AUGUST 2026

Alumni Newsletter

Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa

Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa

Africa Business Media Innovators 2026

Bloomberg will convene the 2026 Africa Business Media Innovators (ABMI) conference in Cape Town, South Africa, from September 27–29, 2026. Building on more than a decade of bringing together leaders across media, business, technology, government, and philanthropy, ABMI continues to serve as a platform for dialogue, collaboration and innovation in support of Africa's evolving media landscape.

Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa Financial Journalism Training Program Expands to Namibia

Menesia Muinjo, Director General of the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation.

Building on Bloomberg's longstanding commitment to strengthening journalism across Africa, Bloomberg and the BMIA (FJT) Secretariat, Strathmore University Business School, hosted a stakeholder breakfast in June in Windhoek, Namibia, in partnership with the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) and the International University of Management (IUM) ahead of the launch of the Financial Journalism Training program in Namibia this September. The breakfast introduced industry leaders to the program and highlighted its role in equipping journalists with the skills needed to report on Namibia's evolving economic landscape. Menesia Muinjo, Director General of the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation, noted "The BMIA initiative is an investment in institutional capability, stronger public discourse, accountability, and ultimately Africa's economic future."

The Financial Journalism Training Program Graduations in Ethiopia

In May, Bloomberg and the BMIA Financial Journalism Training (FJT) Secretariat, Strathmore University Business School (SBS), celebrated the graduation of more than 100 journalists from the first and second Ethiopia cohorts of the BMIA FJT program. Since its launch in Ethiopia in 2024, the program has strengthened participants' ability to report on complex economic and financial issues with accuracy, clarity, and confidence.

Among those attending the graduation ceremony was Addis Ababa University President Samuel Kifle, who underscored the importance of quality journalism in today's environment, noting: "The knowledge and skills you have gained in data-driven and evidence-based reporting come at a pivotal moment for Ethiopia, when credible journalism and informed storytelling are more important than ever."

These graduates join a growing network of more than 1,000 BMIA alumni across Africa who have completed the program since its inception, further expanding the continent's community of well-trained financial journalists.

Dr. Samuel Kifle, President of Addis Abeba University; Dr. Arega Yirdaw, President of Unity University; Ndivhuwo Nemukula, Program Manager, Africa Corporate Philanthropy, Bloomberg; Dr. Samson Mekonnen, Director General, Ethiopia Media Authority.


The 101 delegates who completed intakes 1 and 2 of the BMIA Financial Journalism Program in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

> **"WITHOUT ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND STRONG FINANCIAL REPORTING, IT BECOMES VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE COUNTRY TO EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT."**
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> **– Dr. Arega Yirdaw, Unity University President**

Upcoming BMIA Alumni Virtual Webinar: AI, Verification, and Factchecking

Join us on **August 5** for a virtual interactive discussion exclusive to **BMIA alumni** exploring the intersection of **AI**, **Verification**, and **Factchecking**. Moderated by Bloomberg's Claudia Quinonez, this session will feature BMIA alumnus Oluwamayowa Tijani, Director of Projects at the Cable Newspaper Journalism Foundation and a PhD candidate at Northumbria University researching AI in journalism. Together, they will examine how AI is transforming fact-checking and source verification, the challenges posed by misinformation, and how journalists can leverage AI responsibly while maintaining accuracy, transparency, and public trust. Alumni who register and attend the webinar will receive complimentary access to the Bloomberg for Education courses.

Register Here

Alumni Spotlight

Charles Mafa

BMIA Financial Journalism Training Alumnus, Zambia, Intake 2

Charles Mafa is an award-winning Zambian investigative journalist serving as the Editor and Co-founder of the [MakanDay Centre for Investigative Journalism], an independent, non-profit newsroom dedicated to advancing accountability, transparency, and good governance. A 2019 alumnus of the Bloomberg Media Initiative Africa Financial Journalism Training Program, Mr. Mafa has reported on various topics, with investigations published by the BBC, *The New York Times*, *Mail & Guardian*, and other international media.

Beyond his reporting, Mafa is passionate about developing the next generation of journalists. He spent more than five years mentoring journalists with BBC Media Action and has trained hundreds of reporters across Zambia in investigative journalism, financial reporting, and other important topics through MakanDay and other partnerships. His work has earned several honors, including the 2016 MISA Zambia Overall Best Journalist Award and selection as an Edward R. Murrow Fellow.

Looking back on your journalism career, what first inspired you to pursue financial and investigative reporting, and how did the BMIA Financial Journalism Training program contribute to your professional development?

When I started my career, I was driven by a simple belief: journalism should make a difference in people's lives. As I covered communities across Zambia, I noticed a pattern. Reporting across Zambia showed me that many stories—whether about healthcare, pollution, infrastructure, or corruption—came down to one question: where did the money go? That curiosity drew me into investigative and financial journalism. The BMIA Financial Journalism Training program gave me the skills to analyze financial information. More importantly, it changed the way I think as a journalist. Instead of seeing financial reporting as a specialist field, I began to see it as an essential tool for accountability journalism.

Financial journalism often requires reporters to translate complex economic and business issues into stories that are accessible and relevant to everyday audiences. How do you approach this challenge in your work?

I spend a lot of time simplifying the issue for myself before I begin writing. Once I understand it clearly, I look for real people whose lives have been affected. Numbers are important, but numbers become meaningful when they explain why a clinic has no medicines, why a community has no clean water or why taxpayers are paying more than they should. Ultimately, I believe good financial journalism is about helping citizens understand how decisions made in boardrooms and government offices affect their everyday lives.

Education is a lifelong process for journalists. How has continuous learning shaped your career, and what skills do you believe journalists need to develop to succeed in today's media environment?

The moment journalists think they know everything is the moment they stop growing. Some of the biggest investigations I have worked on have forced me to learn entirely new subjects, each one becoming another classroom. The media landscape is changing rapidly, with artificial intelligence, open-source intelligence, satellite imagery, data journalism, and digital verification becoming essential tools, making continuous learning more important than ever. Beyond technical skills, I believe curiosity remains our greatest asset, because good journalists never stop asking questions and are humble enough to admit when they don't know something.

What advice would you offer to current and future BMIA Financial Journalism Training participants who are looking to build impactful and sustainable careers in journalism?

- Learn to enjoy reading financial documents. Budgets, procurement records, audit reports and company filings may not seem exciting at first, but they often contain the most important stories.
- Most importantly, protect your integrity. Your credibility is your greatest professional asset. Facts, fairness and accuracy must always come before speed or popularity.
- Finally, stay connected with your fellow BMIA alumni. The friendships and professional relationships you build through Bloomberg can become lifelong sources of support, collaboration and inspiration.

Many of your reporting projects have involved collaboration with other journalists, editors, and organizations. How has working with others contributed to your growth as a journalist, and what lessons have you learned about collaboration that you would share with emerging reporters?

At MakanDay, collaboration is part of our culture. We work with local reporters who understand their communities, experienced editors who challenge our assumptions and international partners who bring specialised expertise. Together, we produce stronger journalism than any one of us could achieve individually. If I have learned one lesson, it is that collaboration is not about sharing the workload—it is about strengthening the quality and impact of the journalism. It requires trust, humility and a willingness to learn from others.

Opportunities

- The Pulitzer Center is seeking proposals to advance wide-reaching and relevant journalism on issues impacting communities in Africa. Read more.
- The Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Center for Business Journalism provides experienced journalists with grants and editorial support to produce investigative stories with a strong economic, financial or business angle. Read more.
- The Fund for Investigative Journalism provides grants and other support for reporters to produce high-quality, unbiased, non-partisan investigative stories that have an impact. Read more.
- The Konrad Adenauer Foundation will host its Fact-Checking Fellowship Program in Dakar, Senegal, from August 17 to September 2, 2026, bringing together emerging fact-checkers, journalists, and media professionals for intensive training in verification, digital fact-checking tools, and combating misinformation. Read more.

What we're reading and listening to:

- Next Africa Podcast, hosted by Jennifer Zabasajja, Bloomberg TV Chief Africa Correspondent and Anchor, provides a deep dive into the business stories shaping Africa.
- Cybersecurity Center to Fortify Africa's $1.5 Trillion Digital Economy, by BMIA Alumnus Kenya Intake 1 Jackson Okoth, Content Developer and Editor, Kenyan Wall Street
- Exploring why the cost of access makes this a World Cup for the 1%, by BMIA Fellow Kenya Class 2 Ramah Nyang, Africa Correspondent, Bloomberg News
- How 'Afrophobia' Is Unraveling South Africa's Post-Apartheid Vision, by BMIA Fellow South Africa Class 2 Anthony Squazzin, Senior Reporter for Africa, Bloomberg News

Bloomberg Philanthropies Updates

Bloomberg Philanthropies announced the winners of its largest-ever Mayors Challenge, recognizing cities with innovative solutions to improve essential public services. Among the 24 winning municipalities were **Beira**, Mozambique, **Benin City**, Nigeria, **Cape Town**, South Africa, and **Kanifing**, The Gambia, with each city receiving $1 million and implementation support to scale their ideas.

At London Climate Action Week, Bloomberg Philanthropies powered the Local Climate Action Summit, convening mayors, governors, and global leaders to strengthen collaboration and highlight the growing role of cities and states in advancing climate and energy priorities. The Summit featured **Yvonne Aki-Sawyerr**, Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone, and Co-Chair of C40 Cities.

To learn more about future events, alumni news, and professional development opportunities, visit our BMIA Alumni LinkedIn page and the BMIA webpage.