



PROFILE OF MUSTAPHA NJIE

Mustapha Njie (Taf) is the managing director of **TAF AFRICA GLOBAL LIMITED**. Mustapha was born on the 5th of February 1957 in Banjul, The Gambia. He is a trained Construction Engineer with Diploma in Site Management. Taf was amongst the pioneers of modern Gambian construction. Prior to setting up his own Construction Company in 1990, he had worked with a number of top tier International Construction companies for over 13 years. He has over 40 years of hands on experience across all levels of the construction industry.

TAF AFRICA GLOBAL, is today the largest construction company in The Gambia and a leading real estate development company in Nigeria. Part of TAF AFRICA GLOBAL's success can be attributed to Mr. Njie's vision for the company, which is rooted in innovation, being extremely diligent, hardworking and result oriented. He is not cowed by any challenge whatsoever, and his passion and commitment to excellence guides him to ensure any problem is resolved in pursuing set goals. He positively challenges traditional ways of doing things and constantly works towards improving processes.

In all of its operations, TAF Africa Global is guided by its core principles, of gender equality, sustainability, community empowerment and partnership building, amongst others. Women occupy more than 50 percent of the management positions of TAF Africa Global, likewise, all estates developed by the company ensure environmental friendliness at its heart, through the planting of fruit trees, (for example, 500 trees in RIVTAF), and no development takes place without proper consultations and community buy in. The company goes further to ensure adequate knowledge and skills transfer as well as providing quality employment. This all falls into our long-term sustainability and inclusiveness plan. The company prides itself in championing alternative energy forms through a combination of renewables and more sustainable energy forms within all its projects. As part of its growth and expansion strategy, TAF was able to transform TAF AFRICA GLOBAL from a national company to an internationally recognized Pan-African company with a diverse and gender balanced staff pool. Today, TAF employs over 2000 people across Sub-Saharan Africa. TAF's vision for the company is to develop 1 Million affordable homes in Africa over the next 20 years. The aim is to compliment The African



Unions stated objective of providing affordable housing in Africa as part of Agenda 2063. TAF Africa Global and Shelter Afrique have already launched this initiative through the signing of an MOU on January 7th 2020.

TAF ventured into Nigeria's construction industry in 2012 and has left a giant mark, that is today a reference point of determination and success. RIVTAF was born through a Public Private Partnership with the Rivers State Government. This special purpose vehicle has been used by TAF to provide quality and affordable housing for 752 families while creating employment for over 1, 200 locals and other West African citizens.

TAF is a renowned philanthropist who continues to play a key role in promoting peace, reconciliation and nation building in the Gambia. The TAF Africa Foundation which is the non-profit arm of TAF Africa Global, sees it as a moral obligation to not only nurture and groom the next generation of African Leaders, but also to also make a difference in the lives and livelihoods of communities in order to uplift them from poverty. Through its different initiatives, the TAF Africa Foundation supports the Government of The Gambia in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The foundation has seven different initiatives which address key priority areas that are directly linked to the SDG's.

The Annual TAF Africa Conference and Networking Event (**TAFCON**) serves as a mechanism for promoting governance by giving voice to Gambians from all works of life to exchange ideas on how to address issues affecting the Gambia, and to come up with solutions which are then recommended to Government and other key stakeholders for action. TAFCON is now the biggest annual networking conference in the Gambia, bringing together over 1,000 participants including government officials, national assembly members, private sector, youth, media, diaspora Gambians, Global specialists, academia and development partners. In the same vein, the **TAF CLUB TEN** initiative aims at creating a conducive environment for entrepreneurs to continue to thrive in their business ventures as well as creating a platform where members can meet periodically to exchange ideas and to network.

A key component of the Gambia National Development Plan is the provision of decent jobs and the straightening of skills and capacities for implementation. In this context, **the TAF START-UPS** provides support to young entrepreneurs through funding, mentoring and training, so they can provide decent services and employment for the youth. The methodology for selection is deliberately designed to be iterative and broad to foster inclusion and bring to the foundations radar the wide pool of talent available from unsuccessful applicants . The selection is through an annual national pitching contest for young Gambian entrepreneurs within the ages of 18-30 years, with prize money of approximately 50,000 US dollars for the top contenders. More than 200 entrepreneurs have applied to the programme since its inception in 2018. The **TAF TRAINING INSTITUTE**-provides facilities and resources for young people to have hands on training through internships in construction, digital marketing, architecture, plumbing to name few, this helps prepare them for the labour market and enhances their suitability for decent and well paying jobs. The **TAF LEADERSHIP ACADEMY** was founded with the main objective of mentoring and training the next generation of Gambian leaders. The first cohort with 50



fellows graduated on the 8th January, 2020 at the TAFCON. The second cohort which will have 300 fellows will commence in mid -January 2020

With more than 10% of the Gambia's population living with disabilities, TAF Africa Foundation set aside approximately twenty thousand US dollars for the **GAMBIA DISABILITY TRUST FUND** to support the differently abled members of society who are engaged in small and medium enterprises. To date approximately 50 people have received revolving loans from the trust fund.

TAF ICON: This Initiative is to shine a light on successful Gambians who have retired and spending their time in giving back to The Gambia. One Icon is honoured each year and celebrated to not only showcase what the awardee has been doing, but to also inspire and encourage others to follow suit. The first TAF ICON was Mrs Janet Badjan Young, CEO of Eburnjan Theatre.

TAF's expertise, vision and passion have seen him traverse continents sharing his vast experiences as a renowned developer on various platforms as a presenter, a keynote speaker and a panellist. Some of such platforms include the Annual Africa Business Conference at the Harvard Business School in 2003 and 2019 as a panellist; the Africa CEO Forum 2019; and the Annual Africa Business Conference at The Wharton Business School in 2004 also as a panellist. In the course of his career, Taf has won several awards including the following: -

- GBB Best Affordable Housing of the Year 2018.
- CNBC/AABLA Entrepreneur of the Year 2017 (West Africa)
- Gambia Chamber of Commerce & Industry Honorary Maiden Winner 2016
- ECOWAS honorable Business man of the year 2011
- Gambia Business man of the year 1993, 2004 & 2006
- Best SME Construction Company in Africa 2004
- European Council for Global Business award for quality 1998

These awards were expressions of appreciation for some of the landmark projects executed by Taf, and the impact he has had on the communities he has worked with. Below are some of the works TAF has been involved in:

- Designed, built and furnished the 52 presidential villas in a record time of 4 months without snags
- Constructed 210 units of low income earners Yarambamba estate
- Constructed 600 units of middle & high income earners in Brufut Gardens
- Constructed the largest residential estate in the Niger Delta (RIVTAF Golf Estate, Port Harcourt, Nigeria), with over 1200 houses
- Developing GIETAF Special Economic Zone, Gambia – 160 Hectares.

Taf is a member of the bodies listed below:

1. Licentiate member of United Kingdom Chartered institute of building
2. Former Executive Committee member of the West Africa Enterprise network between 1997 – 2002
3. President of Gambia Association of Construction Contractors & Consultants



4. Member of European Council for Global Business
5. Chairman of Trade Fair Committee of Gambia
6. Board member Trust Bank
7. Chairman of the National Training Authority
8. Member of Board of Directors for the Gambia Youth Business Trust
9. Former Chairman of the National Printing & Stationery Corporation
10. Executive committee member of the Gambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry
11. Member of the National Business Council

Taf is an accomplished family man. He is married with five kids. He speaks English, and understands French. He is an accomplished and well tested statesman and diplomat. Taf plays a very crucial Ambassadorial role in the on-going social cohesion work in The Gambia and compliments the work of Government and its International partners significantly. Taf is a natural ally for the SDG popularisation process given his very wide reach both within The African continent and beyond.