Africa has many (more than 50) countries with so many languages. This points to the amount of work of deconstruction that needs to be done. As we live in a visual culture today, I'm hoping that film will help to debunk some of the stereotypes. I hope some of my academic interventions can help address some of deep-seated and biased visions and conceptions of Africa.

### ***The books :***

You've published three books on African film studies:

West African Screen Media: Comedy, TV Series, and Transnationalization (Michigan State University Press, 2019)

African Film Studies: An Introduction (Routledge, 2018)

## *Qu'est-ce qui vous a inspiré à écrire ces trois livres ? Y a-t-il un point commun entre les trois ?*

Pour moi, le principe sous-jacent à l'écriture de ces livres est d'abord de vulgariser le cinéma africain, le grand public mais aussi dans le domaine des études cinématographiques. Car aujourd'hui, les études cinématographiques africaines sont à la marge et aident à promouvoir l'histoire de l'Afrique. Actuellement, je travaille sur la 2ème édition qui sortira en 2022 qui parle de certains changements et de la pratique du métier de cinéaste. Enfin le dernier point, ces livres permettent de situer et contextualiser le cinéma africain à l'échelle mondiale (le cinéma mondial??).

## *Ce que je pense de l'interview avec Dr. Boukary Sawadogo*

Dr. Boukary Sawadogo représente aujourd'hui la fierté du Burkina Faso, une lumière dont la réussite est exemplaire, il a été nommé l'un des meilleurs professeurs de la City College de l'Université de New York.





# Idriss Niang

---

## *Can you introduce yourself ?*

Idriss Niang, president of the association «Agir ensemble» in Seine-Saint-Denis, I accompany the professional and non-professional public to enable them to help each other based on solidarity and sharing.

## *1st phase: Setting up a system to access the BAFA training at a lower cost*

Thanks to the help of partners and state schemes, the association has succeeded in obtaining a reduction in the cost of the BAFA (Brevet d'aptitude aux fonctions d'animateur) training program, which initially cost between 400 and 700 euros, is now granted to young people in the scheme for 24 euros. This earned it a cover story in the newspaper Le Parisien in April 2010.

## *2nd Phase: Setting up educational support*

The association has an agreement, the «Contrat Local d'Accompagnement à la Scolarité» (C.L.A.S), which allows it to accompany children aged 6 to 17 from preparatory classes to the final year of secondary school for their homework after school.

## *Tell me about your background:*

I started with a vocational course, passing a vocational baccalaureate in the maintenance of automated mechanical systems. At the same time as my studies, I was also a youth worker and education assistant, which made me want to continue my studies at university. I have always been a social actor, having been an animator and educator, I did a degree in education

sciences at the University of Paris 13 Villetaneuse in January 2009. Aware of several problems, it was at that time that I had the idea of creating the association «Agir Ensemble», which aims to support people in situations of social or professional difficulty. I have always wanted to create an association that promotes integration projects for young people who are not working. The association «Agir Ensemble» was created in 2009 and now has 7 main areas of activity:

## *3rd Phase: Women's sport*

The association works with the Fondation de France on a project entitled «Allez les filles» which promotes women's sport in the neighborhoods and the association is in partnership with the Fondation de France and the French football federation.

## *4th Phase: International solidarity*

An internship is offered abroad to enable young adults aged 18 to 25 to integrate into society on their return to Morocco or Senegal. These young people will discover and learn a trade, starting by reworking their living environment, code and behavior. Once they return to France, these young people will join a work-linked training course, the aim of which is to facilitate their professional integration in the workforce. Going abroad will allow them to open their minds and create a break from their daily lives. Another recently created measure, «African. Young Leaders», selects 100 of the best political figures, representatives of associations, and representatives of the eco-



nomy (between 28 and 40 years of age) in France and Senegal who will become the continent's future leaders. (Mr. Idriss Niang himself applied).

## *5th Phase: The Integration Component*

«Agir ensemble» has succeeded in setting up partnerships with the SNCF railway company, where recruitment for tramway drivers has gone extremely well. This has made other companies such as KEOLIS and the affiliate Trans kilo want to benefit from this support.

## *6th Phase: Creation of a «100 Permits for those without permits» program:*

This measure taken aims to make the driving license accessible for 150 euros for young unemployed people, to mothers of single-parent families. In 2017, 1,000 people joined this scheme, and the Minister of Labour met with the association. Two years later, the association was awarded the

departmental medal. This is a unique event that did not exist in France, which has become like a franchise and is increasingly in demand, and will soon be present throughout the Ile de France department.

## *7th Phase: Digital*

Finally, the last phase concerns digital technology. Following the Covid health crisis, the association has developed a digital system that offers mothers the opportunity to take a digital training course financed by their training account (CPF). This train-

ing is also open to young women who are looking for work, who have an intermediate level, and who want to develop their skills. This has worked very well, even for unemployment recipients.

## *An anecdote you can tell me?*

During his university career and with a vocational baccalaureate as his degree, Idriss decided to continue his studies at university, a decision that was not easy to take, because once at university, he had to face many tests. Generally, the professional baccalaureate gives direct access to the world of work, but once he arrived at university his teacher told him «Idriss, the university is not made for professional baccalaureates, only one student in a million can succeed», a sentence that made him ruminate for a long time, saying to himself why not me. Idriss discovered the essay when he arrived at university, even though his entire class had a general baccalaureate, and the first mark he got was far from encouraging. But instead of dissuading him, Idriss decided to take the problem head-on, redoubling his efforts, which ended up paying off, as it often does.

## *A rewarding exchange with Mr. Idriss Niang !*

Idriss is a pleasant and dedicated person, aware of the financial difficulties that people encounter daily, Idriss is there to help and give a financial boost to these young people. By creating the association «Agir Ensemble» Idriss has not only realized his dream but has also enabled other people to realize theirs for me, it is a source of inspiration, I think it is good to live in Drancy (department) with this kind of association.



# About the Author and book :

Dora Owusu is the author of *The Majestic African Hair Show*. A children's book that celebrates African heritage, Black hair and cultural identity. Dora was born in Ghana but has lived most of her life in the U.S. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a concentration in Social Work from Saint Francis College in Brooklyn, NY.

When she's not writing, she can be found listening to music, biking through Central Park in NYC or spending time with her two young children and husband. Dora believes story books can change the world, and plans to write more books that will inspire and empower young people of color.

*The Majestic African Hair Show* is a story about Princess Nana Afia and her friends. They prepare for an upcoming show at school where they will show off traditional African hairstyles and teach the guest attendees the names, meanings, and history behind each hairstyle. This story teaches young readers how many African civilizations used hairstyles as a form of communication.



*The Majestic African Hair Show* is a story about Princess Nana Afia and her friends. They prepare for an upcoming show at school where they will show off traditional African hairstyles and teach the guest attendees the names, meanings, and history behind each hairstyle. This story teaches young readers how many African civilizations used hairstyles as a form of communication.

Hairstyles could indicate a person's family background, tribe and status in the community. Throughout this book you will find out where in Africa many of the hairstyles we wear today come from. This book encourages children of African descent to embrace their natural hair, it also teaches them how Black people have always used their hair to express creativity.

You can connect with Dora Owusu on Instagram at [bonded\\_by\\_books\\_](#) or by email at [owusudora58@gmail.com](mailto:owusudora58@gmail.com)





# BVAGENCY

*Make your dreams true again*



**Mama Africa Innovation** est une association de Loi 1901

Qui a pour but de Développer une véritable culture entrepreneuriale chez les jeunes de toutes les régions du monde pour que le "mieux vivre ensemble" ait un sens au quotidien.

Le réseau International **Mama Africa Innovation** souhaite fédérer des entrepreneurs sociaux africains, européens et du monde pour travailler ensemble et développer l'intelligence collective.

Elle a pour objectif de :

- **DÉTECTER**

Les entreprises, startup, porteur des projet et associations a impact sur les territoire et continent africains et du monde ayant un potentiel de croissance sur un marché.

- **ACCOMPAGNER**

Le développement des entreprises et associations grâce à son réseau d'experts, mentors, et des partenaires financière

- **CONNECTER**

Les différentes parties prenantes, experts, grands comptes, entrepreneurs, institutions afin de faire émerger des nouveaux modèles de coopération mama africa innovation porte la voix des entrepreneurs sociaux auprès des politiques publiques, philanthropie pour bouger les ligne et améliorer leur condition d'exercices

- **SENSIBILISATION**

Le grand public défavorise et favorise aux initiatives entrepreneuriales et encourage les jeunes et les femmes à se lancer



BESOIN DE COURS PARTICULIERS

# EN ANGLAIS AMÉRICAIN ?

DÉBUTANT

INTERMÉDIAIRE

AVANCÉ

[www.Kodjoe.com](http://www.Kodjoe.com)



Vous voulez améliorer et maîtriser votre anglais ? Avec l'accent américain ? Kodjo Hounnake vous propose des cours très intéressants avec des supports gratuits mais aussi le développement de votre réseau professionnel !

Bénéficiez de 20% de réduction sur votre premier mois de cours en utilisant le code « POWAFRI ».

# POWERFUL AFRICA

