



BANKING ON AFRICA'S FUTURE

BOAF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. INTRODUCTION

At AHS we believe that the future of Africa is our business and we have a responsibility to reposition a brand that is synonymous with negative indicators of human development.

We recognize the power of social network in breaking national borders and bringing the concept of a global citizen into reality. In a rapidly changing and dynamic global environment, a danger exists that Africa will be assimilated into a global architecture in a manner that will lead to the loss or diminution of its identity.

What does it mean to be African? Who is an African? Who are the drivers and builders of African social, economic and cultural change? Who are the African tigers or champions?

Is there a need to profile, record, archive, and highlight the drivers and builders of African change? If so, whose responsibility is or should it?

Facebook is on the road to becoming the largest country in the world that does not respect borders. The power of social networks cannot be understated in not only connecting people but also reducing the cost of business and advancing the cause of human progress. However, the face on the book has no identity hence our interest in creating the African face.

We believe that the gaps that exist in knowledge, capital and execution can only be bridged if we work together. We really do not know each other and the gaps in knowledge creates its own distortions and costs that all add up to make the African condition and experience something that we all acknowledge needs change.

Improving literacy is the most potent weapon to reduce poverty as it empowers citizens to make the kind of choices that secures their sustainable future. An investment in literacy, a core objective of AHS, is an integral component of the empowerment and transformation agenda.

We strive to develop and maintain dynamic and relevant subjects for all Africans and persons of African heritage.

We believe that a key component to the success and prosperity of Africa is provided through a real and tangible connection with industry and the world of work.

2. PURPOSE OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Today, more than ever, it is critical that Advisory Committees be involved in planning programs and evaluating the success of our collective efforts.

Committee members assist us in maintaining relevant up-to-date programs that reflect the realities of the challenges that confront African professionals as well as its corporate players. The post-colonial African experiences have shown that governments cannot be relied upon to solve the challenges that confront humanity. We now know that freedom is

inextricably linked to human progress and prosperity.

The committee that you have been invited to serve as Advisor is intended to provide two-way communication, closer cooperation, and better understanding between the executive charged with the responsibility of converting the idea of creating a bank that will store the knowledge, contacts and profiles of the drivers and builders of Africa and our local businesses and industries.

As one of the pioneers of the BOAF initiative, being a member of a team that we have described as "Consider it Done's Advisory Board, provides you with a stellar opportunity to help shape and define the character of BOAF and more importantly provide strategic direction to the Executives will be responsible for the operations.

3. YOUR INTERVENTION

BOAF needs your input and a person with your experience and insight would be the perfect person to help determine whether the idea should be transformed into a legacy project that breaks new ground or whether there is still value to be gleaned from leaving the status quo ante, as it has always been the case.

4. WHAT BOAF SEEKS TO ACHIEVE

BOAF will provide a spectrum of services to members of AHS and interested third parties. Our organization's motto is "We will do it right". We intend to focus on filling a defined market need. The need is can best be illustrated by the loneliness that often accompanies first generation professionals and businesspersons who often find themselves without the support of friends, family, business and professional colleagues. The distance between decision makers and the people the lead increases every day to the extent that a convergence point becomes unreachable.

The key decision makers in Africa tend to be foreign persons and, therefore, networking opportunities are restricted if not unavailable.

The imperfect information that exists in African labor markets results in distortions that exacerbate the already high unemployment and underemployment.

Equally, African entrepreneurs confront challenges in terms of market access. Through the BOAF initiative, it is hoped that members will be able to use the platform to invest in their personal and corporate brands so that they can take their rightful market places at a time when non-Africans are increasingly invading the African continent.

5. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Advisory Committees have been set up as a structured way for members of AHS to share their opinions and perspectives, study issues, and develop recommendations in a focused small group framework.

Its primary purpose is to provide judicious advice from members to the BOAF Executive Committee that is the implementation platform for realizing the objectives of BOAF.

The activities of the Committees will include study of critical issues, independent research, and where possible reviewing staff reports and recommendations all of which is intended so that the Executive Committee is prepared to discuss, formulate, and forward well-developed, thoughtful recommendations in a timely manner.

The Committees will be arranged in clusters to cover areas of special interest.

Members will be expected to identity scope, budget and implementation.

Advising in the development of the initiative's objectives, content and competencies.

Serving as a source for industry information.

Providing oversight, ensuring the program meets expected market standards and quality.

Acting as a positive political influence.

Serving as a community resource for

speakers, filed trip sites, mock interviews, job shadowing.

Providing insight into any strategic and operational matter that members may feel needs to be considered.

Develop plans to recognize outstanding drivers and builders of African change.

Serve as a communication link with the broad African community as broadly defined to include the people living in the Diaspora.

Serve as judges for awards and contests.

Help plan and take leadership positions in special events: competition, leadership seminars, banquets, and other social occasions.

Act as Ambassadors of BOAF (Face and Voice of BOAF).

Act as a communications link to assist in the development of stakeholder understanding of and support for the BOAF program of action.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

Provide ongoing guidance to the Executive Team on issues of strategy, management, legal matters and process.

It is not a board of directors and, therefore, has no decision-making authority.

A mailing list will be provided to the Board that they can use for communication to protect confidentiality.

The Executive Team will send a summary of each Advisory Board meeting to the Advisory Committee.

7. ADVISORY BOARD PARTICIPATION

Each Advisory Board shall have ten participants in addition to the [Chairman](#), who is the Chair of the Advisory Board.

With the exception of the [Chairman](#), the terms of all Advisory Board participants are for **two years**.

The terms are staggered so that four or five terms expire each year.

If an individual is appointed or elected to fill an incomplete term, that individual's term will end at the normal expiration date of that term.

An Advisory Board participant may resign or change affiliations. When either occurs, the Chairman may declare the participant's seat to be vacant. The vacant seat will be filled at the next regular Advisory Board election.

8. ADVISORY BOARD ELECTIONS

The Advisory Board is elected by the Advisory Committee. The election process begins when the Chairman sends a call for nominations to the Advisory Committee.

The call specifies the number of available seats, the deadline for nominations, and the address where nominations must be sent.

Nominations should be made with the consent of the nominee and should include a few informative paragraphs about the nominee.

If, after the deadline for nominations, the number of nominees is less than or equal to the number of available seats, those nominees are thereby elected.

Otherwise, the Chairman issues a call for votes that includes the names of all candidates, the number of available seats, the deadline for votes, and the address where votes must be sent.

Each Advisory Committee representative may vote for as many candidates as there are available seats.

Once the deadline for votes has passed, the Chairman announces the results to the Advisory Committee.

The candidates with the most votes are elected to the available seats. Two-year terms begin with the announcement of the results.

When it is necessary to fill one or more "short terms", the Advisory Board must adopt a random process for determining which candidates are elected to short terms.

9. WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME?

As a member of the Advisory Committee you will be expected to provide both informally and formally your perspectives and advice by phone, e-mail, personal contacts and letters on how best the project to document, profile and celebrate the individual and corporate brands that drive and are engaged in building Africa.

BOAF will sponsor open houses, banquets, community forums, seminars and conferences throughout the year on specific issues that will require your expert input and advice.

This project seeks to solicit the input of Africans who are located in various jurisdictions and are formally engaged in other activities, it will not be practical to convene meetings. Accordingly, it is expected that committees will be clustered into different interest areas and the members who accept to serve in a chosen Advisory Committee will have to use modern technology to communicate.

10. WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

This is a voluntary effort that relies on each member's commitment to move the agenda forward. In each cluster, it is expected that a core group that will be formed that will have to agree on a calendar and frequency of meetings.

The AHS office in Johannesburg will act as the coordinator and secretariat.

The idea is to create a voice, text, and face that authentically represent Africa and its future.

It is appreciated that time is the biggest enemy in terms of what needs to be done. However, this is a member driven initiative and anyone who is concerned that unless we do something to understand, appreciate, document and

celebrate the incredible contribution to humanity of Africans we may be assimilated into a globally connected family to our future detriment.

You will be aware that most of the major conferences on African issues are convened, managed, and dominated by non-Africans suggesting that Africans have no time to plan their own indabas.

Through the BOAF initiative, it is planned that we are going to have our own Heritage Economic, Social and Cultural events that you will be called upon to help initiate, plan and execute.

This can only be a win-win initiative as it is already evident that non-Africans see more value in Africa and the continent has been rewarding to those that dare.

The primary means of communication will be via e-mail, and will be kept to a minimum.

Formal meetings may be scheduled upon request from time to time by Committee members.

11. WHAT ELSE IS REQUIRED OF ME TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS ORGANIZATION?

All committee members would be invited and encouraged to assist the executive in networking, referrals and fundraising events. The executive may from time to time ask for additional recommendations, guidance and/or advice.

12. WHAT ELSE SHOULD I CONSIDER?

Your name and credentials will be listed in the official documents of our organization, and a brief bio and photo will be posted on our website.

13. WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF BEING ON THIS COMMITTEE?

A genuine feeling of knowing that you have assisted in building a financially literate and empowered Africa and that you personally had

a hand in helping to enhance Africa's capacity to respond to development challenges utilizing its own human capital. You will be a contributing member of a worthwhile initiative that seeks to reduce risk by investing in knowledge and inspiring the future by learning from our past. You will be a vital source of guidance for the founding Executive Team.

14. HOW LONG WILL I SERVE ON THIS COMMITTEE?

The initial term for our founding Advisory Committees will be for 2 years. Additionally, each member will serve at the discretion of the executive, and will remain a valuable member of our team until such time as the member wishes to no longer serve. Advisory Committee members may certainly serve consecutive terms, with no limitations.

15. QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE JOINING YOUR NEXT BOARD

(a) IS THIS THE RIGHT CAUSE AND ORGANIZATION FOR ME?

Members have important responsibilities that require a commitment of time, skill, and resources. They do the same.

Can you work with this initiative and this organization at this particular stage in its life?

You may want a board that is stable and can let you learn about board work in a deliberate way.

Serving as a committee member is one of the most challenging and rewarding of volunteer assignments.

While appointment or election to a board is an honor, the organization's growth and dynamism depends on the contribution of selfless members.

The next time you consider joining a board, first ask yourself whether you truly feel strongly about the type of work that the organization does and the people it serves.

More than likely you will prefer to work with an organization you believe is truly worthwhile.

After all, you are about to give it your time, knowledge and money, and recommend to others that this initiative is worthwhile and is aligned to your own values and beliefs about what is possible when people work together to accomplish one objective of securing the future of the continent that we love.

At one time in an organization's life, board service may be fairly smooth with a few bumps, while at another time board service may involve a hair-raising roller coaster ride (of course, an unexpected event can throw any board for a loop).

What type of board seems right for you right now? You may want a board that really lets you roll up your sleeves and get to work with the other board members, or you may want a board that is stable and can let you learn about board work in a deliberate way.

This is a new initiative that has no past to rely upon but promises a future that you will take part in creating and managing.

(b) WHAT CAN I, AND WHAT WILL I, CONTRIBUTE TO THIS ORGANIZATION?

Your desire to contribute will only be fulfilled when you spare even one hour a day to make a difference. Ask yourself how many minutes you spent on social networking sites with no purpose.

Through this initiative, you will network with friends and colleagues underpinned by a new sense of purpose about what are possible.

What skills, contacts, and perspectives do I have that will be useful to this organization?

How, specifically, will the board use what I can bring? Perhaps your customer network includes dozens of influential community leaders. Consider first what you bring to the table, and then, whether you are willing to give that to the organization.

Look, too, for vehicles for your skills and experience: if you can't see a specific vehicle work on this initiative and help market a worthwhile initiative.

organize networking or training events that will give you exposure.

What are your practical requirements? Do you want your board near home? Near work? How much time am I willing to put in? Do I believe in this organization enough to introduce my customers to it?

Would I feel comfortable having my name on their letterhead or on their brochure? The right time to ask these questions is before, not after, you have joined this initiative.

(c) WHAT DO I WANT TO GET OUT OF BEING ON THIS BOARD?

Meet new people, volunteer to help put on the annual luncheon or staff the table at a street fair.

An all-too-common experience for board members at the ends of their terms is a feeling that they didn't, after all, really get deeply involved and don't, as a result, feel that they either contributed as much or got as much as they had hoped when they first joined.

Board members who plan and ask for what they want in the organization will contribute more as well as gain more.

For example, if you don't have a better understanding of the movers and shakers in Africa, consider asking to be engaged in an initiative that seeks to transform our bank of knowledge. Equally, if you are about to graduate and are looking for a job, consider being part of the change that you want to see by associating yourself with solution providers or rainmakers.

If there's a community leader on the Advisory Committees who you would love to get to know, ask to be on the relevant Committees that will posted on the website, and put in the time to be sure you get to know all the members well.

If one of your reasons for joining the board was to meet new people, volunteer to help