

# FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER





*Yemi Comprehensive College has also identified other students in financial distress and hopes they too might receive assistance in the future. Following the visit, the Foundation is currently reviewing ways it might provide further support. The visit served as a reminder of the real impact of educational support and the pressing need for continued investment—not just in individual students, but in the institutions that serve them.*

# *Visiting students at Yemi School*

*Lagos, Nigeria — March 12th 2025*

The Woodhall Capital Foundation recently visited Yemi Comprehensive College to connect with students benefiting from its scholarship program.

The visit offered an opportunity to check in with recipients, hear their stories firsthand, and better understand the school environment in which they are being supported. Among the students met were Emmanuel and Faith, both of whom shared heartfelt testimonies about the impact of the scholarship on their academic journeys and personal development. Faith, a student with dreams of becoming an actress, expressed deep gratitude for the financial support that has covered her school fees and helped her register at the PEFTI Film Institute. The sponsorship, she said, has allowed her to feel confident in pursuing her passion for acting.

Emmanuel, a 16-year-old aspiring robotic engineer, reflected on the six years he has been sponsored by the foundation. Emmanuel spoke of how the consistent support has shaped his academic path and personal values. His determination to give back in the future—by sponsoring a hundred students—is a testament to the program's long-term impact. He also recently won first place in a spelling competition, a feat both the school and foundation celebrated as evidence of his growing potential.

The school's principal reported that all four students under the scholarship are performing well. One student is preparing for the W&EC examinations, another excels in science subjects, and Emmanuel continues to stand out in competitions and academics alike. The principal noted that the consistent payment of school fees by The Foundation has ensured uninterrupted education for these students, a gesture that is deeply appreciated by the school.

However, the visit also revealed deeper needs within the school. Following the passing of the school's founder, the institution has struggled with maintenance and funding, therefore the school's operations have been left to a small team. The school currently lacks a library, and the infrastructure is visibly in need of renovation. These challenges were clearly seen during the visit and documented in a short video produced by the Foundation.

# *Woodhall Capital Foundation Strengthens Educational Support with Visit to Nanti School*

*Lagos Nigeria — February 26th 2025*

Woodhall Capital Foundation has reaffirmed its commitment to helping improve the education of children from underserved communities with a return visit to Nanti Community School, an institution situated on a remote island in Lagos State. The visit is part of The Foundation's ongoing social investment strategy, highlights its expanding role in bridging Nigeria's education gap through structured, long-term interventions

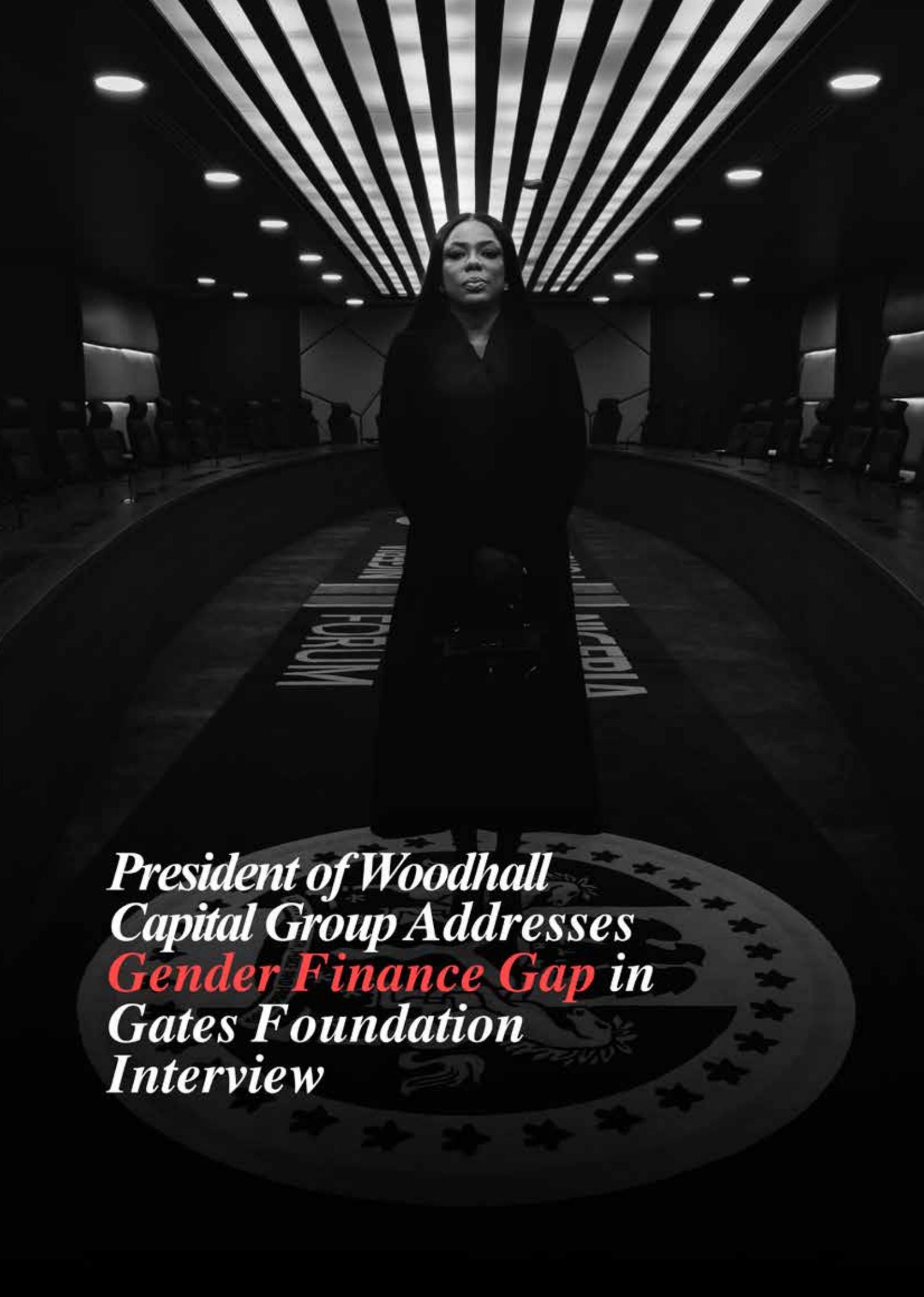
Nanti Community School, located on a remote island in Lagos State, exemplifies the determination of students and educators who overcome daily obstacles to learning. With access possible only by boat, the school highlights the persistent logistical and financial barriers that shape education in underserved communities. In response to these challenges, Woodhall Capital Foundation is taking a hands-on, long-term approach to supporting grassroots education. This includes regular follow-up visits, continued resource support, and building relationships with teachers and school leaders to better understand their evolving needs. The Foundation remains focused on making meaningful contributions—providing support where it's needed most and ensuring that its efforts lead to real, measurable improvements over time.

As part of its ongoing commitment, The Foundation now fully funds the salaries of three

teaching staff—helping the school maintain consistency in the classroom and improve the overall learning experience. It has also supported the creation of a Computer Training Center, a necessary resource in a community where access to digital tools is limited.

Since the implementation of the center, notable progress has been recorded in digital literacy. Students in lower primary grades have developed basic computer skills, while senior pupils have demonstrated proficiency in operating software tools and navigating social media. The Center represents an important step in helping students develop modern skills, thus enhancing their future competitiveness in a technology-driven economy.

The visit also served as an opportunity to assess operational needs. Teachers identified several critical requirements that remain unmet, including additional classrooms, whiteboards to replace outdated chalkboards, mathematics teaching aids, and a television for early learners in the crèche. The Foundation members also noted that sanitation facilities are in urgent need of repair and the school roof presents significant leakage issues that hinders learning during the rainy season. Moving forward, the team



*President of Woodhall  
Capital Group Addresses  
**Gender Finance Gap** in  
Gates Foundation  
Interview*



## ***Mojisola Hunponu-Wusu Addresses Gender Finance Gap in Gates Foundation Interview***

*Lagos, Nigeria – March 24th 2025*

In a recent interview with the Gates Foundation, Mojisola Hunponu-Wusu, President of the Woodhall Capital Foundation, shed light on the persistent barriers women face in securing funding. She called for practical, actionable solutions to enhance financial inclusion for women, with a particular focus on emerging markets.

***As part of the Gates Foundation's initiative to advance gender equality in financial systems, the conversation highlighted a persistent paradox in women's access to credit.***

Globally, women have some of the highest loan repayment rates estimated at 95% yet they continue to receive a much smaller share of loans and financial services from formal institutions like banks and credit agencies. Despite their strong track record, women remain largely overlooked in traditional lending systems.

The discussion shed light on how traditional lending systems continue to disadvantage women. Many financial institutions rely on credit models that prioritise collateral—such as land, property, or equipment—which many women, particularly those in informal sectors like market trading or small-scale farming, do not have. This makes it difficult for them to access working capital or grow their businesses. Cultural norms, limited financial literacy, and gender bias in credit assessment and distribution further exacerbate the problem.

Mrs. Hunponu-Wusu emphasised the urgency of revising current financial frameworks to foster inclusivity. She advocated for the adoption of alternative credit evaluation methods, and the implementation of policies that eliminate gender discrimination in financial systems. She further stressed the critical need for enhanced financial literacy, and targeted policy reforms to create a fair and functional financial ecosystem.

This engagement reflects Woodhall Capital Foundation's ongoing commitment to investing in ways that promote equality and fairness in the financial world. Through the Foundation and its investment strategy, the firm has supported initiatives that empower women entrepreneurs and professionals by improving their access to funding and creating opportunities for leadership roles in the private sector, as demonstrated by the newly launched Captains of Industry Mentorship Programme.

As gender-focused finance continues to gain traction through increasing investments in women-led businesses and initiatives aimed at closing the gender gap, Woodhall Capital's role at the intersection of capital, innovation, and social change underscores its commitment to driving long-term, systemic transformation



Leaders use both... to inform their philosophy.

Managing one's emotions, while remaining empathetic, enhances collaboration and strengthens interpersonal dynamics within the team.

Demonstrating reliability and openness creates a secure environment where team members feel confident and supported.

Being open about weaknesses or uncertainties shows humility and authenticity creates trust.

MBA

...ing the ...

# *Woodhall Capital Foundation Launches **Mentorship Series** for Business Leaders*

Lagos, Nigeria – April 4th 2025

Woodhall Capital Foundation, in partnership with Mentor Intro Africa, has launched an intensive mentorship program aimed at equipping Nigeria's next generation of industry leaders with the tools, insights, and networks required to navigate today's complex business environment. The initiative, titled Captains of Industry, marked the beginning of a six-week developmental journey designed to accelerate leadership capacity among 40 selected mentees from diverse sectors of Nigeria's economy.

The opening session featured distinguished guests, including Mrs. Chinwe Iloghalu, Managing Director of Nova Bank, and Mrs. Onyinye Aderibigbe, Head of Brands and Marketing at Woodhall Capital. Their discourse focused on resilience in leadership—highlighting that discipline and values-driven decision-making are fundamental to business success in emerging markets.

The President of Woodhall Capital Foundation, **Mrs. Hunponu-Wusu**, set the tone for the program with a speech on authentic leadership. Her address emphasized the role of emotional intelligence, transparency, and self-awareness in building organizational trust and sustainable influence. Her message resonated deeply with attendees, particularly in its challenge to conventional leadership paradigms and its call for a more human-centered approach to professional growth.

Participants were encouraged to reframe leadership not as a position, but as a practice—one rooted in deliberate actions and long-term vision. One mentee—Ms. Munachi, shared profound takeaways from the event, highlighting the importance of not seeking external validation, especially as women in business—noting how hearing this principle articulated gave her a renewed sense of freedom to operate authentically in her leadership role.

Beyond inspiration, the mentorship structure is designed for measurable impact. Over the coming six weeks, each of the 40 mentees will receive structured guidance and access to industry insights through those teaching the modules. The program is underpinned by a curated networking platform that will allow participants to sustain their relationships by sharing information and connecting – extending their growth beyond the six-week mentorship program.

**As the program unfolds, it is clear that the Captains of Industry initiative is about creating a lasting ecosystem of innovation, collaboration, and ethical leadership. With each mentee empowered to lead with integrity, authenticity and vision, the program is paving the way for a brighter, more sustainable future for Africa's business landscape**

On June 27th, both the Lagos and Abuja offices demonstrated ***our unwavering commitment to education through simultaneous outreach initiatives that reinforced our belief in the transformative power of learning and nurturing young minds.***

Our Lagos team conducted an education outreach at three of our partner schools, visiting children who receive scholarships under the Woodhall Capital Foundation Scholarship Scheme. More importantly, they represent the future leaders of Nigeria. At Whitefield High School, we connected with Timothy Erhimona, at Lively Stone School with Esther Erhimona, and at Kittab Salam College with Faiiza Ogundele.

These visits provided invaluable opportunities to interact with students and staff, gaining deeper insights into their learning environments and overall well-being. The positive feedback we received regarding each student's academic performance was particularly encouraging, highlighting the impact of investing in education.

Simultaneously, our Abuja office visited the SOS Children's Village, a global organization that provides family-style care, medical aid and education for children without parental care. This visit offered our team a profound glimpse into the dedicated work being done to support some of Nigeria's

most vulnerable children. We toured the facilities and engaged directly with both the children and staff, gaining a comprehensive understanding of their needs and the challenges they face in providing holistic care and education.

These concurrent outreach initiatives in Lagos and Abuja underscore our Foundation's commitment to education as a cornerstone of sustainable development. Whether supporting individual students in partner schools or engaging with institutions caring for vulnerable children, we recognize that investing in education is investing in Nigeria's future. Each interaction, each conversation, and each moment of connection reinforces our understanding that education is not just about academic achievement, but about nurturing the whole child.

As we continue our educational outreach efforts, this June visit reminds us that our impact extends beyond financial support to meaningful relationships and sustained engagement with the communities we serve. The bright minds we encountered and the dedicated educators we met fuel our determination to expand our educational initiatives and create even more opportunities for young Nigerians to reach their full potential.



*Investing in Tomorrow*



## Transforming Leaders, Transforming Futures

London, United Kingdom – May 22nd, 2025

After six transformative weeks, the Woodhall Capital Foundation has successfully concluded its groundbreaking Captains of Industry mentorship programme in collaboration with Mentor Intro Africa. What began as an ambitious initiative to equip Nigeria's emerging leaders with essential tools and insights has evolved into a remarkable testament to the power of authentic leadership development.

The programme, which brought together 40 carefully selected mentees from diverse sectors of Nigeria's economy, culminated in results that exceeded all expectations. An overwhelming 98% of participants reported that the experience fundamentally changed how they lead and live, with the same percentage expressing significantly stronger confidence and clarity in their professional and personal journeys.

Perhaps most striking was the immediate impact on entrepreneurial action: 38% of participants launched new businesses or personal projects during the six-week programme itself, demonstrating the practical application of the leadership principles they were learning in real-time.

The programme's success can also be attributed to the presence of *prominent changemakers* who guided future Captains of Industry, including *Mrs. Chinwe Iloghalu, Managing Director of Nova Bank, Mr. Christopher Ofikulu, Executive Director of Polaris Bank, Miss. Dabota Lawson, Founder of Dabota Cosmetics, Mrs. Onyinyechi Aderibigbe, Heads of Brands and Marketing at Woodhall Capital and Mrs. Mojisola Hunponu-Wusu, President of Woodhall Capital.*

Led by the joint vision of Woodhall Capital Foundation and Mentor Intro Africa, the ripple effects are already visible across Nigeria's business ecosystem. The 40 mentees have returned to their respective industries armed with a renewed sense of purpose and the confidence to implement meaningful change.

***The success of the Captains of Industry initiative reinforces Woodhall Capital Foundation's commitment to nurturing the next generation of African leaders.***

# *THE ECONOMICS OF FASHION*



# *Investing in African Excellence*

*London, United Kingdom – May 22nd, 2025*

Last month, the Woodhall Capital Foundation proudly sponsored an Executive Masterclass in Global Fashion, held in partnership with the London School of Economics and African Fashion Week London. Hosted by HRM Queen Ronke Ademiluyi-Ogunwusi and chaired by Mrs. Bola Obileye, this milestone event brought fashion and finance leaders together to explore how creativity, commerce, and cultural identity can drive Africa's global influence.

As part of our mission to break barriers to education, the Foundation fully funded tuition for four promising students, a direct investment in the future leaders of global fashion and commerce. In a stirring address, our President, Mrs. Mojisola

Hunponu-Wusu, urged African creatives to take up space boldly and unapologetically: "Don't just watch from the sidelines because your identity is good enough. Own it. Lead with it."

The two-day masterclass delivered practical tools and fresh insight for navigating the fashion economy while staying true to one's heritage. More than an academic exercise, it was a rallying call for cultural pride, strategic thinking, and meaningful participation on the world stage.

By bringing together academic excellence, industry expertise, and cultural celebration, the Foundation continues to open doors for African talent to thrive globally, on our terms, with our stories, and in our own voice.



*Together, we are  
shaping a future  
where **African  
creativity**  
is not only seen  
but **invested in**  
by us, for us,  
and for  
the  
world.*

# *Breaking All Barriers*

Abule Ijesha, Lagos, Nigeria -- May 19th, 2025

On a day of meaningful engagement and inspiration, Woodhall Capital Foundation was invited to address Nigeria's future leaders at the Breaking All Barriers conference hosted by Pastor Dotun Ojelabi at Yaba College of Technology. The event, held at one of Nigeria's premier institutions of higher learning, brought together passionate students eager to engage with the fundamental principles that drive success.

Mrs. Mojisola Hunponu-Wusu, President of Woodhall Capital, delivered a powerful keynote address that resonated deeply with the audience of aspiring leaders. Her message centered on a profound truth often overlooked in today's fast-paced world: that true success requires the courage to turn back and face what's difficult, and to consistently choose purpose over comfort.

The conference theme, Breaking All Barriers, provided the perfect foundation for Mrs. Hunponu-Wusu's address, which challenged conventional notions of achievement and success. Rather than focusing on quick wins or shortcuts, her speech emphasized the importance of returning to foundational principles where hard

work, resilience, and a clear vision take precedence over short-term convenience.

"Success is not about avoiding challenges," Mrs. Hunponu-Wusu reminded the eager audience. "It's about having the courage to turn back and face what's difficult, to choose purpose over comfort, and to embrace the journey of growth that comes with genuine leadership."

This engagement with Yaba College of Technology represents another milestone in Woodhall Capital Foundation's commitment to nurturing the next generation of leaders. By bringing these principles directly to our institutions, the Foundation continues to invest in the long-term development of Nigeria's next generation.

***True leadership must begin with a deep understanding of what it means to lead with integrity, and as these future leaders break barriers in their own spheres of influence, they do so armed with the understanding that true success is built on the foundation of choosing purpose over comfort, time and time again.***



# *A Community Table: Sharing More Than Just a Meal*

Lagos, Nigeria -- April 25th, 2025

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# LAGOS ISLAND MATERNITY HOSPITAL



# *At the Heart of Healthcare*

Lagos - May 2nd, 2025

On May 2nd, members of Woodhall Capital embarked on a healthcare outreach that reshaped our understanding of the challenges facing Nigeria's most vulnerable populations. Our destination: two institutions that represent both the hope and heartbreak of healthcare in Lagos; Massey Street Children's Hospital and Lagos Island Maternity Hospital. Our first stop was Massey Street Children's Hospital, the first children's hospital in Sub-Saharan Africa, established in 1914. What we encountered there was both inspiring and devastating. We saw children and infants requiring intensive medical intervention, tiny bodies connected to drips and oxygen equipment, some having been on life support for weeks. Among the most heart-wrenching encounters was a baby girl who had been abandoned and found on a pig farm, bearing scars on her face and nibbled fingers that told a story of unimaginable trauma. Perhaps the most striking discovery was the number of families trapped in what we can only describe as medical limbo. Parents who had brought their children for treatment, received care, and were medically cleared for discharge, yet remained in the hospital corridors because they couldn't afford to pay their bills. At Lagos Island Maternity Hospital, we witnessed similar patterns, including a 19-year-old mother who had given birth weeks before but remained unable to leave because she lacked the funds for discharge. We couldn't leave knowing that families were suffering not from lack of medical care, but from lack of financial resources. Our team took immediate action, paying for patients who needed urgent care and clearing discharge fees for families ready to go home. Yet, we understood that individual payments, while necessary, were not sufficient to address the systemic challenges we witnessed. As a result, we are broadening our existing relationship with the Health Emergency Initiative (HEI) to include providing financial aid for patients in such conditions. Through this expanded partnership, we aim to ensure that no family remains trapped in hospital corridors due to

inability to pay, while also working to address the broader healthcare accessibility challenges that create these situations. As we processed the day's experiences, we were reminded that our work extends far beyond business development. The healthcare challenges we witnessed reinforced our belief that sustainable development requires addressing the full spectrum of human need.





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