

African Leadership

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SPECIAL EDITION



DR. AKINTOYE AKINDELE

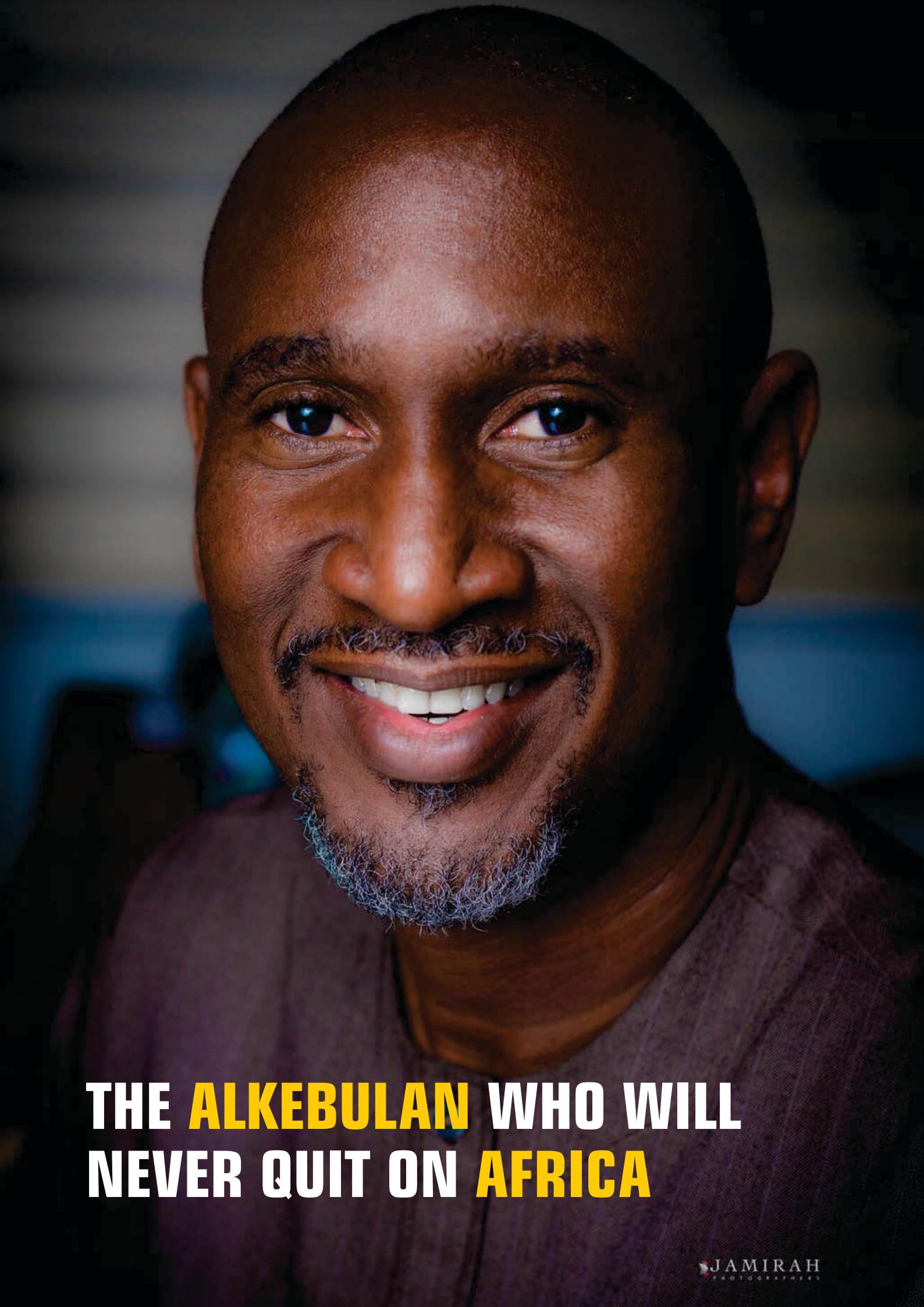
THE ALKEBULAN WHO WILL NEVER QUIT ON AFRICA

International Leadership and Youth Development in Africa - President Nana Kufo, Ghana

Through the Eyes of a Successful Female Banker - Nana Ama Poku

Businesses that thrive are the ones that attempt to solve society's problems - Dr. James Mwangi CEO Equity Bank





**THE ALKEBULAN WHO WILL
NEVER QUIT ON AFRICA**



*Africa's history predates the colonial rhetoric's that abounds today. A continent rich in human and natural resources has a string of many firsts, which has been deliberately obliterated by pseudo historians. However, one man is on a mission to change this trend and present a refreshing narrative about the continent, our history and our people. For Dr Akintoye Akindele, business is more than the prosaic day-to-day venture of profit and loss – far from it. For him, it's about using business to tell the Africa story. Hence his passionate commitment to projects, businesses and not-for-profits that help in accentuating the continent's true identity. His story of grits and glory in business has been noted globally. He was recently invited as the only African Business Leader to contribute to the US Today and Wall Street Journal best-seller, titled – *Quitless: The Power of Persistence in Business and Life* – a comprehensive anthology of some of the most successful, die-hard and tireless entrepreneurs in the world. Dr. Akintoye, a man of many firsts, is committed to changing Africa and the world at large, one-business-at-a-time. In this exclusive interview with African Leadership Magazine UK, he talks about his unceasing love for Africa; his business ventures; philanthropy and other sundry issues. Excerpt:*

You lead an incredibly diversified group. Our discussion last time unveiled that your life goes beyond the energy sector. Can you tell us more about your various interests and some of those businesses?

The centre of gravity of our investment thesis is about leveraging those low hanging fruits that can fast track us as Africans in the 21st century. I think most of us focus our energy on things at second level of importance. But it's easy for Americans to want to do driverless cars when they already have food for their stomach and clothes to wear on their bodies. But how can we the Africans have an all-encompassing competition, when we don't have electricity, and cannot even feed ourselves and yet we have enough land to feed the world five times over?

So our thesis is ambidextrous. We love to invest in those sectors and those opportunities that can quickly get Africans on the table and the right to invest in the future. To succeed in life, you must live 10% in the



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past, 20% in the present, 70% in the future. Focus 10% in the past so that you know why you made certain decisions in the past and you can learn a bit from it. In the present, you then say, what am I doing and why does it matter? And in the future, you get, the future you make. Today used to be yesterday's future.

At Platform Capital, we invest in an ambidextrous way. We focus on sectors we think are core to our comfort, our dignity, to getting us on the table.

Let's have a conversation about Energy, let's talk about power. In the 21st century power is not democratized. Why are we now paying premium for what God gave us free? How come we can't feed ourselves? How come we can't even build houses for ourselves? So we invest in that thesis to support great people entrepreneurs, great ideas that will get a critical mass of our people to zero. We're in the negative now. And at the same time, knowing if that's all we do is to get at zero, by the time we're at zero the world has moved on. So we think of investing in the future. We're investing in technology, robotics, AI, and so on, so that when we're at zero, the future can impact into one.

In a world that we envisage, we want to get on the table. How can we invest in the present and the future at the same time? Call it being ambidextrous, using both hands to be present now and in the future. We are in what we call the energy space, that's Duport, Atlantic refinery city, Admantin Upstream, Pasans for high power, ICGF for gas power, shipping and now into solar. So basically we're into everything from ground to consumption.

You've said something about Africans, that instead of begging the western world to come and invest here in Africa; we can invest in their places and then have a partnership of equals. Tell us more about that.

The developed world is a lot bigger than us capital wise. Capital is all about how we put together our financial resources.

The fact that I want us as Africans to understand is that money needs commerce. We're 1.3 billion people, we have land that can feed the world, we have a massive young population, and we have resources that can take care of the world, from electricity, to food and mines. We have everything that the world needs. Why should we go

begging? Money should find us.

Don't get me wrong, we have the challenges of healthcare, crime and so on. But which country does not have? America has more crime than Africa put together.

I believe in partnership. Partnership is a form of collaboration. How do we Collaborate? Collaboration that is not based on dignity and respect is not collaboration, it's either slavery, exploitation or something else.

At Platform Capital, what we do is, while we invest in Africa, we also invest with companies abroad who are at the core of innovation like Apple and Co. In the future, with our investments in those companies, when they come to Africa, they come with respect for our people. If we invest now as equals with them by creating values, creating big businesses, we'll be there to tell the African story and not them defining for us how they feel about us.

For me personally, it's about us taking our own resources, taking our own wealth, especially our young workforce to create a better future for us. In Africa, we have what we need. We have the means to the future we desire. Let's create it.

The Platform Capital recently announced the launch of Africa House and Africa house fund. Can you tell us more about it?

About the Africa what? The Africa fund? Like I earlier said, our thesis is investing in the future and the present at the same time. The future is not about new technology but also about markets that are advancing new technology and new ideas. We have been to Latin America, Asia and other places as we're getting bigger. This is because we feel like they're ahead in innovation. In America, there are also the black population who are being disenfranchised, but they have great ideas. So, Africa House Fund is an initiative to support those great ideas of those minorities and black people that have the potential of changing the global narrative on the left. Because we invest with them, we then pair them with African partners to help both partners grow side by side. We leverage the best of their own ecosystem, their technology, their finance system, and with the best of our own opportunities so that we get farther together.

By investing in them with Africa money and by pairing with Africa entrepreneurs, both will grow to a new future where we're all equal. It's fostering collaboration, fostering innovation and fostering growth.

There are about 2.2 billion visually impaired people around the world. I discovered you are



working with STRAP to develop a technology for these visually impaired people. Can you tell us more about it?

13% of the world's population is visually impaired. You can imagine the amount of productivity that is lost with such an amount. STRAP visually impaired technology is an innovation designed to help people that are visually impaired to have an everyday normal life and as such we have to invest in it. It's an American firm and we're the only non US or Mexican investors. So they're coming to Africa in July with the prototype for our people to test and see. We're going to give it to a few blind people to test.

What do you intend to achieve with these projects, talking about 'Ashake', and others?

Everything is tailored to one thing. That is, 'Africa to the world'. I want to wake my people up to see the world around them. All I'm trying to do is empowering people with knowledge.

What does that word 'Ashake' mean?

Ashake means 'selected treasure'

Let's come to gender issues. Women representation in politics in the continent is very discouraging and of course we all understand the abysmal record of women representation in politics. You're partnering 'Elect her' to change this trend. Why is this important to you?

To me, women narrative is not farfetched, whether it's in politics or business and life. There are many women in my team as you have seen.

There are about 36 million MSMEs in Nigeria and more than half are women. Of course, women are doing some business and trading, but women represent just one percent of capital available. So we have more than 55% of our entrepreneurs getting no access to capital and it means we're locking our best hands away from capital. Women represent less than 3% of people in political office and that goes to also show that we're locking our best hands. Our women are about half of our population. Do you realize that there are about 13 million girls between the ages of 8-13 in Nigeria that don't have access to sanitary pads? And so they use leaves and rags. They

avoid going to school because of the embarrassment of being stained.

So, from Elect Her governance, to virtual school, **there** are now making local reusable pads in Abuja for young girls at an affordable price, to our one C, one community created to empower women, to our literacy programs, we're all about gender balance.

For me, half of our populations are women. They should get equal opportunities



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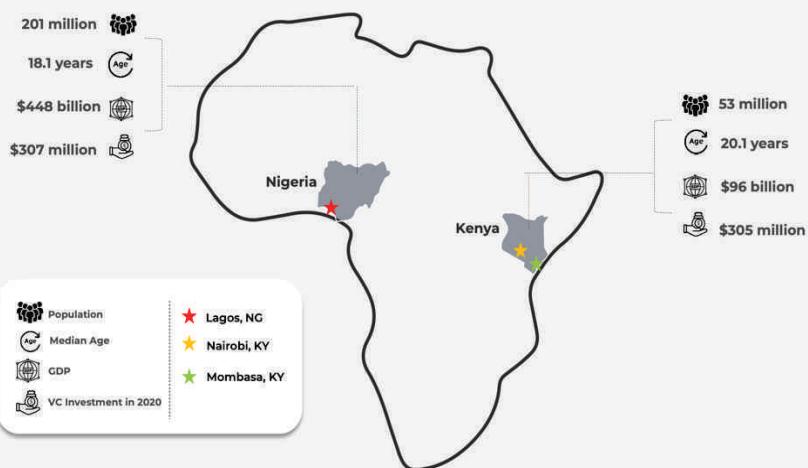
PL^TFORM
CAPITAL

presents

AFRICA WALK

Africa Walk is a first of its kind event that will bring together international investors and portfolio companies to Africa for the first time. It will provide a unique & real understanding of the continent and its investment landscape; whilst providing a rich and unparalleled cultural experience of Lagos, Nairobi and Mombasa.

18 July - 1 August 2021



Participating Investors and Founders



Marlon Nichols
Managing Partner,
Mac Venture Capital



Dami Osunsanya
Vice President,
Softbank



Hernan Fernandez
Managing Partner,
Angel Ventures



Camilo Kejner
Managing Partner,
Angel Ventures



Alejandro Cortes Meza
Managing Partner,
View Accelerator



Seyi Akinwale
Senior Vice President,
GE Capital



Eric Taylor
Managing Partner,
Trident Capital



Diego Reel
Founder & CEO,
Strap Technologies



Bianca Loew
Co-founder & CEO,
SafeRoom



Roman Weishäupl
Founder & VP of Product,
SafeRoom



Rodney Williams
Co-founder & Chairman,
Solo Funds



Travis Holloway
Co-founder & CEO,
Solo Funds

Participating Companies



For enquiries and participation
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PL^TFORM

UNICORN

DIATOM IMPACT

AFRICA HOUSE

Platform Capital concludes Africa Walk in Grand Style

Investors Eye Major African Markets

In keeping with her mandate of helping to solve the biggest global development challenges via the investment of capital to support private sector growth and innovation. Platform Capital recently concluded a largely successful tour of key markets in Africa with major global investors. The tour which was tagged "Africa Walk", saw leading investors from Europe and the Americas tour some of the major destinations in the continent including Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya. The investors were able to witness first hand, Africa's thriving digital eco-system. African Leadership Magazine brings you a summary of the tour in pictures:



(L-R: Yemi Shoneye, Russumo Capital, Dolapo Ogunmehan, Solabomi Adedeji, Partner, Platform Capital, Gbenga George, Co-founder, DataGo, Dami Osunsanya, VP, SoftBank, Kevin Bond, Multi -award winning Grammy Music Producer, Dr. Ponmile Osibo, Partner Platform Capital, Bianca Loew, Co-founder, Saferoom, Chukwudalu Akabogu, AVP , Platform Capital, Travis Holloway, Co-founder, SoLoFunds, Roman Weishaupl, Co- founder, Saferoom, Dr. AkintoyeAkindele, Chairman, Platform Capital, Bola Onadele Koko, Managing Director, FDMQ, CSO Atlantic Refineriesand Petrochemicals Ltd, Eric Taylor, Founder Trident Capital, Dr. Wura Abiola, Director, Unicorn Group, Olakunle Soriyan, Global Influence Strategist, Marlon Nichols, Managing Partner, MaC Ventures and Diego Roel, Founder STRAP Technologies at the courtesy visit to FDMQ Head Office, Victoria Island, Lagos.)



L-R: Diego Roel, Founder, STRAP Technologies, Dami Osunsanya, VP SoftBank, Olakunle Soriyan, Global Influence Strategist, Eric Taylor, Founder Trident Capital, Rodney Williams, Co- founder, SoLoFunds , Innocent Ike, Managing Director, Polaris Bank, Travic Holloway, Co-founder, SoLoFunds, Kevin Bond, Multi - award winning Grammy Music Producer, Roman Weishaupl, Co-founder, Saferoom, Gbenga George, Co-founder Datago, Biance Loew, Co-founder Saferoom and Solabomi Adedeji, Partner, Platform Capital at the courtesy visit to Polaris Banks Head Office, Victoria Island, Lagos.



L-R: Alejandro Cortes, Managing Partner, View Accelerator, Dr. Akintoye Akindele, Bianca Loew, co-founder, Saferoom, Diego Roel, Founder STRAP Technologies at the Africa Walk dinner with CEOs & Founders at Anko Grill, Nairobi Kenya)



L-R: Travis Holloway, Co-founder SoLoFunds, Marlon Nichols, Managing Partner, MaC Ventures, Kevin Bond, Multi - award winning Grammy Music Producer, Rodney Williams, Co-founder, SoLoFunds, Bianca Loew, Co-founder Saferoom, Diego Roel, Founder STRAP Technologies, Toni Bond, Alejandro Cortes, Managing Partner, View Accelerator, Hernan Fernandez, managing Partner, Angel Ventures and Roman Weishapl, Co-founder, Saferoom at the Africa Walk Exclusive Dinner at Seattle Residences, Victoria Island, Lagos



L-R: Alejandro Cortes, Managing Partner, View Accelerator, Hernan Fernandez, Managing Partner, Angel Ventures, Dr. Ponmile Osibo, Partner, Platform Capital, Fade Ogunro, Founder, Bookings Africa, Diego Roel, founder, STRAP Technologies, Solabomi Adedeji, Partner, Platform Capital, Professor Ogundipe, Vice Chancellor, University of Lagos, Marlon Nichols, Managing Partner, MaC Ventures, Uche Chiwetalu, Bianca Loew, Co-founder, Saferoom, Dr. Muri, Founder, Talamus, Roman Weishapl, Co-founder, Saferoom and others at the Africa Walk participants courtesy visit to University of Lagos, Yaba.



Africa Walk participants listening to a presentation about Unilag



L-R: Diego Roel, Founder, STRAP Technologies, Travis Holloway, Co-Founder, SoLoFunds, Eric Taylor, Founder Trident Capital at the Africa Walk Welcome Cocktail)



L-R: Panel session at the Africa Walk Unicorn Day - Dr. Ponmile Osibo, Partner, Platform Capital, Marlon Nichols, Managing Partner, MaC Ventures, Eric Taylor, Founder, Trident Capital, Alejandro Cortes, Managing Partner, View Accelerator, Dami Osunsanya, VP SoftBank and Hernan Fernandez, Managing Partner, Angel Venutres.



Dr. Akintoye Akindele, Chairman Platform Capital, addressing guests at the Africa Walk Unicorn Day.



L-R: Dr. Ponmile Osibo, Partner, Platform Capital, Marlon Nichols, Managing Partner, MaC Ventures, Rodney Williams, Co-Founder, SoLoFunds and Bowofade Elegbede, AVP Platform Capital at the Africa Walk Welcome Cocktail)



L-R: Roman Weishaupl, Co-Founder, Saferoom and Dubem Okafor, Head, IT, Platform Capital at the Africa Walk Welcome Cocktail)



Bianca Loew, Co- Founder, Saferoom, Danielle, Wellness Consultant, Roman Weishaupl, Co-Founder, Saferoom at the Africa Walk Welcome Cocktail)



L-R: Eric Muli, Founder, Lipa Later, Chris Steele, Co-founder KOKO Networks, Bianca Loew, co-founder, Saferoom and Dr. Akintoye Akindele, Chairman, Platform Capital at the Kenya welcome cocktail reception in Nairobi.)

L-R: Bowofade Elegbede, AVP, Platform Capital, Diego Roel, Founder, STRAP Technologies, Dr. Ponmile Osibo, Partner, Platform Capital, Alejandro Cortes, Managing Partner, View Accelerator, Dr. Akintoye Akindele, Chairman Platform Capital, Dami Osunsanya, VP SoftBank, Edward Githiang, Director of Sales & Partnerships , ADA Labs and Gideon Ikundu, Director of Operations, ADA Labs at the Africa Walk visit to Konza Technopolis, Nairobi Kenya)





L-R: Alejandro Cortes, Managing Partner, View Accelerator, Eric Muli, Founder, Lipa Later, Bowofade Elegbede, AVP, Platform Capital, Dami Osunsanya, VP Soft Bank, Diego Roel, Founder, STRAP Technologies, Dr. Pommile Osibo, Partner Platform Capital , Bianca Loew, Co-founder Saferoom, Claudine Gakundi, Country Manager, Kenya Lipa Later at the visit to Platform Capital's portfolio company - Lipa Later's visit to one of their major partners- Carrefour.)



L-R: Mr. Julius Muia, Republic of Kenya's Principal Secretary National Treasury, Diego Roel, Founder STRAP Technologies, Dr. Pommile Osibo, Edward Githiang, Director of Sales & Partnerships, ADA Labs, Bowofade Elegbede, AVP, Platform Capital, Dami Osunsanya, VP, SoftBank and Alejandro Cortes, Managing Partner, View Accelerator)



L-R: Gregg Murray, Co-founder, KOKO Networks, Adesola Adesugba, Head, Brand Capital & Communications, Platform Capital, Alejandro Cortes, Managing Partner, View Accelerator, Bowofade Elegbede, AVP, Platform Capital, Bianca Loew, co-founder, Saferoom, Dr. Pommile Osibo, Partner, Platform Capital, Diego Roel, Founder STRAP Technologies, Dami Osunsanya, VP SoftBank and Chris Steel, co-founder, KOKO Networks at the Africa Walk visit to Platform Capital's portfolio company - KOKO



L-R: Dr. Pommile Osibo, Anne Maingi, Director East Africa, Suntory Beverage & Food, Bianca Loew, Co-founder, Saferoom, Diego Roel, Founder, STRAP Technologies,, Adesola Adesugba, Head Brand Capital & Communications, Platform Capital, Alejandro Cortes, Managing Partner, View Accelerator, Carolyne Kendi, Head Brand & Marketing SafariCom at brunch at Hemmingway's Nairobi, Kenya)