

## **The Evidence of a Transformative Journey: LEAP Africa Alumni Network (LAAN)**

LEAP Africa is a youth-focused leadership development organization committed to raising leaders that will transform Africa; through interventions for young people, that bridge the gap in leadership, education, employability, and entrepreneurship.

For the past 20 years, the organization has been committed to this course with programmes like the Social Innovators Programme popularly known as SIP, the Youth Leadership Programme (YLP), the iLEAD Fellowship Programme, Leadership, Ethics, and Civic Programme (LEC), the School2Work Programme and so many other programmes including ones under the Nigeria Youth Futures Fund also known as the NYFF project.

The beautiful thing about the organization is not just the fantastic programmes and its implementation style but also the intentionality of its alumni network. It is good to implement projects based on needs assessment but it is even more important to keep in touch with the constituents (beneficiaries) long after the programme has been completed. In 2022, LEAP Africa onboarded its first LAAN excos as the extended eyes of the organization to help drive the community of African leaders. With over 70000 alumni across the continent, the excos and regional leads were saddled with the responsibility of keeping the community alive.

As LEAP Africa celebrates two (2) decades in leadership and youth development, its alumni still serve as a testament to our impact over the years. Hence, the organization set out to celebrate the community of changemakers from May 2022 to October of the same year. With projects such as the Akwa-Ibom State Hangout, Abuja Hangout, the Social Innovators Reunion, and the National Hangout and Awards ceremony.

The big event also known as the National Hangout and Awards was held on the 29th of October 2022 with the attendance of changemakers across the continent. It is more interesting to note that some of the alumni members are now making an impact on a global scale. The event had a lot of fun sides to it with games like the raffle draw and speed talks from industry experts, recognition and awards to exceptional alumni over the years, etc.

For 20 years, LEAP Africa has consistently redefined the true meaning of leadership in Africa and its credible alumni community is a testament to this. As a beneficiary of both the LEC and iLEAD programme and now a team member in the Lagos office, I am certain that the organization will continue to make an impact in Africa for decades to come.

Cheers to 20 years of positive impact on African youths.