



# WEST AFRICA MEDIA EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE & AWARDS (WAMECA) 2020

Impacting Lives through Media Excellence

## Conference

**13<sup>th</sup>** November, 2020  **9:00** am

## Awards Night

**14<sup>th</sup>** November, 2020  **5:00** pm

 **Swiss Spirit Alisa Hotel  
Accra, Ghana**



**Sulemana Braimah**  
**Executive Director**  
**Media Foundation for West Africa**

## **Welcome Address**

**D**ear Esteemed Guests,  
It is my greatest honour and privilege to welcome all of you to this year's edition of the West Africa Media Excellence Conference and Awards (WAMECA 2020). This is the fourth edition of this great annual convening of media professionals and actors across Africa.

For the first time since the maiden event in 2017, we don't have all speakers and participants seated in one room. We have had to host our guests both physically and virtually.

The reason for the changes made to this year's event is not farfetched. We meet at a time of an ongoing unprecedented global crisis. A crisis of a catastrophic COVID-19 pandemic that has killed almost 1.5 million people, devastated economies, disrupted education systems and left the world in a state of uncertainty.

Your enthusiastic response to our invitation, especially for those of you who have had to travel from your different countries to be with us despite the significant challenges with travel is heartwarming. Your presence is a testimony of your commitment to

advancing media development and excellence in West Africa in particular and Africa as a whole. We are sincerely grateful to you for honouring our invitation.

Indeed, over the last eleven months, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused us so much loss and anguish. But it has also taught us some significant lessons. Undoubtedly, one of such lessons has been the realisation of the incredible role and value of the media to society in times of crisis.

Fighting the pandemic has required that people are made aware of the disease, educated about safety protocols and measures, sensitised about measures being adopted by authorities and countering misinformation of all types about the pandemic. With these imperatives, it quickly became clear to everyone, including even brutal dictators and media repressors, that no other institution or group of workers could deliver these multifaceted requirements for combating the pandemic better than the media and journalists.

The media did not and have not failed to deliver. At the risks of infection, journalists continue to work from the streets to newsrooms and studios to bring true and accurate information about the pandemic to the people. During lockdowns, journalists were on the streets with security personnel, not with guns, but with just their pens, notepads and cameras, to help keep the people informed and educated about the pandemic.

Even in the face of repression, attacks and harassment, journalists remained on the frontlines to serve the people with critical information.

Journalists played and continue to play the crucial roles of combating the pandemic not because they are immune to the pandemic. Indeed, several journalists got infected and many have died. Journalists remained on the frontlines because they had to remain loyal to their calling and committed to serving public interest.

Unfortunately, the media have not been spared the dire ravages of the pandemic. The impact of the pandemic has, in fact, only worsened an already fragile and precarious media ecosystem in Africa. Already, the media in Africa have been suffocating under various repressive laws, rampant attacks, harassment and intimidation by both state and non-state actors. Sadly, many of these crimes that are committed against journalists go unpunished thus, perpetuating a culture of impunity for crimes against journalists.

In Africa, the media depend almost entirely on advertising and sales revenue for survival. The catastrophic impact of the pandemic on economies and businesses, and the consequent slump in media advertising and sales could only be a death sentence for the media. Indeed, since the outbreak of the pandemic, thousands of journalists have lost their jobs. Hundreds of media organisations have had to shut down; and many of those that are still operating are struggling to survive.

The current situation accentuates the need for immediate steps to be taken to save the media in Africa. Taking such steps requires meaningful brainstorming, synthesis of ideas and careful planning.

This is why this year's annual conference is focusing on the theme: The Future of Journalism in Africa. How do we get out from the impact of the pandemic? What next for the African media after the pandemic? What should be the business model for the media in Africa going forward? We all talk digitization. But how do we ensure we are not only digitizing but also monetizing for the survival of the media? How do we deal with the challenges of misinformation and disinformation?

Together with media experts and actors in the region, we will seek to find answers to these and many more questions that are central to the viability of the media industry in Africa. But even as the threats to independent journalism continue to rise, we are fully aware that there are journalists who are not deterred and remain committed to contributing positively to development through excellent journalism. Such journalists need to be recognised for their excellence, praised for their courage, and honoured for their commitment. And this is what the awards component of WAMECA does – to honour the journalistic stars of West Africa. It is our hope that the WAMECA awards will continue to motivate winners to do more and inspire others to want to do even better.

We are sincerely grateful to all our esteemed WAMECA supporters and institutional funders particularly, the Embassy of the United States in Ghana, Hewlett Foundation, DW Akademie, MTN-Ghana, Stanbic Bank Ghana, the Open Society Foundation's Programme on Independent Journalism, the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, IFEX and Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Ghana.

Our immense gratitude also goes to the over 65 media organisations from across West Africa who are partnering us for WAMECA 2020.

**Thank you very much.**

# About Media Foundation for West Africa

The MFWA is a regional independent non-governmental organisation. It is the biggest and most influential media development and freedom of expression advocacy organisation in West Africa with national partner organisations in all countries in the region. The MFWA is also the Secretariat of the continental network of the most prominent free expression and media development organisations in Africa, known as the Africa Freedom of Expression Exchange (AFEX) network.

In the last 23 years, the MFWA and its partners have actively promoted freedom of expression rights, media professionalism, and media-led advocacy for good governance across West Africa.

Below is our Mission and Vision, our Strategic Objectives and a brief note about our three programmes.

## Our Mission

To promote and defend the right to freedom of expression of all persons particularly the media and human rights defenders in West Africa.

## Our Vision

A West Africa in which all persons enjoy the right to freedom of expression without fear or threat by any actors.

## Our Strategic Objectives

Noticeable improvement in respecting and protecting the right to freedom of expression by state and non-state actors in West Africa

The public's right to access information is guaranteed by regional and national laws and respected in practice

The media in West Africa are more independent and professional, and contribute to democracy and development in the respective countries in the region.

## Our Programmes

### Freedom of Expression Programme

*This programme focuses on the following:*

- Safety of journalists and anti-impunity campaigns
- Freedom of expression rights monitoring and campaigns
- Digital rights and policy advocacy

### Media and Good Governance

*This programme focuses on the following:*

- Media capacity enhancement
- Journalism for Change (J4C)/ Accountability Journalism
- Empowering citizens' voices for accountability (through media)

### Institutional Development

*This programme focuses on the following:*

- Strengthening systems, governance and learning
- Communications and Fundraising
- Strengthening national partner organisations and increasing collaborations with regional and international bodies
- Staff capacity development





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## About West Africa Media Excellence Conference & Awards (WAMECA)

In the last 23 years, the Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) has led efforts to promote media freedom and provided capacity building to hundreds of media organisations and journalists across all countries in West Africa. Through its work, the MFWA has helped to position the media as key actors and supporters of democratic consolidation and national development in the sub-region.

With the emergence of new trends in freedom of expression and media development coupled with the constant advancement in technology, the media landscape in the sub-region continues to witness rapid changes with significant implications.

To help reflect on the developments within the media landscape on regular basis, the MFWA convenes an annual event called the West Africa Media Excellence Conference and Awards (WAMECA), which features conference sessions and awards for journalists in the region.

The conference brings together over 200 key personalities and organisations from across the region, continent and the globe. Participants include media practitioners, academics, activists, civil society organisations,

government officials, policy makers, intergovernmental organisations, development partners and donors to reflect on the changing trends and challenges in the areas of free expression (online & offline) media development and access to information, and to develop strategies for tackling these challenges.

The Awards on the other hand is meant to reward and inspire media excellence in West Africa as well as honour West African journalists who have produced works that are impacting lives and societies positively.



# MFWA Board Members



**Ms. Sophie Ly Sow**  
Chairperson, Senegal



**Mr. Sulemana Braimah**  
Executive Director, Ghana



**Professor Kwame  
Karikari**  
Member, Ghana



**Ms. Hilda Regina  
Melício Teófilo**  
Member, Cape Verde



**Ms. Fatoumata  
Yansane Balde**  
Member, Guinea



**Mr. Femi Falana**  
Member, Nigeria

# Our National Partner Organisations



## Benin

L'Observatoire de la Déontologie et de l'Ethique dans les Medias (ODEM)



## Liberia

Centre for Media Studies and Peace Building (CEMESP)



## Burkina Faso

Centre National de Presse Norbert Zongo (CNP-NZ)



## Mali

Maison de la Presse du Mali (MP)



## Cote d'Ivoire

l'Observatoire de la Liberté de la Presse, de l'Ethique et de la Déontologie (OLPED)



## Niger

Observatoire Nigérien Indépendant des Medias pour l'Ethique et de la Déontologie (ONIMED)



## The Gambia

Gambia Press Union (GPU)



## Senegal

Syndicat des Professionnels de l'Information et de la Communication du Sénégal (SYNPICS)



## Nigeria

International Press Centre (IPC)



## Guinea

L'Association Guinéenne des Editeurs de la Presse Indépendante (AGEPI)



## Sierra Leone

Media Reform Coordinating Group-Sierra Leone



## Guinea Bissau

Sindicato de Jornalistas e Tecnicos de Comunicacao Social Guinea Bissau (SINJOTECS)



## Mauritania

Regroupement de la Presse Mauritanienne (RPM)



## Togo

Union des Journalistes Indépendants du Togo (UJIT)



## Cape Verde

Associação dos Jornalistas de Cabo Verde (AJOC)



# Conference

## Speakers



**Vera Kwakofi**

Senior Editor, Africa TV &  
Media Management  
Executive, BBC



**George Sarpong**

Executive Secretary,  
National Media Commission  
& NED Fellow, Ghana

## Conference Sessions

### SESSION 1

## NAVIGATING CRISIS: COVID-19 & THE MEDIA IN AFRICA



**KHADIJA  
PATEL**

PANELIST

Co-Founder,  
Daily Vox, South  
Africa



**BERNARD  
KOKU AVLE**

PANELIST

General Manager,  
Citi FM / TV,  
Ghana



**SIMON  
MARTHA MKINA**

PANELIST

President, Media  
Practitioners  
Association,  
Tanzania



**BAYE OUMAR  
GUEYE**

PANELIST

General Manager,  
Sud FM,  
Senegal



**SHAMIMA  
MUSLIM**

MODERATOR

Convenor,  
Aliance for  
Women in Media  
Africa

## SESSION 2

# THE FUTURE OF JOURNALISM IN AFRICA



**DAPO OLORUNYOMI**

PANELIST

*Co-Founder, CEO & Publisher, Premium Times, Nigeria*



**KOUASSI SELAY MARIUS**

PANELIST

*Investigative Journalist & Media Trainer, Cote d'Ivoire*



**CHURCHILL OTIENO**

PANELIST

*President, Editors Guild, Kenya*



**SAMBA BADJI DIALIMPA**

PANELIST

*Editor, Africa Check, Senegal*



**NANA AMA AGYEMANG ASANTE**

MODERATOR

*Journalist, Ghana*

## SESSION 3

# DIGITISATION WITHOUT MONETISATION: TECH & MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY IN AFRICA



**LÉONCE GAMAÏ**

PANELIST

*Co-Founder & Manager, Banouto Media, Benin*



**SENA QUASHIE**

PANELIST

*Director, Digital Strategy, Pulse Ghana*



**OLAVE ORAWO**

PANELIST

*Digital Marketing Strategist, Mdundo Africa, Kenya*



**RODNEY SIEH**

PANELIST

*Founder, Editor & Publisher Front Page Africa, Liberia*



**SULEMANA BRAIMAH**

MODERATOR

*Executive Director, MFWA, Ghana*

# Conference Agenda

Friday, November 13, 2020

09:00 GMT

TIME	ITEM
8:30 - 9:30	<b>Arrival and Registration of Participants</b>
9:30– 9:40	<b>Remarks and Introductions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sulemana Braimah, Executive Director, <i>MFWA</i></li> </ul>
9:40– 10:00	<b>Keynote Speeches: The Future of Journalism in Africa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vera Kwakofi, Senior Editor, Africa TV &amp; Media Management Executive, <i>BBC</i></li> <li>George Sarpong, Executive Secretary, <i>National Media Commission &amp; NED Fellow, Ghana</i></li> </ul>
10:00– 11:30	<b>Session One (Panel Discussion) Navigating Crisis: COVID-19 and the Media in Africa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bernard Avle - General Manager, <i>Citi FM/TV</i>, Ghana</li> <li>Simon Martha Mkina, Founder, <i>JamilForums</i> &amp; President, Tanzania Media Association</li> <li>Baye Oumar Gueye, General Manager, <i>Sud FM</i>, Senegal</li> <li>Khadija Patel, Co-Founder, <i>Daily Vox</i>, &amp; Former Editor-in-Chief, <i>Mail &amp; Guardian</i>, South Africa</li> </ul> <b>Moderator: Shamima Muslim, Convenor, Alliance for Women in Media Africa</b>
11:30 – 11:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Health Break</b></li> </ul>
11:45– 1:15	<b>Session Two (Panel Discussion): The Future of Journalism in Africa</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dapo Olorunyomi, Co-Founder, CEO &amp; Publisher of <i>Premium Times</i>, Nigeria</li> <li>Churchill Otieno, Head of Dev't &amp; Learning, <i>Nation Media Group</i> &amp; President, Editors Guild, Kenya</li> <li>Samba Badji Dialimpa, Editor, <i>Africa Check</i>, Senegal</li> <li>Kouassi Selay Marius, Investigative Journalist, Media Trainer &amp; Researcher, Cote d'ivoire</li> </ul> <b>Moderator: Nana Ama Agyemang Asante, Journalist</b>
1:15 – 2:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lunch break</b></li> </ul>

2:00 – 3:30	<p><b>Digitization without Monetisation: Tech and Media Sustainability in Africa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leonce Gamai, Manager, <i>Banonto Media</i>, Benin</li> <li>• Sena Quashie, Director, Digital Strategy, <i>Pulse Ghana</i></li> <li>• Rodney Sieh, Founder &amp; Editor-in-Chief, <i>Frontpage Africa</i>, Liberia</li> <li>• Olave Orawo, Digital Marketing Strategist, <i>Mdundo</i>, Kenya</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator: Sulemana Braimah, Executive Director, MFWA</b></p>
3:30-4:00	<b>Recommendations/Takeaways</b>
16:00	<b>End of Conference</b>

# Awards

## Special Guest



**H. E Abdourahamane  
Diallo**

*Head of Office & Representative of UNESCO to  
Ghana*

Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo's early career with UNESCO spanned working at the Headquarters in Paris as a member of the permanent delegation of Niger, and then as a consultant in the UNESCO secretariat, before becoming a staff member in 2002 as programme specialist in the Africa department, responsible for monitoring cooperation with the African Union and the

various regional African organizations. In 2006, he headed the Department's Section for Regional Organizations and Post-Conflict Situations, focusing on addressing the specific needs of African countries in crisis and post-conflict settings.

For the last ten years, Mr. Diallo has been working in the field, first as Head of Office and Representative of UNESCO in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, before moving to UNESCO's Kinshasa (DRC) Office in the same capacity. He arrived in his latest position as Head of Office in Accra and UNESCO Representative to Ghana in December 2018.

Mr. Diallo holds a degree in industrial computer engineering (1991) and a Master of Business Administration in international business engineering (1994).

# Meet Our Judges for 2020

## Joseph Warungu—Kenya



Joseph Warungu is a media and communication consultant and trainer with 30 years of experience in international journalism. He was head of the BBC African News and Current Affairs Department and is a former Knight International Journalism Fellow who is widely travelled in Africa, working as a journalist, trainer and moderator of public debates on radio and TV. He specialises in media management training and building the capacity of media to tell in-depth and compelling stories on development issues such as health, education, business and technology. He led the African Story Challenge, a continent

-wide competition to inspire and support African media to tell more and better stories on development issues. Warungu also runs Top Story – a national mentorship programme for young journalists in Kenya, which takes the form of a popular reality TV show.

## Reyhana Masters-Smith, Zimbabwe



Reyhana Masters-Smith is an experienced and distinguished Zimbabwean Media and Communications Consultant who has worked as a reporter, editor, media trainer and researcher for many local and international organisations.

Reyhana has served as the Editor for So This Is Democracy, a publication by the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) which analyses the political and economic landscape and media policy frameworks in Southern Africa. She has also worked as the Editor and Content Creator for the MISA Regional Website and Communication Portal.

For many years, she worked as the deputy features editor of The Daily News – the first privately owned daily newspaper established in Zimbabwe in 1999 and as the Moderator of the African Media Barometer, an analytical tool that measures the national media environments on the African continent.

Currently, Reyhana Masters is the Sub Saharan Africa regional editor of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) and also serves as the chairperson for the Information for Development Trust—an investigative journalism media hub she co-founded.

## Hamadou Tidiane Sy—Senegal



Hamadou Tidiane Sy is the founder and Director of E-jicom, a journalism, communication and digital media school based in Dakar (ejicom.com). He is also the founder of the award-winning online media organisation Ouestaf News (ouestaf.com). Tidiane Sy is a seasoned Senegalese journalist, now mostly active as a journalism trainer and consultant throughout Africa. He worked for major media outlets, including the BBC, AFP (Agence France Presse), Global Radio News, Channel Africa, etc. Tidiane is also involved in the activities of the West African Investigative Network "CENOZO" where he edits investigative reports.

As a reporter Tidiane has extensively covered Africa, and more particularly the West African region and has conducted major investigations, culminating with his participation in the global "Panama Papers", "the Swissleaks", and "Fatal Extractions" projects. He is recognised as a social innovator in the field of "News and Knowledge" by the Ashoka and Knight Foundations. He is a board member at Cenozo and at Africa Check.

## Rodney Sieh—Liberia



Rodney Sieh is the founder, editor and publisher of the Front Page Africa, one of Africa's most respected publications based in Liberia. In 2019 Sieh received the International Press Freedom Prize. In 2014, He was named amongst Reporters Without Borders' "100 Information Heroes" and his media organization, Front Page Africa, received TV5 Monde Prize for Press Freedom.

Since 2009, Rodney's newspaper has been considerably involved with Journalists for Human Rights, and has trained media professionals so they can use traditional reporting skills to cover human rights and other important issues in their communities.

## Ousmane Sy Savané



Ousmane Sy Savané is a seasoned journalist and media manager. Since 2002, he has been Managing Director of the Cyclone media group in Abidjan. Among the media platforms under the Cyclone group are Le Temps, Lg Infos and Le Tempsinfos.net.

Savané is also the Vice President of the media owners and managers union, groupement des patrons de presse de la Cote d'Ivoire (GEPCI). He is also a Vice President of the media self-regulatory observatory in Cote d'Ivoire, OLPED.

A product of the Greenwich school of Management and Guildhall university, both in London, Savané has a strong grasp of the English language in addition to French.



# WAMECA 2020 Finalists

Impacting Lives Through  
Media Excellence



**Adwoa Adobea-Owusu, Ghana**



**Kemi Busari, Nigeria**



**Akodia Ezékiel Ada, Burkina Faso**



**Olatunji Ololade, Nigeria**



**BAGUIRI Chamszou-Dine, Benin**



**Beryl Ernestina Richter, Ghana**



**Yvette Zongo, Burkina Faso**



**Oladimeji Ramon, Nigeria**



**Elom Kossi Attissogbe, Togo**



**Olunfunke Busari, Nigeria**



**Moussa Ngom, Senegal**



**Manasseh Azure Awuni, Ghana**



**Nombéré Souaibou, Burkina Faso**



**Dimitri Ouedraogo, Burkina Faso**



**'Fisayo Soyombo, Nigeria**



**Sandrine Sawadogo, Burkina Faso**



**Solomon Joojo Cobbinah, Ghana**



**Innocent Duru, Nigeria**



**Kebba Ansu Manneh, The Gambia**



**Kelechukwu Iruoma, Nigeria**



## Embassy of the United States in Ghana Goodwill Message

**Virginia Elliott, Counselor for Public Affairs, Embassy of the United States in Ghana**

The U.S. Embassy in Ghana is pleased to sponsor the fourth edition of the Media Foundation for West Africa's (MFWA) West Africa Media Excellence Conference and Awards (WAMECA 2020). This year's theme, "The Future of Journalism in Africa," is prescient.

2020 brought with it an unprecedented set of challenges with the onset of a global pandemic that touched everything from our education systems and health care infrastructure to world economies and stretched our resiliency as a people. It can be argued that never before has the work of the journalist corps been so important.

The U.S. Embassy in Ghana commends the media practitioners across the region for your commitment and professionalism throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. All of you represent hardworking women and men on the frontlines, informing and serving the public during this difficult and uncertain time.

This year is also a year of elections in the United States as well as in countries across West Africa. The importance of all nations to maintain a respected, protected, and accountable journalist's corps cannot be overstated. A free and responsible press that upholds quality and truthfulness enables informed citizens to provide input into decision-making, and to better hold their political leaders accountable. A free and responsible press is the bedrock of any democracy.

For the past four years, the U.S. Embassy has been a proud partner of WAMECA, and we anticipate many more years of collaboration. Each year, we look forward to this gathering of the region's press corps, civil society organizations, and academics. May this year's conference spur robust discussions about the future vision of journalism in the region and ways to ensure the sanctity and sustainability of the profession moving forward.

And the accompanying awards ceremony is our annual chance to shine a light on the region's dedicated journalists whose work continues to help inform and shape society. The U.S. Embassy wishes the heartiest congratulations to all the nominees and winners!

**Thank you!**

Social Media:





## Sulemana Braimah Executive Director Media Foundation for West Africa

### Welcome Address

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The media did not and have not failed to deliver. At the risks of infection, journalists continue to work from the streets to newsrooms and studios to bring true and accurate information about the pandemic to the people. During lockdowns, journalists were on the streets with security personnel, not with guns, but with just their pens, notepads and cameras, to help keep the people informed and educated about the pandemic.

Even in the face of repression, attacks and harassment, journalists remained on the frontlines to serve the people with critical information.

Journalists played and continue to play the crucial roles of combating the pandemic not because they are immune to the pandemic. Indeed, several journalists got infected and many have died. Journalists remained on the frontlines because they had to remain loyal to their calling and committed to serving public interest.

Unfortunately, the media have not been spared the dire ravages of the pandemic. The impact of the pandemic has, in fact, only worsened an already fragile and precarious media ecosystem in

## Message from MTN Ghana

MTN Ghana is once again pleased to be associated with the 2020 edition of the West Africa Media Excellence Conference and Awards (WAMECA). We commend the Media Foundation for West Africa for instituting WAMECA to discuss pertinent issues affecting the practice of journalism.

Last year, we had the opportunity to discuss the issue of 'Fake News' and took a lot of lessons from the conference.. This year's theme, the 'Future of Journalism', is really apt for two reasons.

Firstly, it captures the much needed hope to look beyond the current challenges the practice faces and secondly, it also gives us an opportunity to discuss how technology and digitization is transforming the practice of journalism. For us at MTN, we believe Journalism has bright prospects now and in the future.

Journalism in Africa and else where, is undergoing phenomenal changes, driven mainly by technological advancements. While the changes offer a lot of good for journalism, it is also posing severe challenges to the practice. Citizen journalism, fake news, misinformation, infobesity and disinformation have all become notions that have emerged in the age of rapid technological advancement.

It is said that, "journalism can never be silent" and that is its greatest virtue and its greatest fault". From this, we can deduce the pros and cons of this life enhancing profession. The profession comes with its own challenges though. As this conference discusses issues centered around the work of journalists in challenging environments, it is my hope that the panelists will provide ideas as to how journalists can build a resilient profession and practice that will thrive and flourish regardless of the challenges facing the profession. We are

also hopeful that the conference will bring to the fore the necessary measures media houses and practitioners will have to take to sustain and further enhance their relevance going forward.

The WAMECA Conference and Awards' drive for excellence in the of sphere journalism is admirable and we commend the organisation highly for the work they are doing in the sub-region. Being a leader in Ghana's telecommunications sector and with the media as one of the key sources of information to our stakeholders, we deem it an obligation to support their growth. To this end, we have organized several training sessions and workshops for our media partners. Through these engagements, we seek to enhance the skills of journalists across the country and to prepare them for the future. In one of our workshops journalists were taken through the various laws and legal framework governing the practice of journalism in the digital space as well as cybersecurity issues. We are also looking at how journalists can advocate for Child online protection.

We happily celebrate journalists who work across the region, risking their lives in service of others. A special congratulations to all the award winners and may the WAMECA Awards serve as an inspiration to all who aspire excellence.

***Thank you!***

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## Message from Stanbic Bank Ghana

Congratulations to all winners of this year's awards. Your work ethic and professionalism have placed you above your peers and brought the honour we are celebrating today.

For the other nominees, the fact that you passed the yardstick of excellence means very soon you will be mounting the stage to receive your deserved accolades.

To the broader media community, we are proud of your contribution to this society. You have covered the good, the bad and the not too pleasant stories. These have largely contributed to shaping this country. And for this, the media deserves a round of applause!

It is no coincidence that social cohesion, economic development and personal fulfilment tend to be high in countries with levels of media excellence and professional standards also high.

Recognising and applauding quality journalism is surely the path to take to influence the practice in West Africa.

To this end, Stanbic Bank Ghana is grateful for the invitation to be part of your laudable initiative that can significantly uplift the nature of the media narratives being played daily on our airwaves and in print.

The future of work and the larger society will be affected by the eye-opening events that COVID-19 has brought in its wake.

With the theme of this year's celebration as the background, we may ask how long it would be before many of the key tasks we engage in today go digital or virtual. Yes, we shall keep writing with pens and keep checking accounts, but twenty years from now would the situation be the same? That should be our food for thought.

Once upon a time, the great Doctor Kwegyir Aggrey noted that 'only the best is good enough for Africa'. Indeed, as a member of the Standard Bank Group, we believe

in promoting excellence on this continent because Africa is our home and we drive her growth. And we do this by supporting the media in all 20 countries that the Group operates in.

In Ghana, our collaboration with the media over the years has included our annual support for the GJA awards, our collaboration with the various regional chapters of the GJA, our support for the Institute of Financial and Economic Journalists (IFEJ), and the Sports Writers Association of Ghana. Last, but not the least is our presence at this event, which is a seal of our support for the media who for us are a critical component for national development.

We recognise that our communities would not be the same without your efforts as journalists to probe and demand accountability in all sectors of the society.

As a bank, we must say that your continuous reportage on the economy and the financial sector has attracted a lot of investors into our country. It would be a huge blunder on our part if we fail to hold in high esteem your valuable contribution to this nation.

It is for reasons such as these that we continue to associate with the WAMECA awards. We believe that the more we appreciate your good effort, the more we help to create excellent work. We thank the Media Foundation for West Africa for giving us the opportunity to be part of this year's edition and we look forward to many more years of partnership.

***Thank you very much!***



# Awards Agenda

Saturday, November 14, 2020

17:00 GMT

TIME	ITEM
16:00 - 17:00	Music & Arrival of Guests
17:00 – 17:15	Remarks and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sulemana Braimah – Executive Director, MFWA</b></li> </ul>
17:15 – 17:40	Acknowledgements and Remarks by Event Supporters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Embassy of the United States, Ghana</b></li> <li>• <b>MTN-Ghana</b></li> <li>• <b>STANBIC Bank Ghana</b></li> </ul>
17:40- 18:00	Remarks by Special Guest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, Head of Office &amp; Representative of UNESCO to Ghana</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Respresentative of UNESCO to Ghana</b></p>
18:00 – 18:05	Musical Interlude
18:05 – 18:15	<b>Remarks by WAMECA 2020 Jury</b>
18:15 – 19:00	<b>Presentation of West Africa Media Excellence Awards</b>
19:00 – 19:05	<b>Vote of Thanks /Musical Interlude/Departure</b>

**MCs: Abigail Larbi Odei & Rachad Bani Samari**

# WAMECA 2019 in Pictures



*Advocate Pansy Tlakula (Left) & Prof. Kwame Karikari (Right) at the Awards*



*Overall Best West African Journalist for 2019 Sama Tounwendsida Hugues receiving his dummy cheque and plaque from Advocate Pansy Tlakula*



*Hawa Ba, Senegal Country Officer, Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) at the Awards*



*Susanne Fuchs-Mwakiden – Country Representative, DW Akademie*



*Nana Kwasi Gyan-Apenteng – Former Chairman, National Media Commission, Ghana*



*Mr. Roberto Quiroz II the Counselor for Public Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy in Ghana at the Awards*



*Kojo larbi of Stanbic Bank Ghana delivering a statement at the Awards*



*Indira Correia Balde, President of SINJOTECs, Guinea Bissau*



*Zainab Mahama, Public Affairs Department, United States Embassy in Ghana at the Awards*



*Georgina Fiagbenu, MTN Ghana at the Awards*



*Soule Issiaka, President, Association pour la Promotion des media, Benin*



MC for the Awards Ceremony: Mamari Owusu Aboagye



Some guests at the Awards



Overall Best West African Journalist for 2019  
Sama Toumwendida Hugues giving his  
acceptance speech



Sulemana Braimah, Executive Director, MFWA,  
delivering his Welcome Address at the Awards



Some of the finalists at the Awards



Co-MC for the Awards Ceremony: Rachad Bani  
Samari



Cross-section of guests at the awards



The Sensational Wulomei Band performing during WAMECA 2019



Prof. Kwame Karikari (Right) presenting a  
citation to a finalist at the Awards



WAMECA 2019 Award finalists after receiving their Citations







# WAMECA 2019 WINNERS



*Sama Tounwendsida Hugues Richard (middle left), L'Observateur Palgaa-Burkina Faso, Best Reporter-Health Reporting & West Africa Journalist of the year 2019*



*Seriba Kone (left), Lepointsur.com-Cote D'Ivoire, Best Reporter- Anti-Corruption Reporting*



*Tobore Ovuorie (left), The Nation Newspaper -Nigeria, Best Reporter- Human Rights Reporting*



*Nabil Ahmed Rufai (left), GHOne TV - Ghana, Best Reporter-SDGs Reporting*



*Tunde Ajaja (left), Punch-Nigeria, Best Reporter-Business & SMEs Reporting*



*Kunle Adebajo (left), ICIR-Nigeria, Best Reporter -Telecoms & ICT's Reporting*



*Cletus Umoh Ukpung (middle), Premium Times-Nigeria, Best Reporter-Investigative Reporting*



# WAMECA 2018 WINNERS



**Manasseh Azure Awuni (Right), Multimedia Group Limited-Ghana, Best Reporter- Anti-Corruption and West Africa Journalist of the year 2018**



**Victor Ekwealor (Left), Techpoint-Nigeria, Best Reporter- Business**



**Adam Alqali (Right), African Newspaper-Nigeria, Best Reporter- SDGs**



**Richard Kwadwo Nyarko (Right), Multimedia Group Limited-Ghana, Best Reporter-Telecommunications & ICTs**



**Nabaloum Abdel Aziz (Right), Sidwaya-Burkina Faso, Best Reporter-Human Rights**



**Anthony Akaeze (Left), TELL/ICIR-Nigeria, Best Reporter-Investigative Reporting**



**Emma Morrison (Left), Multimedia Group Limited-Ghana, Best Reporter-Health**



# WAMECA 2017 WINNERS



**Seth Kwame Boateng**  
Multimedia Group Limited, Ghana  
Human Rights Reporting  
& Overall Best Journalist



**Alagbe Jesusegun**  
Punch Nigeria Limited  
Anti-Corruption Reporting



**Fousseni Saibou**  
Radio Canal Fm, Togo  
Health Reporting



**Sheila Williams**  
Business Day Newspaper, Ghana  
ECOWAS & Regional  
Integration Reporting



**Femi Asu**  
Punch Nigeria Limited  
Oil & Gas Reporting



**Manasseh Azure Awuni**  
Multimedia Group Limited, Ghana  
Investigative Reporting

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