



Oza Nogogo

(Association Overseas)

NZUKO AFRICA 2026

The AfrikaFora, and her partners proudly present the programme for **Nzuko Africa 2026**, to celebrate Africa Day, and bring Africans (continentals and descendants), and their friends together. This year's event will be hybrid as always; gathering an international crowd during our online conference on **Friday, May 29th** on the theme of **Youth, Future, and the African Rebirth**. This year, we will explore the **Youth Dividend: empowering the generation that will deliver the African dream**, challenging the youth to propose action plans needed to rebuild Africa, instead of waiting to be invited to the table by elders, unwilling to leave the stage.

On **Saturday May 30th**, we will also welcome kids and grown-ups alike, friends and curious passers-by to our festival in the Maison de la Vie Associative, 27 avenue Gabriel Péri, 93400 Saint-Ouen-sur-Seine (Paris region) for a rich programme of economic and cultural activities (including food, drinks, music and more)! **Nzuko Africa 2026** will then end on a high note with our awards ceremony and gala dinner on **Sunday May 31st**.

Check out our programme [here](#) to learn more about the various activities, expert panels and high-level conversations; the programme for the festival will be released shortly but know already that activities will include panels, cultural displays, food sales and more. You can register now for the FREE online conference, festival with meals and drinks for a fee, and buy your tickets for our Awards & Gala Night.

For more info or to partner with us, contact admin@theafrikafora.com.

Online Conference

29 May

A conversation in English moderated by **Dr Clarisse Barnes**

The Rt. Hon. Dr. Clarice Vernie Barnes – Moderator of Nzuko Africa 2026

Clarice is an educator, social analyst, gender specialist, broadcaster and curator. Her work is ethnographically focused on how Montserrat's culture, heritage and people have been impacted by nearly thirty years of volcanic eruption. She has collected and broadcasted oral histories of persons in Montserrat and the diaspora for over 20 years through a weekly radio programme "Under the Tamarind Tree". As a curator, she has advocated successfully for Montserrat to be the final resting place for the travelling portion of the Equiano (a Nigerian man enslaved on Montserrat) exhibition curated by the Birmingham Museum and the Equiano Society. The exhibition marked the bicentenary of the passing of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. Equiano had later purchased his freedom and wrote about the conditions of the enslaved. The Right Honourable Barnes was awarded the Order of Excellence by the Government and people of Montserrat for work spanning forty years.



Chief Ben C. Etiaba, FCA – Grand Patron of The AfrikaFora

Ben FCA is the Principal Partner of Ben Etiaba & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants and Management Consultants. He was the Director of Admin and Finance at Thames Valley Services Ltd. He was a Partner of Delbau & Co and the Chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, United Kingdom District and Chairman of The London Group (Nigeria's Professional Leaders in UK). Chief Etiaba is a member of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria and has won several local and international awards, including; Natwest Bank sponsored 'African Business Partners' award in London for 'Business Innovation' (1998), and Award for Excellence' (2003) at 'The Gathering of Africa's Best in London'. Chief Etiaba is a Knight of Saint Christopher (KSC) of the Anglican Communion and holds the traditional titles of 'Ifennia Nnewi', and the 'Ezechikwadolu 1 N'Ukpo Ancient Kingdom'; Ifennia Nnewi is the Patron, Centre for Memories, Enugu. He also chaired the 2025 Things Fall Apart Festival.



HRM Eze Onyeche Promise Obinna – Royal Father of the day (Libation & breaking of Kolanut):

His Royal Majesty Eze Professor Ambassador **Onyeche Promise Obinna** (also known by his ancestral title Odumezumezu) is a prominent traditional and academic leader in Rivers State, Nigeria. He serves as The Eze-Ikemba 1 of Etche ethnicity and is the Onye Ishiala (Ancestral King) of the Ulakwo Agwuruishi Ancient Kingdom. As the ancestral ruler of the Ulakwo Agwuruishi Ancient Kingdom, he is credited with reviving abandoned traditions, such as the Iri Ji (New Yam Festival), and more. Eze Onyeche Promise Obinna is a member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers and a professor of Business Management and Administration, as well as the Chairman and CEO of the Fulfilled Group of Companies and Chairman of NASTOGRN Multi-Purpose Investment Limited and many more. HRM serves as the Secretary General of the Supreme Royal Association of Traditional/Herbal Medicine Practitioners of Nigeria. In this capacity, he partners with the Federal Ministry of Health to regulate and integrate traditional medicine with modern standards. Known as the United Nations' first African Royal Emperor of Peace, his leadership extends beyond traditional borders.



Rev. Dr. Annie N. Onu: Keynote speaker

Amb. Rev. Dr. Annie N. Onu is the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Secretary of Abia State Diaspora Commission providing strategic visionary leadership in strengthening engagement between Abia State and its diasporas. Committed public servant and humanitarian she is faith-based advocate, and an international community development practitioner with extensive experience in governance, diaspora engagement, social impact, and strategic partnership building. Her professional work spans community development, pastoral care, youth mentoring, social intervention, and institutional leadership. She is the Founder and Director of family Values, and she champions women's empowerment, Widows, girl-child education, youth development, anti-trafficking advocacy, domestic violence awareness, and broader humanitarian initiatives that promote social transformation and community resilience. Dr. Onu is committed to advancing inclusive development, strengthening institutions, empowering future generations, vulnerable and underrepresented communities, as well as promoting sustainable social progress through visionary leadership, service, and diplomatic engagement on the global stage.



Adachukwu Onwudiwe: *African Youths as Builders: Creating the Infrastructure for New Narratives*

Adachukwu is a narrative curator and storyteller with over 12 years of experience at the intersection of culture, literature, and community development. As co-founder and team lead of Afrochives Studio, she specialises in uncovering untold stories and curating immersive content that fosters pride and inspires collective action. She partners with brands — particularly NGOs — to craft impactful storytelling that reflects the heart of their work, enabling audiences to see themselves in the mission. She founded Crater Library & Publishers (now Iroko Tree Empowerment Initiative) and revived Enugu's literary festival tradition, running it successfully for seven consecutive years after a long absence. Through research, content creation, and strategic programme management, Onwudiwe creates platforms where people connect with meaningful narratives. Her work empowers individuals and organizations to take ownership of their heritage and contribute to a shared vision of progress.



Pierre Mugabo: *From youth dividend to purpose dividend: when African youth moves from potential to impact*

Pierre is the Vice President of the Rwandan Diaspora Association of Belgium, where he contributes to the association's strategic direction and leadership while supporting socio-economic projects with an impact in Belgium and/or Rwanda. Over the past years, he has been actively involved in initiatives aimed at strengthening diaspora engagement and community development. He is also part of the Diaspora Advisory Board, a program under the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Through this experience, he contributed to migration-related initiatives in Belgium and Luxembourg, highlighting the important role of the diaspora in these efforts. A political scientist by training, he has cultivated a specific focus on socio-economic development in Africa, particularly addressing issues related to new technologies and youth empowerment. Currently employed as a finance consultant at KPMG, his work focuses on helping businesses achieve their digital transformation goals by optimizing processes and improving operational efficiency to support organizational performance.



Abdoulaye Cissé: *Youth and creativity: a driver of African cultural resilience*

Abdoulaye is an associate architect on various cultural heritage design and rehabilitation projects at Agence AUDEX SARL in Mali. He also collaborates with the International Centre for Earthen Construction (CRAterre) on various projects to rehabilitate earthen architecture at World Heritage sites and enhance capacity in Mali and Niger. Deputy Secretary General of ICOMOS Mali, and an expert member ICOMOS' international scientific committees, Abdoulaye has worked on the evaluation of nomination files for the World Heritage List for several sites as an expert and has conducted field evaluation and reactive monitoring missions. Cissé participated in UNESCO's mentoring programme for African experts. He has diverse experience in conventional architecture, earthen architecture, technical evaluation of nomination files, capacity building, technical assistance, and heritage and project management consulting



Sandrae Thomas: *Reclaiming our cultural identity as Caribbean youths*

Sandrae is a Caribbean youth leader, climate advocate, and social impact strategist from Montserrat, advancing sustainable development and youth empowerment across local, regional, and global spaces. As Founder and President of New Legacy, he leads a youth-driven organization that mobilizes young people to actively contribute to community and national development. He serves as Island Coordinator for Good Deeds Day and CareForAll in Montserrat, leading nationwide initiatives that promote civic engagement, social cohesion, and healthier lifestyles. Internationally, Thomas is a Global Ambassador for the Blue Planet Alliance, advocating for renewable energy and climate resilience in island nations, and contributes to global climate policy through the Caribbean Youth Climate Council and YOUNGO under the UNFCCC. Thomas also serves as a Youth Parliamentarian in Montserrat and is a member of Healthy Caribbean Youth, advancing youth representation in governance and regional health advocacy. His work reflects a strong commitment to service, leadership, and transformative impact.



Read below for the festival

Festival (Saint-Ouen)

30 May

A conversation in French moderated by **Emmanuel Dupuy & Olivier Rapinier**

Chief Ben C. Etiaba FCA – Grand Patron of The AfrikaFora

Chief Ben C. Etiaba FCA is the Principal Partner of Ben Etiaba & Co, Chartered Certified Accountants and Management Consultants. He was the Director of Admin and Finance at Thames Valley Services Ltd. He was a Partner of Delbau & Co and the Chairman of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, United Kingdom District and Chairman of The London Group (Nigeria's Professional Leaders in UK). Chief Etiaba is a member of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria and has won several local and international awards, including; Natwest Bank sponsored 'African Business Partners' award in London for 'Business Innovation' (1998), and Award for Excellence' (2003) at 'The Gathering of Africa's Best in London'. Chief Etiaba is a Knight of Saint Christopher (KSC) of the Anglican Communion and holds the traditional titles of 'Ifennia Nnewi', and the 'Ezechikwadolu 1 N'Ukpo Ancient Kingdom'. Ifennia Nnewi is the Patron, Centre for Memories, Enugu. Also, he chaired the 2025 Things Fall Apart Festival.



HRH Obi Jossy Nwanna, Omu of Ibusa – Royal Mother of the Day

Obi Jossy Isioma Nwanna, the Omu of Ibusa, is a distinguished leader, entrepreneur, and cultural custodian. She worked at Saipem Contracting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. After a brief tenure at Diamond Bank PLC, she ventured into entrepreneurship, founding Mazone Events and Entertainment Ltd. Later, she released her debut album, Let Me Love You. She also established Mazone Stitches, a fashion brand specializing in bespoke senator wears for men and women. Her life took a historic turn when she was entrusted by her ancestors with the revered role of Omu Ibusa. Since then, she has combined tradition with service, launching impactful initiatives for community development. Through her Home of Mercy Foundation, she provides support to the underprivileged, while the Dean Prestigious Royal Academy offers quality education



from crèche to secondary level. She hosts reorientation, capacity building, and cultural preservation programs for women and girls. Her Keep Your Environment Clean, project, launched through the Isu Diamond Ladies Society, reflects her commitment to environmental sustainability. Omu Jossy is currently pursuing a Master's degree.

Hon. Collins Nweke – Guest of Honour

Collins was the first naturalised Belgian to be elected to political office in West Flanders. He retired from active politics in December 2024 after serving three consecutive terms as Councillor at Ostend City Council. A former chief executive and chairman of Nigerians in Diaspora in Europe, Collins has been active in consultancy and advocacy in the field of socio-economic development for Nigeria and for Africa in general. He is a Fellow of both the Chartered Institute of Public Management of Nigeria and Institute of Management Consultants. A 2014 awardee of a Doctorate in Governance (Honoris Causa) Collins is also a Distinguished Fellow of the International Association of Research Scholars and Administrators, where he serves in its Governing Council.



Olivier Rapinier – Guest of Honour & Moderator of Nzuko Africa 2026

Olivier defines himself as a 'Parisian from the islands', having been born in Paris to parents from Martinique. Rapinier started out in show business at the Divan Du Monde as an assistant sound and lighting technician and met Wilson, the creator of Black Sugar. Later, he met Jeff Gaou 'The Magician' from BOMB FACTORY STUDIO, who trained him in filmmaking and took him on as one of his assistants. A member of the railway artists' union and CEUX DU RAIL (the film-loving railway workers), he directed his first short film, *Mots !!! Maux...*, starring Sourya Adèle. As co-founder of the *Faisceau Convergent* association, he joined forces with friends who are passionate about independent filmmaking to launch the *Les Couleurs du Court* festival in April 2019, with the aim of showcasing filmmakers who make independent short films exploring diversity from every angle. Rapinier supports his independent filmmaker friends and collaborates with other filmmaking collectives. Today, he promotes young talent from the diaspora through various media channels and monthly screenings.



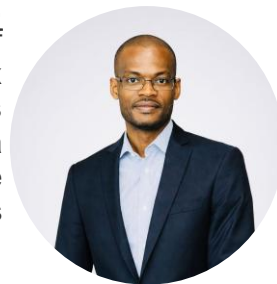
Emmanuel Dupuy – Moderator of Nzuko Africa 2026

Emmanuel is the National Secretary of the French political party Les Centristes, where he oversees defence issues. He has served in two ministerial cabinets (Secretary of State for Defence and Veterans). Dupuy has also worked as a parliamentary assistant at the French Senate, the French National Assembly, the Ile-de-France Regional Council and the European Union's Committee of the Regions. He has taken part in several presidential campaigns (Jean-Pierre Chevènement in 2002, as Secretary-General of the Antenne radicale, Corinne Lepage in 2007, François Fillon in 2017). He is a founding member of La Gauche Moderne (Jean-Marie Bockel, 2008), Les Progressistes (Éric Besson, 2007) and Union des Républicains Radicaux (2006). Dupuy was also UDI National Secretary for Defence Issues (2012-2017).



Léonce Houngbadji: *Advancing Africa through writing, action and solutions*

Léonce is part of a generation of Africans determined to bring about change through the power of ideas, civic engagement and storytelling. A solution-oriented journalist, communicate:ons expert and social entrepreneur, he has harnessed the power of words to drive transformation and action to fuel progress. President of the Notre Voix association and publisher of the Notre Voix media outlet, one of the leading platforms for constructive information, he also founded la Semaine l’Afrique des Solutions, a major international event that celebrates African innovation and highlights the continent’s builders. He is also the author of many books. Houngbadji held key positions in public service, notably as press officer at the Prefecture of Cotonou, and later head of the communications unit at the Beninese Ministry of the Interior and Public Security. He also served as adviser to several presidents, including Thomas Boni Yayi (Benin and the African Union), Mr. Sékouba Konaté (Guinea); former Prime Minister Lionel Zinsou, and other senior officials. He is the founder and CEO of LH Partners, and holds other high-level positions. Léonce has received numerous awards.



Ryan Hermassi: *How to shape the Africa through collective action*

Ryan is a student of international relations and political science with a unique cultural heritage; his Franco-Moroccan origin places me at the crossroads of three worlds (European, African, and Arab), granting him a plurality of views on developmental dynamics, colonial legacies, and the major ideologies of the Global South, from Pan-Africanism to Pan-Arabism. As Secretary General and Head of Innovation at the association What About Congo, Mr. Hermassi is responsible for representation and creation and lead new initiatives that serve to promote and amplify African projects. He also organises associative, private, and artistic engagements. Convinced that the African renaissance is not decreed but built, he strongly advocates a vision grounded in collective responsibility, the circulation of knowledge, and the strengthening of intra-African cooperation. His commitment is simple and constant: to position myself wherever African initiatives emerge, in order to support and amplify the impact.



This event is held in partnership with:



SAINT-OUEN-SUR-SEINE

