

Natalie Fort Appointed Global Chair of G100 Media, Arts & Communication Wing

Renowned Ghanaian broadcast journalist and media executive Natalie Fort has been appointed Global Chair of the Media, Arts & Communication Wing of G100, a prestigious international network of women leaders and He-for-She champions, advocating for gender equality worldwide.

The appointment places Fort among an elite group of global women leaders steering sector-specific advocacy, policy influence, and action across more than 100 countries. G100 brings together women leaders from diverse sectors, supported by male allies, to advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) on gender equality.

Natalie Fort, who previously served as Ghana's Country Chair for the G100 Media, Arts & Communication Wing, becomes one of the few Africans to lead a global G100 wing. In her new role, she will provide strategic leadership across all country chapters, working with national chairs, institutions, and partners to amplify women's voices, promote media equity, strengthen leadership pipelines, and engage

young people in shaping inclusive narratives.

Speaking on the appointment, Fort described the role as both an honour and a responsibility.

"In a decade where narratives shape culture, opportunity, and power, media and communication have a critical role to play. I look forward to working with country chairs, partners, institutions, and young people worldwide to advance women's leadership and contribute meaningfully to global advocacy aligned with SDG 5," she said. Natalie Fort succeeds Alex Okoroji, the immediate past Global Chair of the wing, and has acknowledged her leadership and contributions in building a strong foundation for global collaboration within the Media, Arts & Communication Wing.

She also expressed appreciation to Dr. Harbeen Arora Rai, Founder of G100, for her visionary leadership in establishing the movement, and Dr. Hartini, President of G100, for her stewardship in advancing gender equality on the global stage.

As part of the leadership transition, Ms. Etonam Sey, who previously served as Director of Operations for the G100 Media, Arts & Communication Wing in



Ghana, has been nominated to take over as Ghana's Country Chair, ensuring continuity and sustained momentum at the national level.

Natalie Fort will serve as Global Chair, contributing to G100's work with governments, multilateral institutions, and global platforms including the UN, G7, and G20, through thought leadership, advocacy, and policy recommendations.

G100 is a voluntary, invitation-only global initiative comprising eminent women leaders across sectors, supported by the G100 Denim Club of He-for-She champions, and remains one of the most influential global platforms driving women's leadership and gender equality in this decade.

Celebrating Hardi Yakubu, Borderless Africa – A True Unifier of Africa and Africans

By Gustav Addo, *The African Digest*

It is a very rare sight to see a very young person attempting to achieve noble feats that older (supposed more experienced) and more resourced counterparts/persons have been unable to achieve despite the many years given as well as massive resources at their disposal. So when we see and come across such young persons even with limited resources attempting to achieve the same or even greater feats... such a person is worth celebrating.

I dare say that the African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other pro-African established institutions after all these years and abundant resources have yet been unable to unite Africa and Africans effectively.

And of the many African Heads of States, Presidents and Rulers who have come and gone, very rarely has any one of them been able to effectively get close to the goal line of uniting Africans truly.

Very surprisingly...it is simple men with humble backgrounds, none or limited



resources, with unstoppable passion and drive..but with a clear vision who have been able to make evident, and remarkable impacts in this regard. The Vision? ... True African Unity

Great Men like Kwame Nkrumah, Nelson Mandela, Patrice Lumumba, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Julius Nyerere, Thomas Sankara, Haile Selassie I and I dare add... Hardi Yakubu

Enter Hardi Yakubu ...Son of Africa

Hardi Yakubu is the Coordinator of Africans Rising, a Pan-African movement advocating for a united, liberated Africa, with a key focus on achieving a "Borderless Africa" where Africans can move freely without visas, seeing it as crucial for decolonization and development, contrasting with colonial borders and promoting people-powered change for social justice, climate action, and economic prosperity across the continent.

Who is Hardi Yakubu?

- Pan-African Organizer: A social justice campaigner who mobilizes African people for unity and collective action.
- Africans Rising Coordinator: He leads the movement's efforts to expand civic space, achieve climate and gender justice, and push for reparative justice.
- Advocate for Free Movement: A strong proponent of removing visa requirements for Africans traveling within Africa, believing it's a fundamental right and a step towards true liberation.

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Discovering Beautiful Africa More: The Island of São Vicente, Cape Verde

São Vicente (Portuguese for "Saint Vincent") is one of the Barlavento Islands, the northern group within the Cape Verde archipelago in the Atlantic Ocean, off the West African coast. It is located between the islands of Santo Antão and Santa Luzia, with the Canal de São Vicente separating it from Santo Antão.

São Vicente is a vibrant, arid, and mountainous island in Cape Verde known as the nation's cultural, musical, and artistic hub. Centered on the lively port city of Mindelo, it boasts a rich cultural scene, famous Carnival celebrations, and excellent windsurfing, especially at Sao Pedro and Baía das Gatas.

Mindelo is renowned for its nightlife, live music (including morna), and colonial architecture. It was the home of the legendary singer Cesária Évora. Covering 227 km², it is a volcanic, dry island featuring eroded landscapes, with Monte Verde being 750metres as its highest point.

The island has a mild, dry climate. It is ideal for hiking, water sports, and exploring, particularly during the February Carnival. It is accessed via Cesária Évora Airport and is a short boat ride from the neighboring island of Santo Antão.

The population of São Vicente Island is highly concentrated in Mindelo, and the island is known for its "morabeza," a term representing warm, Cape Verdean hospitality.

About São Vicente, Cape Verde

São Vicente is home to some of Cape Verde's greatest musicians, writers and thinkers.

Considered to be the cultural hub of the island, São Vicente's capital, Mindelo, is proud of its rich

tradition of music and art and has a vibrant nightlife, with a lively buzz of music throughout the pubs, restaurants and nightclubs. If you're looking for culture and a traditional experience then São Vicente will not disappoint.

Mindelo is a vibrant musical town where you can soak up the very best of Cape Verdean culture. By day, head down to Laginha Beach, where there's a bay of white sand and a great beach bar, Kalimba. By night, with live music taking place most evenings across the variety of bars and restaurants, you won't struggle to find several places to grab some tasty food and listen to the talented musicians. Casa Café Mindelo is one of our favourites, and be sure to taste the grogue, the local beverage, which comes in a variety of different flavours.

Apart from Laginha Beach in Mindelo, most of the other beaches on São Vicente are a real treat for windsurfers (best conditions Nov-Apr). São Pedro is arguably one of the world's finest for speed windsurfing. In fact, in 1997 Sandy Beach at Calhau was included in the



European professional circuit. Baia das Gatas in the north of the island which can be reached by four-wheel drive is great for swimming because of the natural lagoon. Many visitors to São Vicente choose to visit Santo Antão, the greenest island in the archipelago. An hour-long ferry crossing will take you to this beautiful island with rugged mountains and green valleys, a popular choice for hikers and a recommended highlight of any stay.

There is a golf course on the island of São Vicente, which is a simple dry course therefore not for a serious golfer!

The History of São Vicente

São Vicente was discovered by the Portuguese explorer Diogo Afonso on 22 January 1462 (Saint Vincent's Day). Due to its lack of water, the island was initially used only as a cattle pasture. When the Municipality of Santo Antão was established in 1732, the island of São Vicente was part of it. At that time, it did not have permanent inhabitants. In 1793 the area of Porto Grande Bay was settled. It was only in 1838, when a coal depot was established at Porto Grande Bay to supply ships on Atlantic routes that the population started to grow rapidly. From the beginning of the 20th century the port of Mindelo lost its importance for transatlantic navigation. Causes for this were the shift from coal to oil as fuel for ships, the rise of competing ports like Dakar and the Canary Islands and the lack of investment in port infrastructure.

The economy of the Island of São Vicente was always based almost exclusively on commerce and services. Due to lack of rain, agriculture is at a subsistence level. Fishing has some relevance, but



conditions prevent it from being more important, not only for the catch—lobster—but also for the associated industries: preserves, drying and salting of fish, and naval construction.

Porto Grande is the main port of Cape Verde, through which passes much of the country's imports. It has a terminal of containers, silos, and refrigeration units that make handling load overflow possible. There is also a modern seawater desalination plant, which provides water for public consumption and for naval shipyards.

In the industrial sector, the island presents an abundance of manpower, even though unskilled, resulting from the exodus of inhabitants of other islands to São Vicente. About 27% of the employed population is unskilled.

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Why Colleagues Suddenly Become “Serious” at the Start of the Year

By Gustav Addo, The African Digest

If you've worked in a Ghanaian office long enough, you'll notice something strange about January.

The office is quieter.
The jokes are fewer.
The usual lunchtime banter has been reduced to polite nods and quick smiles.
Same colleagues. Same desks. New energy.



In December, Davide was loud and playful, cracking jokes by the water dispenser. Michell never missed a chance to tease anyone who sent emails after 5 pm. Amoako always had a story. But in January? Everyone is suddenly focused. Very focused.

So what changed?

January Is the Month of Silent Goals. Behind the calm faces are loud personal targets. Promotions, salary reviews, career switches and side hustles. Everyone comes back from the holidays with private promises they made to themselves, and no one wants distractions.

This is the month people start arriving earlier, leaving later, and typing notes aggressively

during meetings. Not because work suddenly increased, but because intentions did.

The Pressure to “Prove Something”

January comes with a strange fear: “This year, I must not be overlooked.” Employees feel the unspoken pressure to perform from day one. No mistakes. No slacking. No unnecessary familiarity. Everyone wants to set the tone early, especially after end-of-year reflections that didn't go as planned.

Unspoken Competition in the Air

In January, nobody says it out loud, but everyone is watching. Who's suddenly vocal in meetings? Who's volunteering for new projects? Who's dressing sharper than usual? It's not jealousy, it's awareness. People are quietly assessing their place in the office ecosystem.

Less Familiarity, More Professional Distance
That colleague you joked with freely in November now replies to your messages with “Noted” and “Will revert.” January brings boundaries. People pull back emotionally, choosing caution over comfort, especially in offices where performance reviews and restructuring loom.

Fear of Early-Year Mistakes

January mistakes feel heavier. One wrong email, one missed deadline, one careless comment, and it feels like you've ruined the whole year already. So people speak less, listen more, and move carefully.

But Here's the Office Buzz Truth

January seriousness isn't bad. It's clarity. It's people reassessing, realigning, and recalibrating their careers. The danger is when seriousness turns into anxiety and silence becomes isolation. So if the office feels quiet, don't panic. Everyone is simply doing mental maths, calculating how to win the year without burning out or being left behind.

By February, the jokes will slowly return. By March, the real personalities will re-emerge. But January? January is the month of quiet ambition. And in every office, that silence is saying a lot.

Welcome back to work. May this New Year meet you focused, hopeful, and ready. Take it one day at a time, your pace is valid, your effort counts, and there's room for everyone to grow. Here's to a productive, fulfilling year ahead.

Gene's office survival tip:

Be careful what you joke about in the first few weeks. January humour is risky. People are tense, performance-minded, and easily misinterpret jokes. Save the banter for when salaries have settled.

This is the office, Buzz!

Work, Culture and everything in between!
Remember to share this with that colleague who needs to read this.

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South Africa set to leave G20 temporarily due to pressure from the U.S.

South Africa's Finance Minister, Enoch Godongwana has announced that South Africa will step aside from the G20 in 2026 while the United States holds the presidency. At a press briefing during the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos on Thursday, 22 January, Godongwana said this is a temporary setback.

While it was announced that South Africa will host a Spring Davos in 2027, the country's participation in this year's G20, which has been under question recently, has been ruled out.

This follows US President Donald Trump's announcement in November 2025 that South Africa would not receive an invitation to US-hosted events, after months of escalated tension between the two countries.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has previously insisted, however, that South Africa is a member within its own right and that Trump cannot block the country from participating.

"The structure of the G20 for now is that the founding member on the African continent is South Africa," said Godongwana. "What we do know is that South Africa is on leave for 2026." He insists that this is not a capitulation to pressure from the US.



"This is not because the Americans can chase us out of the G20, but they hold an important instrument: the accreditation," he said. "If you don't have the accreditation, you can't get into the venue, even if you are around. So they will not accredit us."

Godongwana is confident that the African Union, which is still invited to the G20 in 2026, will represent the voice of the continent. "We must take this as a temporary setback for 2026. In 2027, the president, I think, is going to be the UK. I doubt that the UK will take a similar posture," he said.

The Trump administration boycotted the 2025 G20 leaders' summit hosted by South Africa, on the grounds that there was a "white genocide" happening in the country.

Donald Trump recently said in a WEF media briefing that he still insists that this alleged white genocide "is taking place" and "it's got to be stopped." This is despite President Cyril Ramaphosa frequently



informing Trump that this is "blatant disinformation about our country."

South African officials have also denied the allegations, saying that violent crime levels, while unacceptably high, impact all races.

The relationship between South Africa and the United States has been rocky, with the US currently proposing three laws to impose penalties against South Africa and

high-ranking officials.

Tensions can be traced back to key issues, including, but not limited to, South Africa's case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in 2024 and the deepening of BRICS partnerships, along with other US adversaries.

In the latest developments, the US issued a sharp rebuke of South Africa after it was confirmed that the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) conducted naval exercises with Iran.

A statement from the US Embassy called the action "particularly unconscionable," as Iranian authorities were "shooting, jailing and torturing" citizens engaged in peaceful protests at the time.

Furthermore, Trump has recently announced his plans to build a "board for peace," inviting dozens of world leaders to join his council, for the price of \$1 billion.

Speaking to journalists on the sidelines of an Education Lekgotla on 21 January, Ramaphosa said that he "hasn't even checked his emails," knowing South Africa will be excluded from the board.

Additional Source: Newsday SA