

SPECIAL EDITION

THIS DAY

...NOT IN THISDAY STYLE? THEN YOU'RE NOT IN STYLE

# Style

SUNDAY,  
MARCH 15  
2026



ASA



WALE AND AMY ADWOA EDUN



JUMOKE ODUWOLE



AISHA AND GBENGA OYEBODE



FLORENCE AJIMOBÌ



ADESUA DOZIE



HAKEEM AND MYMA BELO OSAGIE



AUGUSTINE AND FERISHAT ALEGEH



HRH OBA ADEYEYE ENITAN OGUNWUSI



BOLA TINUBU



SHOLA MOS-SHOGBAMIMU



TIWA SAVAGE



MOSUNMOLA OGUNBANJO

## WOMEN OF IMPACT IN AFRICA THE LOOK

### CELEBRATING THE STRENGTH OF MOTHERS

Behind every milestone, every lesson, and every moment of growth is the unwavering presence of a mother. Her love teaches us compassion, Her strength teaches us resilience, and her sacrifices remind us of what it truly means to care for others.

Today, we honour the incredible women whose impact reaches far beyond what words can express.

Happy Mother's Day.  
From all of us at Access.



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EDITOR'S LETTER



# ARISE NEWS

## WOMEN OF IMPACT IN AFRICA AWARDS 2026

### A RECAP

International Women's Day can easily become a performance. Panels, hashtags, perfectly worded captions. But every now and then, it becomes something else entirely.

On March 8, at the Arise Women of Impact in Africa Awards ceremony, I found myself looking around a room filled with women whose decisions shape real outcomes; policy signed, capital moved, hospitals built, regulations enforced, companies scaled, culture exported. Not noise. Not optics. Work.

This week's edition carries our coverage of that evening. One thing that has stayed with me, though, isn't the choreography of the event. It is the architecture behind it. Influence doesn't assemble itself. Rooms like that are not accidental. They are the result of years of preparation, discipline and, often, someone else opening a door at the right time.

And that is where the reflection became personal.

As I sat there, I realised how many women have altered the direction of my own life simply by deciding I belonged somewhere before I fully believed it myself. Not mentorship in theory. Not motivational speeches. Real support. Real advocacy. Women who put my name forward in rooms I had never entered. Women who corrected my work without diminishing my confidence. Women who didn't just advise me, but attached their credibility to my growth. That kind of generosity changes trajectories.

We talk about success as if it were a straight line: talent, hard work, achievement. But that version of the story is incomplete. Success, at least in my experience, is a relay. Someone carries you for a stretch. Then you carry someone else.

The women recognised at the Women of Impact in Africa 2026 are not compelling because they are flawless. They are compelling because they endured. They built within systems that were not originally designed for them and still insisted on excellence. That takes stamina. It takes restraint. It takes vision.

Putting this issue together forced me to confront a simple responsibility: if women held my hand into rooms, I must do the same for someone else. If my name has weight in certain spaces, I must use it intentionally. Access should not end with access. It should multiply.

Progress is rarely loud. It is consistent.

If you are in a season where the applause feels distant, stay steady. If doors are beginning to open, hold them longer than necessary. If you have influence in any form, use it deliberately.

To all the women honoured this year, congratulations again. Your impact is not abstract. It is shaping systems and futures in ways that extend far beyond a stage.

And to every woman building quietly, refining her craft, navigating uncertainty, preparing for rooms she has not yet entered, you are not behind. You are becoming.

*Konye*

Love,

THIS DAY  
**Style**

EXECUTIVE EDITOR: KONYE NWABOGOR 08111847087  
 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE EDITOR: OLUFUNKE BABS-KUFEJI 08111847086  
 CONTRIBUTORS: AYO LAWAL, ALIYAH OLOWOLAYEMO  
 DIRECTOR, PRINT PRODUCTION: CHUKS ONWUDINJO 08077092196  
 PHOTO CREDIT: SUNDAY ADIGUN, KUNLE OGUNFUYI, EBENEZER DADA

# A NIGHT OF RECORD

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR & FUNKE-BABS KUFEJI

On March 8, International Women's Day, the ballroom at Eko Hotel & Suites carried a different kind of authority. The Women of Impact in Africa 2026, an initiative of ARISE News Channel, convened women whose leadership spans governance, finance, healthcare, regulation, technology, diplomacy, and the creative industries. The timing was intentional. The room, even more so.

Founded by Prince Nduka Obaigbena, Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of the ARISE and THISDAY Media Group, the platform has steadily evolved into a continental register of influence, celebrating women whose decisions shape institutions rather than merely participate in them. Cocktails began at 7:00 PM, with the main programme commencing at 8:00 PM inside the Eko Convention Centre. By then, the hall had taken on a layered presence. The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu; the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi; the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun; and Professor Benedict Oramah of Afreximbank were among those seated alongside senior executives, regulators, diplomats and industry leaders. Honourees travelled from across Nigeria and the rest of Africa, reinforcing the continental reach of the award ceremony. The evening was hosted by Katie from South Africa and Yolanda Roberts from Zimbabwe, whose poise and fluid handover maintained a distinctly pan-African cadence throughout the programme. Now firmly established as an annual fixture, the Women of Impact in Africa has become one of the continent's most anticipated gatherings of leadership. Across tables and conversations that stretched late into the night, the room reflected something unmistakable, the growing presence of women shaping the direction of Africa's institutions, industries and ideas.



YOLANDA ROBERTS

KATIE

CO-CHAIR AND AWARD PRESENTERS

COVER



GOV. BABJIIDE SANWO-OLU & OLUSEGU OSOBA



WALE EDUN



HADIZA BALA USMAN



PRINCE NDUKA OBAIGBENA



DR. BENEDICT ORAMAH & ADESUWA DOZIE

COVER

COVER

OPENING SPEECH

# Setting the TONE

**O**pening remarks by Efe and Eka Obaigbena set the direction for the evening. The awards, they noted, were conceived not as ceremonial decoration but as a deliberate acknowledgement of leadership that has long shaped the continent. Daughters of ARISE and THISDAY Media Group founder Prince Nduka Obaigbena and directors within the ARISE Global Media network, the sisters spoke about the thinking behind the platform and the moment it seeks to capture. International Women's Day, they explained, offered the appropriate setting to recognise the undeniable force of African women, their work, brilliance and sacrifice, as well as the steady ways they continue to influence institutions, economies and communities. Across the continent, they observed, women have long occupied spaces of responsibility and influence, in boardrooms, classrooms, courtrooms, markets and farms, often shaping progress without the benefit of widespread acknowledgement. The Women of Impact in Africa, they noted, were created to bring that influence into a single moment of recognition, convening women from across Africa whose leadership continues to shape the direction of their sectors and societies.



EFE OBAIGBENA



EKA OBAIGBENA

# MUSIC & MOMENT

**T**he Nigerian Navy Band opened the evening with the national anthem, their precise delivery giving the room a sense of ceremony before the programme properly began. Later in the evening, one of the night's most memorable moments arrived when Tiwa Savage stepped forward to introduce Asa's performance. The announcement alone drew an immediate stir across the hall. Asa appeared in a sleek silver silhouette and opened with Preacher Man, her voice filling the convention centre with the kind of calm command that has long defined her performances. Guests could be heard humming along from different corners of the room. For a few minutes, the formal rhythm of the ceremony softened, giving way to music that carried the evening forward.



ASA



TIWA SAVAGE



COVER

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AWARDS

BUSINESS, FINANCE & ENTERPRISE AWARDS

# THE WOMEN OF IMPACT

**A**t the centre of the evening were women whose work, taken together, formed a layered portrait of contemporary African leadership. The awards did not orbit a single profession or industry. They cut across law, finance, healthcare, governance, regulation, technology and culture, placing women who move capital beside those who shape policy, and those who build institutions beside those who shape narrative. Senior advocates stood alongside physicians who have built specialist medical centres from the ground up. Investment executives influencing capital allocation shared space with regulators overseeing national energy frameworks. Activists demanding accountability were honoured beside entrepreneurs exporting African creativity to global markets. Acceptance remarks throughout the evening were measured but purposeful. Activist Yemi Adamolekun urged reflection on “the kind of country that we want to live in,” grounding recognition in civic responsibility rather than ceremony. Investment leader Adesuwa Rhodes Okunbor returned to one practical theme: capital. Empowerment, she implied, must be backed financially, because when women are supported with real resources, transformation becomes structural, not symbolic.

BUSINESS, FINANCE & ENTERPRISE AWARDS



AUGUSTINE ALEGHEH PRESENTS AKU ODINKEMELU HER AWARD



AUGUSTINE ALEGHEH PRESENTS ORITSEMEYIWA EYESAN'S REPRESENTATIVE HER AWARD



AUGUSTINE ALEGHEH PRESENTS CHIZOMA OKOLI HER AWARD



DR BENEDICT ORAMAH PRESENTS OLUYEMISI OLORUNSHOLA HER AWARD



HADIZA BALA USMAN PRESENTS CHIOMA STAN EKEH HER AWARD



HADIZA BALA USMAN PRESENTS ADESUWA OKUNBOR-RHODES HER AWARD



HADIZA BALA USMAN PRESENTS ANITA EDO-OSAGIE HER AWARD



HADIZA BALA USMAN PRESENTS EVA OMAGHOMI HER AWARD



HADIZA PRESENTING AMAKA ONWUGHALU AWARDS TO REPRESENTATIVE PAMELA SODIIPO

CREATIVITY, CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARDS



WALTER AKPANI PRESENTS ADEOLA ART-ALADE HER AWARD



WALTER AKPANI PRESENTS ODIIO OSENI HER AWARD



WALTER AKPANI PRESENTS ABISOYE KUTI-COKER HER AWARD



WALTER AKPANI PRESENTS CHINELE ORAMAH HER AWARD

CREATIVITY, CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARDS

LAW, JUSTICE & PUBLIC ORDER AWARDS

COVER

COVER



AUGUSTINE ALEGHEH PRESENTS TOLU COKER HER AWARD



WALTER AKPANI PRESENTS NIKE OGUNLESI HER AWARD



GOV. BABAJIDE SANWO-OLU PRESENTS OLUGBEMISOLA ODUSOTE HER AWARD



GOV. BABAJIDE SANWO-OLU PRESENTS ONIKEPO BRAITHWAITE HER AWARD



WALTER AKPANI PRESENTS MOSUN OGUNBANJO HER AWARD



GOV. BABAJIDE SANWO-OLU PRESENTS SALLY UDOMAHER AWARD



OLUSEGUN OSOBA PRESENTS ADEDOYIN RHODE-VIVOUR HER AWARD

LAW, JUSTICE & PUBLIC ORDER AWARDS



GOV. BABAJIDE SANWO-OLU & OLUSEGUN OSOBA PRESENTS MFON USORO HER AWARD



GOV. BABAJIDE SANWO-OLU PRESENTS DR MYMA BELO-OSAGIE HER AWARD



OLUSEGUN OSOBA PRESENTS DR SHOLA MOS-SHOGBAMIMUHER AWARD



OLUSEGUN OSOBA PRESENTS FUNKE ADEKOYA SAN HER AWARD



GOV. BABAJIDE SANWO-OLU PRESENTS FUNKE ABAYODE HER AWARD



GOV. BABAJIDE SANWO-OLU PRESENTS FUNKE AGBOR SAN HER AWARD



OLUSEGUN OSOBA PRESENTS O'YINKAN BADEJO-OKUSANYA SAN HER AWARD

# CELEBRATING THE STRENGTH OF MOTHERS

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LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE AWARDS



DR BENEDICT ORAMAH PRESENTS HAJIYA ERELU ABIOLA DOSUNMU HER AWARD



NINENA UKEJE WITH HER AWARD



ORAMAH PRESENTS HAJIYA SHINKAFI & AISHA BUHARI REPRESENTED BY ZARA BUHARI THEIR AWARDS



HON WALE EDUN PRESENTS ABIKE DABIRI HER AWARD



HON WALE EDUN PRESENTS BINETA DIOP HER AWARD



HON WALE EDUN PRESENTS HON NKEIRUKA ONYEJECHA HER AWARD



HON WALE EDUN PRESENTS ITA GIWA HER AWARD

SCIENCE, MEDICINE, PHILANTHROPY & HUMANITY & SOCIAL IMPACT AWARDS



ADESUWA DOZIE PRESENTS BOLA TINUBU HER AWARD



ADESUWA DOZIE PRESENTS DR OLA BROWN HER AWARD



ADESUWA DOZIE PRESENTS GBEMI SHASORE HER AWARD



ADESUWA DOZIE PRESENTS MODUPE ODUNSI HER AWARD



ADESUWA DOZIE PRESENTS REWA UDOJI HER AWARD



ADESUWA DOZIE PRESENTS SOPHIA WILLIAMS-DE-BRUYN HER AWARD

SCIENCE, MEDICINE, PHILANTHROPY & HUMANITY & SOCIAL IMPACT AWARDS



ADESUWA DOZIE PRESENTS ZOUERA YOUSOUFOU HER AWARD



ADESUWA DOZIE PRESENTS ADWOA AMY-EDUN HER AWARD



DR BENEDICT ORAMA PRESENTS DR KEMI DASILVA-IBRU HER AWARD



DR BENEDICT ORAMA PRESENTS YEMI ADAMOLEKUN HER AWARD

COVER

COVER

SCIENCE, MEDICINE, PHILANTHROPY & HUMANITY & SOCIAL IMPACT AWARDS

COVER



DR BENEDICT ORAMAH PRESENTS AISHA OYEBODE HER AWARD



DR BENEDICT ORAMAH PRESENTS DR EHIWEMA ABIODUN EKE-ALUKO HER AWARD

GUESTS



L-R, SAM IWUJOKU, FLORENCE ITA GIWA, H E BABAJIDE SANWO-OLU, OLUSEGUN OSOBA, NDUKA OBAIGBENA



AISHA AND GBENGA OYEBODE



AYOBAMI AND TUNDUN ABIOLA



HAKHEEM AND MYMA BELO OSAGE



ENIOLA BELLO



RUFAI OSENI



FLORENCE AJIMOBI



JUMOKE ODUWOLE



ADESUA DOZIE



BOLA TINUBU



SEGUN OSOBA



CHIKE OGEAH



CHINWE OBAIGBENA



DEOLA AROMIWURA



JUMOKE AND TUNDE ODUWOLE



ANITA BELLO OSAGIE AND DEMOLA ADEYEMI BERO

COVER

GUESTS

GUESTS

COVER

COVER



AJIKE OLADYOIN



CHUKS ONWUDINJO



OLGBEMISOLA ODUSOTE



EDIKAN MUSA



EFE OBAIGBENA



RHODES-VIVOUR ADEDOYIN



SALLY UDOMAT



SENATOR ITA-GIWA FLORENCE



SEYTAN ATIGARIN



TIWA SAVAGE



EKA OBAIGBENA



HRH OBA ADEYEYE ENITAN OGUNWUSI



KACHI OFFIAH



MARGARET OLELE



MARGARET PORBERNI



TOMIWA AYENI



TOYIN BASHORUN (SAN)



FUNKE BABS-KUFEJI



ANWULLI ONWUDINJO AND SHOLA MOS-SHOGBAMIMUHER



MORIAM AJAGA



MOSUNMOLA OGUNBANJO



OYINKANSOLA BADEJO OKUNSANYA



PAMELLA SHODIPO



PATRICIA EDO OSAGIE



WALE AND AMY ADWOA EDUN



DEOLA AND DARE ART ALADE

COVER

GUESTS



YEMI ADAMOLEKUN AND KEN ETETE



ADE AND NIKE OGUNLESI



AUGUSTINE AND FERISHAT ALEGEH



OIDIO & FOLABI OSENI



OJU OKPE AND ADEFEMI AKINSANYA



RAHILA DANJUMA AND REWA UDOJI



CHIOMA AND STAN EKEH



CYNTHIA AND FRANK OGBONEME



EKE ALUKO AND SUBOMI ALUKO



RUTH OSIME AND NKIRU ANUMUDU



SOPHIA WILLIAMS & SONYA



NATASHA NGWUBE



ERELU DOSUNMU & KHADUAT OKUNNU



MORENIKE ADEBAYO AND SAMANDA ADEBAYO



MR & MRS UKEJE

GUESTS

COVER



# ARISE NEWS

ARISE WOMEN OF IMPACT IN AFRICA

## THE NAVY BAND

### CLOSING SPEECH

## the LAST WORD

The formal programme concluded with remarks from Chinwe Obaigbena, bringing the evening to a composed close. She thanked the honourees, partners, dignitaries and guests for their presence and continued support, acknowledging the collective effort behind the platform. She also extended International Women's Day wishes to the women in the room and across the continent, reinforcing the significance of March 8 as both a moment of recognition and reflection. The Africa Women of Impact Awards was reiterated as part of ARISE News' ongoing commitment to spotlighting women whose work continues to shape industries, institutions and communities across Africa. Now firmly established as an annual fixture, the platform continues to convene leadership across sectors within a single institutional space.

COVER



CHINWE OBAIGBENA

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