

**Prepared statement of Professor Adedeji Badiru, Chairman,
Board of Trustees, InnoPower Africa, Friday, March 23, 2026**

=====

I am delighted to welcome everyone to this inaugural event of InnoPower Africa's **Founders Showcase**.

I appreciate the collaborative gesture of CEO Emil Ekiyor of InnoPower Global for inviting me to play this visible role as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of InnoPower Africa. This perfectly aligns with my own ideals of how to improve the world, one person at a time. The future of our society rests in the hands of young entrepreneurs of today. I thank Emil for realizing this and committing himself and his personal resources to this special program.

I have personally and directly witnessed what Emil has done and continues to do constructively in the State of Indiana, USA and elsewhere. I am delighted that he is proactively extending InnoPower's reach to Africa. The problems of Africa are best addressed within Africa. That is only possible if we enable and empower young people to take control of the future by starting and running their own innovative businesses. This is what InnoPower Africa is all about.

This is a program that is designed to inspire, encourage, mentor, and support young African Entrepreneurs with INNOvative business ideas.

Today, you will hear from 8 exceptional presenters who are pitching their various ideas to an attentive panel of business experts. The constructive critique from the experts will help the presenters to

- Refine their business ideas,
- Practice articulating and presenting their ideas,
- Benefit from the strategic feedback from the experienced experts,
- And network with mentors, partners, and potential investors.

We are all beneficiaries of InnoPower Africa because if our society gets better, we are all better off, due to the interconnectedness of systems thinking and implementation. Thank you.