

PROFILE OF MS. OGECHUKWU OLUFUNMILOLA MODIE

Her Persona

“Oge” as she is simply known and called by friends and close associates is a **Technocrat, Serial Creative and a Philanthropist**. A beautiful, gentle yet fearless soul, she is her brightest working in communities, giving back and enriching lives. Her life motto: **Love For God, Love For Country, Love For People** has been the foundation of her journey in all three parts of her life.

Born on the 12th of January 1976 at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, to a family of four siblings and parents who were in the Nigerian Civil Service; her father who retired as an Associate Dean, School of Medicine at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and her mother as the Chief Nursing Administrator at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital Enugu.

She grew up in the town of Enugu where the life values of integrity, hard work and faithfulness were imbibed in her. Her first name, “Ogechukwu,” simply means “God’s time” in Igbo language. Her full name reveals a lineage from both the Western and Eastern part of Nigeria. Oge’s middle name “Olufunmilola” originated from her paternal grandmother who was Yoruba.

Qualification & Academia

Oge earned a Bachelor of Science with Honors in Economics from University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN) and she was awarded a Master of Business Administration Degree from the Cranfield School of Management. She also holds a level 2 APMP UK project management certification.

Career

Oge’s career has evolved over a 24 years’ timeline with key experiences in the Nigerian Private, Third and Public sectors. Her key roles have covered three focus areas: **Finance, Opinion Research and Public Policy & Administration**.

Her Private sector Finance experience saw her creating high value for companies in areas of mergers and acquisitions, strategy, project finance and private equity whilst working for Agosto & Co Limited, (Nigeria’s first indigenous credit rating company), Alliance Consulting Company (a partnership between Agosto and IBFC consulting), Heirs Alliance (a portfolio company of Tony Elumelu), Nextzon Business Services (a strategy consulting company) and, the Makeda Fund Managers LLC (a private equity fund focused on providing capital to women owned business across West Africa).

Her SME experience was an entrepreneurial pursuit called Alternativ Managers, an SME focused consulting company founded in 2009 by her. Alternativ Managers went ahead to consult for the Ford Foundation, The Nigeria SME Agency (SMEDAN), LEAP Africa and Fate Foundation to build capacity in SMEs and stakeholders in the Real sector.

In 2012, she changed career direction and cut her teeth at taking on third sector roles, she became the Chief Operating Officer of NOIPolls (an Opinion Research company) and later became the Managing Director /Chief Executive Officer four months on. She was at the time the first and only woman to have headed a leading independent opinion polling and research organization in Nigeria. She championed the use of opinion research to shape public policy through evidence based research for the public sector, the ability to expand on product growth, branding and marketing for private sectors, and the ability to measure impact of development programs for third sector companies.

She was then head hunted in 2015 to take on her first public sector; the role of Chief of Staff to the then Group Managing Director (GMD) of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) with the key responsibility of the provision of administrative and advisory support to the office of the Group Managing Director. In the same year, the GMD was also appointed as the Minister of State Petroleum resources. She then doubled both as the Chief of Staff to the Honorable Minister of State, Petroleum Resources and GMD NNPC. In this role, the current reforms being witnessed in the Nigerian Petroleum Industry were borne out of the “20 fixes” and “7 big wins” both reform programs for both the NNPC and Ministry of Petroleum. In 2020, she was again headhunted to serve as the Senior Special Assistant to the current Nigerian President Muhammad Buhari on Strategic Communications. She is currently serving in this role. Her roles have seen her designing, developing and executing public policy for national growth.

Achievements and Awards

Whilst working in her various roles consulting for the Nigerian and West African Financial sectors; she handled strategic projects, some of which were a multimillion dollar set up of an insurance company, set up of a business incubator and many more.

Under her leadership, NOIPolls won various awards: **the Global Excellence Quality Award** for the “Global Most Innovative Consumer Research and Data Analysis Company” for the year 2014 and the **Pan African Distinguished Achievers Awards (PADAA)** for “West Africa’s Leading Opinion Polling Research Organization, to name a few.

In 2015, Oge was awarded an honorary Distinguished Fellow of the Institute of Brand Management of Nigeria (FIBN) and made a Fellow of the Institute of Credit Administration (FICA) and a 2016 Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Administration (FCAI),

She was conferred with an **African Leadership Excellence Award by the African Leadership Magazine, United Kingdom** in 2015 in recognition of her Leadership and Contribution to the Economic Growth of Nigeria. She was also made a Class of 2015 member of the **African Leadership Network (ALN)**, an inspiring and fast-paced gathering of hundreds of the world’s most influential leaders – crafting the future for Africa.

Oge was awarded the **Credit Management Director of the Year** during the 2015 Nigerian Credit Industry Awards.

As part of her work with young Nigerians, she has been awarded thrice by The University of Abuja Chapter of the National Economics Students Association (NESA) for **Exceptional Contribution to the Growth and Development of Economics (2015)** and has a **Stellar Recognition of Philanthropic and Humanitarian Service towards Humanity (2016)** and **Firm Recognition of Tremendous Support to NESA (2017)**.

She received a **Certificate of Appreciation by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN)** Branch of the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) in 2016 for her contribution to the growth of the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry.

In 2019, Oge was awarded an **Honorary Doctorate Degree, Doctor of Arts (D.Arts Hons) in Political Research Development and National Growth** in July 2019 by The European- American University , Commonwealth of Dominica for her work at NOIPolls.

In 2021, she was awarded a **life membership of WIMBIZ** (Women in Business and Politics) Nigeria.

Philanthropy and Contributions

Oge is a passionate advocate for causes on gender rights, youth development, economic growth and rights of people living with disabilities. She is passionate about helping poor and vulnerable persons and participates in various community-based projects that are focused on supporting these persons in the society, empowering families, women, the physically challenged and children.

She is the founder of Wellspring of Life Global Outreach (a faith inspired foundation that caters to the poor and vulnerable families in Abuja communities), Heels of Influence (focused on women economic empowerment) and the First Born Foundation (wholesale grants on Education and Micro business). These foundations have impacted well over 12 thousand plus individuals since activities started in 2016.

As a philanthropist she received a plaque of honor in 2017 for her partnership with the Social Welfare Network Initiative to add value to Internally Displaced Women and Children in Northern Nigeria. She has been honored by the CSR-in-Action Advocacy for her leadership and service towards sustainable development in Nigeria in 2018. She is a 2018 recipient of the True Star Foundation for Excellence's International Women Support for Peace, Ambassador of Peace Award for her laudable contributions towards Nigeria's Growth and Development. In 2019, she received a Distinguished Personality Platinum Award and was endorsed as an Icon of Humanitarian Services by the Arewa Youth Assembly, the foremost youth group in Northern Nigeria.

Creative: Author/Speaker

Oge is an accomplished and published author, a syndicated columnist and writer, teacher, blogger, public speaker and radio host.

She has dedicated herself to writing a weekly faith inclined devotional called **Waters for The Thirsty Soul** and a monthly personal leadership newsletter aptly named, **Fearlessly Authentic**. She also writes for her monthly blog on motivation and etiquette called "**The Little Things Culture**." She also wrote a monthly column "Becoming you" and a quarterly column "The Little Things" for the NNPC (Nigeria's State owned Oil Corporation) publications.

She has created and published a series called "**Waters For the Thirsty Soul™**". This series is made up of a book series, TV series, Radio series and recently a Podcast series. The books :**Vol 1;52 Refreshing Ways To Deepen Your Relationship With God**" and **Vol 2 "Digging your wells"** can be found on Amazon and bookstores across Nigeria. The Radio series called "**Waters For The Thirsty Soul™ – Radio Devotional**", is aired across Nigeria in Lagos, Abuja, Enugu, Port Harcourt, Maiduguri, Kano and Kaduna. The program reaches over 12 million listeners and has an active prayer line open to listeners. The program is in its 10th season with over 130 episodes aired.

Oge has been a speaker at various events, including: IFC Women's Conference in Cairo, Egypt, Private Equity Conference in Nigeria, IFC/Federal Ministry of Health Nigeria Healthcare Summit, Business Day Women Conference, IWOW Possibilities Conference, Nigerian Economic Students Association (NESA) Award Dinner, AISEC – Association internationale des étudiants en sciences économiques et commerciales Events, Sustainability in the Extractive Industries (SITEI) Conferences and the London Business School's Africa Business Summit.

She resides in Abuja Nigeria. To read more on Oge, please visit www.ogemodie.com