



**WE ARE RAISING A MILLION LEADER IN AFRICA BY 2030.**

**OMLA NEWSLETTER 2021 (JANUARY – AUGUST)**

Dear OMLA Friends,

While the world is still experiencing unprecedented changes due to covid-19, the vision of One Million Leaders Africa (OMLA) is still the same; which is to raise a million young leaders across the continent by 2030. The first half of the year 2021 had its highlights moving us in the direction of achieving this vision. As a recall, the following are the highlights of the activities of the secretariat team for the first half of the year (2021).

In July 2021 we released a Newsletter and some of our supporters told us it would be exciting for them to also know what happened from January to June 2021 hence the need for this special Newsletter. After OMLA was launched in August 2020, activities did not start until January 2021. Starting from 2022, we will only release our Newsletter quarterly. Kindly note, the next and last Newsletter for this year will be released in December 2021. Thank you!

### **Strategic Meetings with Possible Partners**

The OMLA mandate is a bold one that requires lots of efforts to see it come to fruition. To fast track the actualization of the OMLA vision, strategic meetings were held with organizations whose visions and goals align with that of OMLA. These organizations include:

- African Leadership University, Mauritius
- Kanthari, India
- One Planet Café, Japan and Zambia
- Global Peace Foundation, US
- MovingWorlds

While conclusions are yet to be drawn, conversations with the persons of contact with these organizations are still ongoing with the target of joining forces to deliver the Africa we envision in the next decade.

In the same vein, the secretariat team communicates constantly with the OMLATAM (One Million Leaders Latin America) and the OMLAS (One Million Leaders Asia) team to share ideas and strategies to move the One Million Leaders vision forward.



### OMLA Fellowship: Curriculum Development and Information Packet

In February 2021, OMLA Founding members came together for 3 days for a brainstorming session to develop the framework of the curriculum to be used for training during the upcoming OMLA fellowship program. Prior to this, some Founders had dropped their ideas on the curriculum content digitally.

The brainstorming session ended with a conclusive curriculum framework tagged “A Journey in Four Phases” which is now under construction by experts and professional trainers to build up to a comprehensive resource for the trainees. In July, we made explorations, brainstormed and reviewed the OMLA Fellowship model, and afterwards we designed it for the OMLA fellowship program.

Integrated in this Information packet are:

- The visual flow, giving a condensed view in stages of the fellowship pilot phase
- A calculus illustrating the considered strategy to pilot the fellowship program
- Criteria for the selection of fellows and their responsibilities in the fellowship program
- Structure of the fellowship pilot year
- What happens after the fellowship (OMLA Alumni Community).



### International Women's Day Symposium

To celebrate the 2021 edition of the International Women's Day, the secretariat team organized a virtual symposium in March 2021, tagged "Choose to Challenge: Gender Gaps in Governance". The guest speaker, Chief Mrs. Olamide Falana a seasoned development practitioner and a voice for better governance shared her journey into advocacy for better governance and how it has impacted her work as a gender advocate.

### OMLA Website Redesign and update

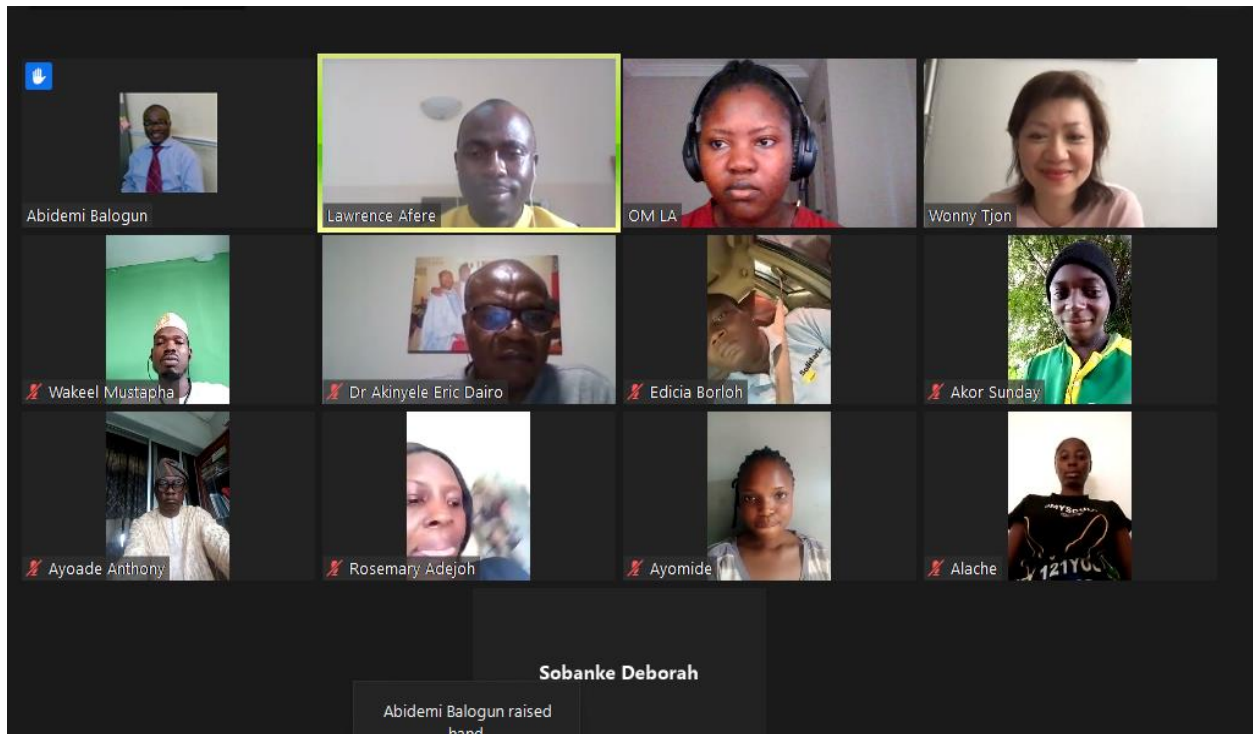
To better tell the OMLA story in a captivating and convincing way, the OMLA website was redesigned for optimization. As OMLA's digital office, the website now reflects the activities of OMLA as steps to achieving the end goal.

In addition to the website redesign there is also an update of the change in donation platform and events executed so far. However, the secretariat is also building online presence via different social media platforms, all of which are linked to the website.

### Fundraising Campaign

To support our activities, in Dec., 2020, we launched a crowdfunding campaign on GivingWay and \$1553.02 was raised. To continue our fundraising, we have registered on the [Globalgiving](#) platform and the accelerator program to make it fully operational shall begin in September the 8<sup>th</sup> 2021. So, we need you to join the at least forty (40) donors that will help us raise \$5,000 at minimum which will enable us to be a permanent user of the GlobalGiving fundraising platform. Your donation, no matter how small or great, will help raise leaders. We will share the link with you once it has become active.





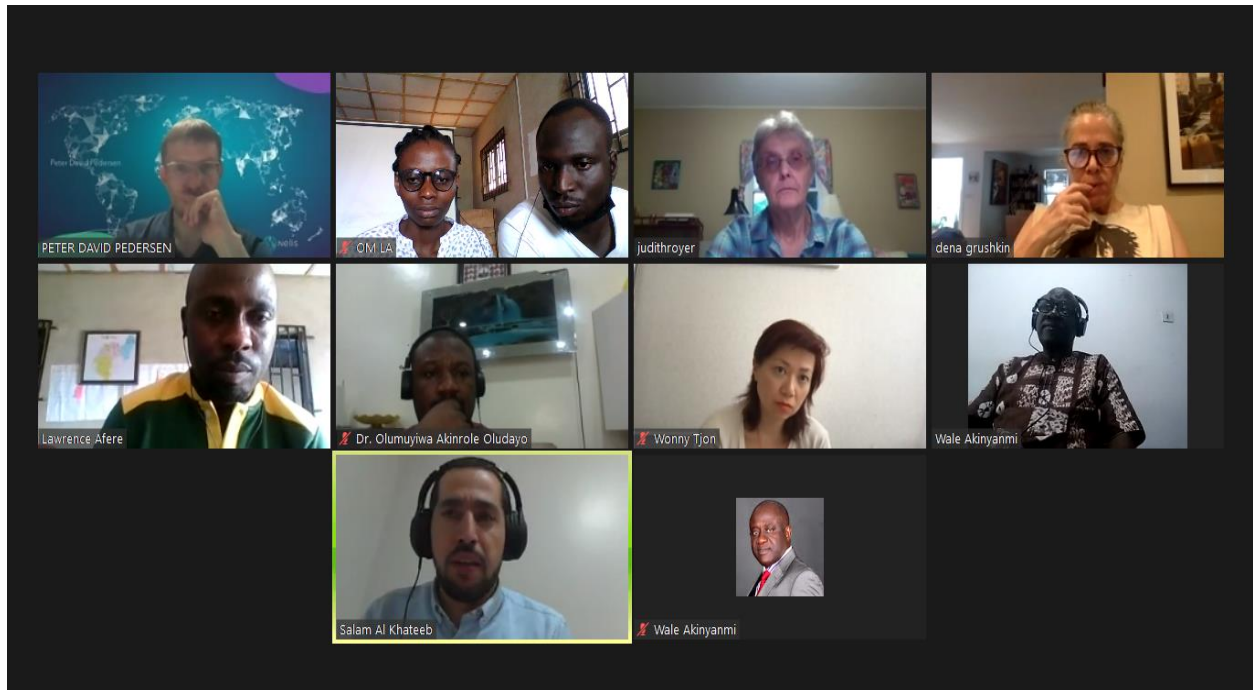
### The OMLA Social Entrepreneurship Masterclass

Social entrepreneurs are integral and active players in the development of countries and regions, especially with the currently obvious needs for sustainability approaches to problem-solving. Young people, therefore, need to be equipped with skills that launch them as social entrepreneurs in Africa. For the pilot cohort it started in May 14<sup>th</sup> where 30 persons were onboarded into the 5 weeks long and intensive training on social entrepreneurship. The participants represented several African countries with fascinating solutions to different social problems prevailing in their communities. At the end of the programme, participants were encouraged to submit their proposals as entries for the USD200 micro grant to launch their social enterprises. Rosemary Adejoh a Nigerian with a unique project (She Hub Africa) that focused on ensuring young girls have access to quality education, emerged as the first winner of the social entrepreneurship microgrant.

### The OMLA Leadership Webinar Series

Conversations are great ways to inspire people to take actions that lead to the changes we desire. The OMLA Leadership Webinar Series kicked off as a virtual series of thought-provoking conversations for young people across Africa. Held fortnightly in May 2021, the series feature crucial discussions that must be heard to move the continent forward and the role of young people in it. The first conversation featured Dele Ogun; a veteran African storyteller in the diaspora who led the discussion on what it

means to be truly African and the challenges that identity crises pose to the development of the continent. The second episode of the conversation featured Dr. Emmanuel Ivorgba, a relentless development practitioner in Nigeria who led the conversation on the true story of poverty in Africa. Cumulatively, a hundred young persons from across three continents with several African countries attended the first two episodes. This reinforces the need for young people to participate in dialogues that inspire them to take action. [You can catch up on previous episodes of the webinar series here.](#)



### OMLA Global Board of Advisors Initiation

Looking at the great challenge of raising credible leaders, the OMLA Team came up with an idea of having a committee of trustees which we call the OMLA Global Board of Advisors - OMLA GBA, where we have people of prestige from different parts of the world that are passionate for African development and would help in actualizing the OMLA vision through sponsorship, volunteering and in other ways. July the 28th, we had an introductory meeting with some recommended personnel that have shown interest and it was worth the time. For those who were unable to attend due to differences in time zones, they were updated with the video recording of the meeting. Hopefully, the OMLA GBA will be officially inaugurated soon but at the meanwhile, we are in the process of uploading their bios and pictures. Please watch out for the faces of our OMLA Global Board of Advisors on the OMLA website soon.

### **NELIS (OMLA) Meeting with Chapter Leaders and Lead Communicators:**

Also, a NELIS/OMLA meeting was held in July, where all NELIS local chapter coordinators in Africa and lead communicators were invited. We had about 20 attendees. The meeting which lasted for about 1 hour was to declare the integration of all programs of NELIS Africa (such as the local chapters) and OMLA into the OMLA Fellowship program, in other to have a better structure in measuring and realizing the OMLA vision. Therefore, the NELIS/OMLA community is eligible to apply for the OMLA fellowship program and be a part of it.



### **The Transition:**

In April, Hannah, the Project Director of OMLA shared the good news of receiving a scholarship to study in the U.S. She was actually worried about leaving the OMLA job. However, she was encouraged by the OMLA Team to leave and go for her Masters besides, she will become one of the new leaders Africa needs. She left in June and Mary replaced her. I am happy to inform you that this situation has not and will not cause any setback to OMLA. We are really on track.

### Intake of Interns:

In September 2021, we will have 2 Interns working with us at the Secretariat. Joy Opeyemi, a student of Elizade University, Nigeria and Ephihor Jesinta, a recent graduate from the University of Benin, Nigeria, she is interning with us as a Corp member.

### Global Partners:

Finally, the secretariat team is exploring technology enabled solutions for nonprofits. Few days ago, we applied for the [Roddenberry Catalyst Fund](#), which is awarded to early-stage ideas and projects that have the potential to radically reframe existing problems, surface untapped innovations, and disrupt how and by whom the world can be made a better place. Also, we opened a [Flutterwave](#) account, to ease donations especially inter-continental donations, and now, we are in the process of registering on the [Good Market](#) platform to make it easier to find and connect with social enterprises, responsible businesses, voluntary initiatives, and people creating a better world.

### Dear Partners and Supporters,

On behalf of the OMLA Founding Members, Mentors and beneficiaries across Africa, I will like to appreciate your support towards developing and empowering a million credible young leaders that will help put the continent on a more sustainable and prosperous path by 2030. Please do share this with family, friends, colleagues, and anyone else who is interested in supporting Africa get off her knees. We look forward to a more productive engagement with you and we hope you do too.

We wish you a wonderful month ahead!

Prosperous Africa,  
Mary Afolabi  
OMLA Project Director

To volunteer or for enquiries please reach out to the secretariat.

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