

TOS
FOUNDATION AFRICA

VOICES OF IMPACT

TOS FOUNDATION AFRICA NEWSLETTER



AUGUST, 2026.

Founder's Note



The future of a society can sometimes feel distant, like something that hardly concerns those of us here today. It's easy to become so engrossed in the day-to-day that we forget that it is being shaped now, by the decisions we make, the institutions we build, the opportunities we create and the people we prepare to lead them.

That reminder runs through every story in this edition.

You will read about young Africans weighing in on the possibilities of creating meaningful lives for themselves at home, the choices citizens make at the ballot box, and the importance of ensuring women and young people have a real place in the economic and political systems shaping their futures.

For us, these are expressions of the same conviction. If we want an Africa where young people choose to stay and build, where women participate fully, where institutions earn trust and African ideas can thrive, then we must begin building that Africa now.

At TOS Foundation Africa, this is the future we remain committed to.

I hope this edition encourages you to think and act not only based on the conditions of the Africa you grew into, but on the best version of the Africa we COULD build and leave behind for those who come after us.

This month also gave me a reason to pause and celebrate. I was especially happy to spend my birthday surrounded by the TOS team, and grateful for the warmth with which they celebrated me.

To my TOSFA family near and far, thank you for the goodwill and continued support.

Let's do even greater things together.

A stylized, handwritten-style signature of the name 'Osasu' in red ink.

Chief (Mrs.) Osasu Igbiniedion Ogwuche
Founder, TOS Foundation Africa

The Africa We Are Building



55.6 Million

young people in sub-Saharan Africa are neither working, studying, nor training, a number the International Labour Organization (ILO) expects to climb to nearly 59 million within the next two years.



Below 5%

represents the number of parliamentary seats occupied by women in Nigeria compared to a quarter occupied by women across Africa.

Close your eyes for a moment and picture Africa in 2046. Not the Africa of headlines and hashtags, but the one your children or grandchildren will actually wake up into. What does it look like?

Are young people building their futures at home, or still packing bags for elsewhere? Right now, sub-Saharan Africa has roughly 55.6 million young people who are neither working, studying, nor training, a number the International Labour Organization (ILO) expects to climb to nearly 59 million within the next two years. That's not a statistic; it's millions of individual decisions about whether to stay, leave, or give up on the search altogether.

Are our institutions trusted enough that citizens turn to them instead of around them? Are women and young people sitting at the tables where decisions about their own lives get made or still waiting outside the door? Across the continent, women hold just over a quarter of parliamentary seats on average. In Nigeria, that figure drops below 5 per cent. Meanwhile, nearly six in ten young Africans are already working often in informal, low-paying jobs with no safety net beneath them. They are not idle. They are underused.

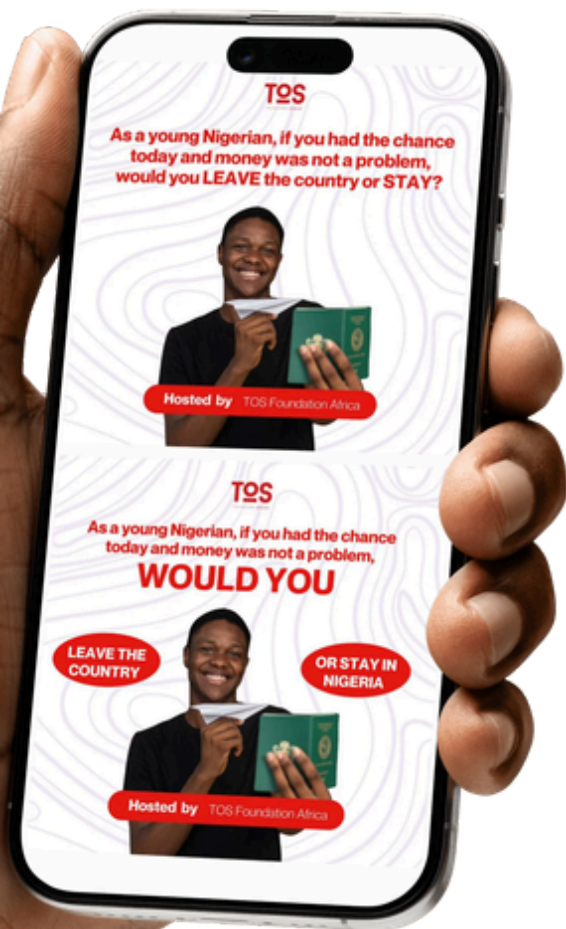
Are African ideas in policy, in technology, in culture being taken seriously on the global stage, or are we still importing solutions built for other people's problems? Are we designing our health systems, our classrooms, our economies around African realities, or around templates borrowed from elsewhere and hoped to fit?

These are not abstract questions. They are the quiet calculations happening in the mind of every young graduate deciding whether home still has a place for them, every woman weighing whether to run for office in a system stacked against her, every policymaker choosing between a solution copied from abroad and one built for the ground beneath their feet.

This is what this edition of our newsletter is about. Not the Africa we've inherited, but the one still being built in classrooms, in parliaments, in boardrooms, in every space where someone decides to stay and fix rather than leave and hope. Over the coming pages, we explore what that building looks like: in leadership, in participation, in the everyday work of people who believe the answers to Africa's questions are already here, waiting to be trusted.



A Great African Exodus



TOS Foundation recently ran a poll among young people who follow our social media platforms, asking: “If money was not a barrier and you could leave Nigeria today, would you?”

The responses were mixed, and ranged from lighthearted to deeply sobering.

Those who would leave were often certain, pointing to inflation, insecurity, poor infrastructure, bureaucracy and dwindling economic opportunities. Several young graduates also spoke about a crowded job market, with some turning to entrepreneurship but facing limited access to funding and visibility in an economy where potential customers are also struggling.

Those who would stay, though fewer, notably cited a responsibility to improve the country, a strong attachment to home or the difficulty of starting over elsewhere. Others pointed to the challenges Nigerians can face abroad, from unfamiliar systems to restrictions around employment, business and taxation.

In recent years, millions of Nigerians have left in search of better opportunities, joining a wider African migration driven by the search for a more stable future. The numbers warrant asking whether those who remain do so by choice, or simply because they have not yet had the opportunity to leave.

These responses force us to consider whether young people still believe in the future of their countries. This sentiment is being felt across Africa, and if we want more young people to stay, we must build countries that give them compelling reasons to do so.

That means creating pathways into decent work, improving infrastructure, reducing barriers to high-level enterprise, and providing the youth with meaningful opportunities to participate in nation building.

Institutions like ours also have and embrace the responsibility to create platforms where young people can build their abilities, access opportunities and turn their ideas into viable ventures.

Home should not simply be where we come from. It should be a place where we can see a future worth building.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Understanding the Systems of Growth



Earlier this month, TOS Foundation Africa joined the African Union Commission's Capacity Building Workshop on the African Investors and Suppliers Exchange Platform (AisEx) and the PPP Fiscal Risk Assessment Model (PFRAM) in Nairobi, Kenya, represented by our COO, Mr Moses Agabara.

The workshop brought together stakeholders working to strengthen investment, trade and economic development across Africa, with discussions focused on the systems and tools which can influence how businesses, investors and governments participate in the continent's economic growth.

The decisions and frameworks discussed in these spaces ultimately affect businesses, investors, governments and the communities that depend on stronger economies and better infrastructure.

TOS Foundation Africa was pleased to contribute to these conversations, reflecting our commitment to understanding and advancing the ideas and systems shaping Africa's economic future, while improving our ability to knowledgeably engage relevant stakeholders, explore potential partnerships and connect women and young people within our networks to emerging opportunities.



Creating Paths Beyond Circumstance



Education remains one of the most powerful tools for expanding opportunity, and at TOS Foundation Africa, we believe impact is measured not only by projects organised, but by the lives changed through them.

At the 6th TOS Foundation Symposium hosted last year to commemorate the International Day of the Girl Child, aptly themed: Girls Today, Leaders Tomorrow, ten students from Knosk Charity School were selected as one-year scholarship beneficiaries. This month, we visited the school to follow up on that support and spend time with the students.



The children of Knosk Charity School have long held a special place in our CEO, Chief Osasu's heart, and have participated in several TOS Foundation programs over the years. This visit allowed us to move beyond reports and hear from them directly.

From Blessing, who grew up in Makoko and dreams of becoming a world-class doctor, to Khadijat, who hopes to become a lawyer and help combat human trafficking, their stories reminded us that every child carries aspirations greater than their circumstances.

The school's management also reiterated the importance of sponsorship support to its model, which through an innovative daily payment system already allows many low-income parents, including traders and transport workers, to contribute in small amounts so their children can remain in school.

The visit reinforced the fundamental truth that education does more than prepare people for work. It expands their choices, builds confidence, and creates possibilities that might otherwise remain out of reach.

As we consider the Africa we are collectively shaping, classrooms like these remind us where lasting change can begin; by investing in those who will one day lead it.



Battle for Nigeria: The Leaders We Choose

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As another election season approaches, TOS Foundation Africa continues to push for greater civic involvement and genuine interest in political outcomes, commending those who already participate meaningfully while urging citizens to also consider why they support the candidates they do.

To reinforce this reflection, we took the conversation to the streets. A TOS TV Network reporter asked Nigerians which presidential candidate they supported and why. Unsurprisingly, the major parties and popular names attracted the most support. More revealing, however, were the reasons behind those choices.

Several respondents pointed to tribal affiliations. Others supported candidates because their families did, while some cited direct financial benefits as their primary motivation. One individual pointedly mentioned his government agency workplace rather than answering directly, suggesting that this connection to the present administration influenced his sense of loyalty. While recognising that familiarity, personal experience and individual circumstances can naturally shape political choices, the responses encourage assessment of the extent to which policies, track records, competence and plans for addressing the country's challenges actually factor into these decisions.

With this in mind, TOS TV Network, a media subsidiary of TOS Group, is launching a limited series called Battle for Nigeria, where supporters of major presidential candidates will come together to explain and defend why they believe their preferred candidate deserves the vote.

Our aim is to create a more structured, issue-based conversation, moving away from the sweeping statements and personality politics that often dominate political discussions, while encouraging viewers to examine their own choices with the same thoughtfulness.

We are welcoming supporters who can clearly defend their positions and engage in respectful, evidence-based debate to reach out through our contact channels and be part of this initiative.



Leadership Determines Possibility: Lessons From Osun State Election

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The leaders a society chooses ultimately influence the opportunities, institutions and conditions that the next generation inherits. Elections are therefore not simply about choosing personalities; they are about choosing the direction in which society moves.

On August 15, over two million registered voters in Osun State had the chance to make exactly that kind of choice. More than 1.1 million people turned out, presenting their permanent voter cards, and casting ballots that would decide who leads the state for the next four years. Governor Ademola Adeleke of the Accord Party was declared winner with 50.8 per cent of the vote, ahead of the APC's Bola Oyebamiji at 44.2 per cent, with thirteen other candidates sharing what remained.

The numbers matter less to us than what they represent. Every election is a rehearsal of a bigger question: what kind of Africa are we building, one ballot at a time? In Osun, as in every state that has gone to the polls this year, that question was answered not just by whoever won, but by the ordinary citizens who queued, who waited, who insisted on being counted including, we should note there were places where the process was disrupted and voters still refused to be discouraged.

This is the Africa we are building: one where leadership is contested, not inherited; where institutions like INEC's Result Viewing Portal give citizens a way to watch the count in real time; and where the outcome of a governorship race in one state carries lessons for how power should change hands everywhere on the continent.

At TOS Foundation Africa, our interest in moments like this isn't partisan, it's structural. We ask: who gets to stand for office? Who gets to vote without fear? And who gets to hold leaders accountable once the votes are counted? Because the leaders a society chooses today shape the schools, clinics, laws and opportunities the next generation will grow up inside. Osun has spoken and the votes have been counted. But the real work isn't finished when polls close. It continues in whether the promises made during the campaign are kept, whether institutions stay accountable between now and the next election, and whether more women and young people find the courage to contest and not just to vote. That is the Nigeria we are building.



CELEBRATING AN ICON, CHIEF (MRS.) OSASU IGBINEDION OGWUCHE

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This August, we celebrated the birth of the very woman whose vision TOS Foundation was built around, our Founder and Executive Director, Chief (Mrs.) Osasu Igbinedion Ogwuche.

It feels fitting that her birthday falls in the same month we spent asking what kind of Africa we are building. Long before this was a newsletter theme, it was her life's work. Every programme TOSFA runs, every woman who walks into a room she once wouldn't have been let into, every young person who chooses to stay and build rather than leave and hope carries a piece of that vision.

Chief (Mrs.) Ogwuche has spent her years expanding what's possible for women and young people across Nigeria and beyond, quietly and consistently, one program and one person at a time.

So to our Founder: We celebrate you and thank you for building something worth building. Here's to many more years of vision, of leadership, and of the Africa you've never stopped working toward.

With love,

TOS Foundation Africa

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"If we want an Africa where young people choose to stay and build, where women participate fully, where institutions earn trust and African ideas can thrive, then we must begin building that Africa now."

Chief (Mrs.) Osasu Igbinedion Ogwuche

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