

## UKINEBO DARE

### SSA to the Edo State Governor on Skills development and Jobs

Ukinebo oversees the Edojobs initiative and the Edo State Skills Development Agency. Coordinating efforts and implementing programs to fulfil the promise of His Excellency, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, Executive Governor of Edo State to create 200,000 jobs in 4 years. With her team, Uki implements innovative projects to create the demand for, and provide the supply of highly skilled talent in Edo State. Over 91,000 youth have benefitted from the State Governments job creation initiatives.

She has overseen the setup and running of **Edo Innovates** (an innovation cluster that is upskilling youth, leveraging on technology to create jobs and incubate businesses for 13,000 people annually), **Edo Food and Agricultural Cluster** (with a target to impact 8,000 farmers in rural communities each year with improved access to market, equipment, aggregation services e.t.c.), **Edo Production Centres** (which provide power supply, shared factory facilities and improves skills for artisans and small scale manufacturers) and other job placement and TVET programs.

Through the Edo State Government's Skills Development Agency, Ukinebo brings her experience of tackling unemployment from a Social Enterprise and Civil Society into Governance.

Previously, Ukinebo had worked in multiple roles related to Skills Development and Job Creation across Africa, and over 35,000 youth have benefitted from employability initiatives executed by Ukinebo and her team at Poise Graduate Finishing Academy (PGFA). In 2015, she won the Ford Foundation Prize for Youth Employment at the Future Awards Africa (2015) and she is credited for the execution of employability interventions projects in partnership with organizations such as Oxfam International, SOS Kinderdorpen, Google Nigeria, Microsoft Nigeria, Butterfly Works Netherlands and so on.

She started her career in the Information Technology department of Oando Plc, Nigeria. Her passion for people development then led her to setup PGFA in 2010 which achieved an 87% employment rate of its graduates and earned endorsements from the Nigerian National Universities Commission and multiple reputable employers. She also served as Programme Director of EkoBits which is part of a group of ICT and Digital Design Academies across Africa. Through Ekobits youth from shantytowns and underserved communities, without access to University education get training and jobs in the IT sector as programmers, graphic designers, web designers and so on.

In 2019 she was selected as an honouree by MIPAD100, recognizing her along with other global leaders as one of the Most Influential People of African Descent under 40. She was previously selected by the United States, Department of State as a 2017 Mandela Washington Fellow for her work and has received many awards including the 2017 JCI Ten Outstanding

Young Persons Award for Personal Achievement, the BusinessDay and Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment 40 under 40 award and others. She has attended Benson Idahosa University, Nigeria, the University of Bradford, UK and Clark Atlanta University, USA.

She has written many publications including 40 First Jobs, Wake Up This is Your Life and so on. She is also the author of 'The Impact Blog' a resource for people interested in learning about effective job creation strategies for Africa.

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