Michael Essien is a Ghanaian retired professional footballer who played as a midfielder. He was born on December 3, 1982, in Accra, Ghana. He is considered one of the greatest African footballers of all time. Essien began his professional career with Bastia in France before moving to Lyon, where he won two Ligue 1 titles. He then joined Chelsea in 2005 for a then-club record fee of £24.4 million, and he went on to win numerous trophies with the club. During his time at Chelsea, Essien was known for his powerful and dynamic style of play, earning him the nickname 'The Bison' for his strength and physicality on the field. He was a key player in Chelsea's midfield for several seasons. In 2006, Essien was nominated for the FIFA World Player of the Year award, and he was also named in the FIFPro World XI in 2007. His performances for Chelsea earned him widespread recognition and praise from fans and pundits alike. Essien represented the Ghana national team at the senior level, earning over 50 caps and scoring 9 goals. He was a key figure for Ghana in several Africa Cup of Nations tournaments and also represented his country at the FIFA World Cup. In 2012, Essien joined Real Madrid on loan from Chelsea, where he played alongside the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Sergio Ramos. He made a significant impact during his time at the club, helping them secure a second-place finish in La Liga. After leaving Chelsea, Essien had stints with AC Milan in Italy and Panathinaikos in Greece before returning to play in Indonesia and Azerbaijan. He eventually retired from professional football in 2020. Off the field, Essien has been involved in various philanthropic activities, including the Michael Essien Foundation, which focuses on providing support and opportunities for underprivileged children in Ghana. Essien's impact on the game has been widely recognized, and he continues to be regarded as a role model for aspiring young footballers, particularly in Africa. His legacy in the sport extends beyond his on-field achievements. In addition to his football career, Essien has also pursued business ventures and has been involved in ambassadorial roles for various organizations. He remains a highly respected figure in the football world and beyond.