

H.E Dr. Kayode Fayemi, immediate past Governor of Ekiti-2010-2014

Hon Micheal Chan-The Minister of Citizenship, immigration and International Trade

Hon Monte Kwinter-MP, PA, and 5-time Cabinet Minister of Govt. of Ontario, having served since 1985 as Min. of FI, Min. of Correctional Serv, Solicitor General, Min of Community Rel., Min of industry & Trade & Tech, and now MPP & in Ministerial of Citizenship ,Immigration, Trade &Chair of ON Invest &Trade Council.

Dr. Mrs. Mary Anne Chambers, who was Minister of Universities, Training, and Colleges in Ontario, Canada

Good Morning Friends of Africa:

•It is such a joy and a great honor to welcome you all to the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of FOA- Economic Dev. Conference. We are privileged as a people to be preserved by God our creator to witness the 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of FOA and to come together again to discuss business opportunities that will empower our professionals, and expand our businesses. The theme for this year is the heart of Africa's development. The New Middle class has not only become the economic engine of their nations, they appear to be redefining the ways to do business. The labour & Capital employed, the tax remittances and profits they generate, and their impact within the Community are a few of the contributions by which they oil the economic engine of their nations. Whether they run small or big shops ...(SME)

•The Middle class are the reason that the economies of developed Nations continue to thrive; they are the engines that drive the growth that we see. The Middle Class constitute about 90% of these economies and their GDP contribution is significant for mention: 30% in Canada, 39% in the U.S, 53% in Germany, and 78% in South Korea, and 16% in Africa. They create more than 50% jobs, innovate, pay taxes, and have a productive capacity that cannot be ignored. The vibrant, innovative, entrepreneurs that have changed the economies of nations, from the fashion brands of Louis V, to the Heinz, and Africa Dangote started as small businesses and we know their story. A few are here with us today to share their trajectory. Ladies & gentlemen, we can agree that the engine of our businesses has the capacity to be reengineered by partnerships, investment, and tapping into opportunities. Our experience as North American middle class managers, tells us that the Diasporans have a huge role to play to reenergize the processes, methods, and management that could bridge the developmental and business gaps that we see today. This years conference provides some answers to these gaps. It is our hope that we all fully maximize the Networking opportunities available in this room today, spanning diverse industry sectors, to galvanize our careers and businesses to the growth and expansion levels that we want to see.

Dear Delegates, permit me to welcome our Session Panelists drawn from vertical industry sectors today:

•From the public Sector: Hon Jim Karygiannis-Federal MP-2014,Chair of House Committee on Nigeria, Uganda, DRC & Egypt Coptic, Jim now representing the most ethnically diverse constituency in the GTA, Toronto (discusses how we can influence policy); Brian Love, Director of Business, MEDTI &Infrastructure, is rep by Helen Hillman and will discuss the Funding Options available to your businesses and how you can access them.

•From the Social/ Development and Enterprise Sector: we welcome Dr.Tanya Pelcher Herring-Workforce and Youth Job expert from the Univ of MD U.S.A, Amanda Armstrong Entrepreneur and Social Impact Researcher.

•From the Private Sector: Nate Lowbeer-Lewis, MD of CPCS Dev Inter; an Infra firm operating in 115 Countries and Olutoyin Oyelade, CEO of InVcap a PE firm

From our Business Community: Wayne Floreani-Board Director of CSACB, leading members of the CSACB

•Mr Emma Duodu, President of Ghanaian Can Association Leading members of the Ghana Community

•Our Business delegates and entrepreneurs from GTA, Ottawa, Calgary, U.S, SA, and Nig.

•Our Entrepreneurs, Emerging Leaders, and youth groups across Canadian Campuses,

•Our Conference Partners and other delegates Ladies & gentlemen, we welcome you all