



**AFRICAN
PROFESSIONAL
COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**
Incorporated

Recognising Excellence | Building
Professional Community

Issue 1 | June 2026

APCNZ QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

2026

<https://apcnz.org.nz>

Dear APCNZ Members and Supporters,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this edition of the APCNZ Quarterly Newsletter.

The African Professional Council of New Zealand Incorporated continues to grow as a national platform connecting African professionals across Aotearoa New Zealand. Our commitment remains clear: to foster professional excellence, ethical leadership, meaningful collaboration, and lasting impact within our communities and workplaces.

Over recent months, we have witnessed remarkable engagement from professionals across Auckland, Waikato, Wellington, Hawke's Bay, and other regions. Through networking events, leadership initiatives, professional development programmes, and strategic partnerships, APCNZ is steadily building a strong and credible professional community.

As we continue this journey, I encourage every member to actively participate, mentor emerging professionals, share expertise, and help strengthen our collective voice.

Together, we are building a legacy institution that will serve current and future generations of African professionals in New Zealand.

Benny Jones
Founder & President

African Professional Council of New Zealand Incorporated

[Te Rūnanga Ngaio o Ngā Āwherika ki Aotearoa]



**UBUNTU: "I AM
BECAUSE WE
ARE"**



AFRICAN PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND *Incorporated*

Recognising Excellence | Building
Professional Community

MEET THE EXECUTIVE TEAM MEMBERS

KOTA HITANGA

2026

<https://apcnz.org.nz>



AFRICAN PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND EXECUTIVES

MEET OUR TEAM



Benny Jones
President

Barrister & Solicitor
Business Owner
Company Director



Ben Amadi
Vice -President

Cybersecurity
Professional



Ifeanyi David
Secretary General

Maritime & Logistics
Professional



Michelle Mudawarima
Treasurer

Chartered Accountant
Finance Governance
Strategic Leadership



Dr Aniebietabasi Ackley
Public Relations Officer

Research Leader &
Built Environment
Specialist



Louise Waterworth
Communications Officer

Registered Counsellor
Communication
Professional



Dr Emela Fenmachi
Waikato Region Rep

Lecturer, Educator
& ECE Specialist



Ruth Akinyi
Hawke's Bay Region Rep.

Registered Nurse
Inpatient Care
Mental Health



Aissa Edon
Community Engagement

Midwifery Specialist
Healthcare Leader



Dr Kingsley Ihejirika
Professional Development

Senior Analyst
Business Professional



Rhoda Irabor
Auckland Region Rep

Health Analyst
Healthcare Researcher

KOTAHITANGA



TURANGAWAEWAE

Who We Are

The African Professional Council of New Zealand Incorporated is a national professional body representing a diverse network of African New Zealand professionals across multiple industries and sectors.

Our Mission

To empower African professionals in New Zealand through connection, mentorship, and opportunities that advance professional growth, leadership, and collective success.

APCNZ exists to:

- ✓ Promote professional excellence
- ✓ Foster ethical leadership
- ✓ Support mentorship and career growth
- ✓ Strengthen professional networks
- ✓ Build strategic partnerships
- ✓ Celebrate African excellence and cultural diversity
- ✓ Increase visibility and representation of African professionals in New Zealand.

Our Vision

To be a leading professional body that champions excellence, ethical leadership, and meaningful representation of African professionals within Aotearoa New Zealand.

APCNZ STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Institutional Visibility & Recognition

Strengthening awareness and positioning of APCNZ within New Zealand's professional and institutional landscape.

Career Development & Advancement

Supporting professional growth through learning, leadership pathways, mentoring and networking.

Cultural Celebration & Diversity Promotion

Recognising and celebrating African heritage and contributions across New Zealand society.

Professional Connectivity & Community Building

Creating opportunities for professionals to connect, collaborate and grow together.

Strategic Partnerships

Developing meaningful collaborations with organisations, institutions and industry leaders.



MEMBER BENEFITS

Why Join APCNZ?

- ✓ National professional network
- ✓ Professional development opportunities
- ✓ Mentorship programmes
- ✓ Leadership opportunities
- ✓ Industry engagement
- ✓ Professional visibility
- ✓ Community impact initiatives
- ✓ Access to APCNZ events and resources

APCNZ is committed to ensuring members feel seen, heard and valued while contributing meaningfully to New Zealand society.

Professional | Scholars Spotlight Series

Celebrating Excellence. Amplifying Impact. Inspiring Generations.

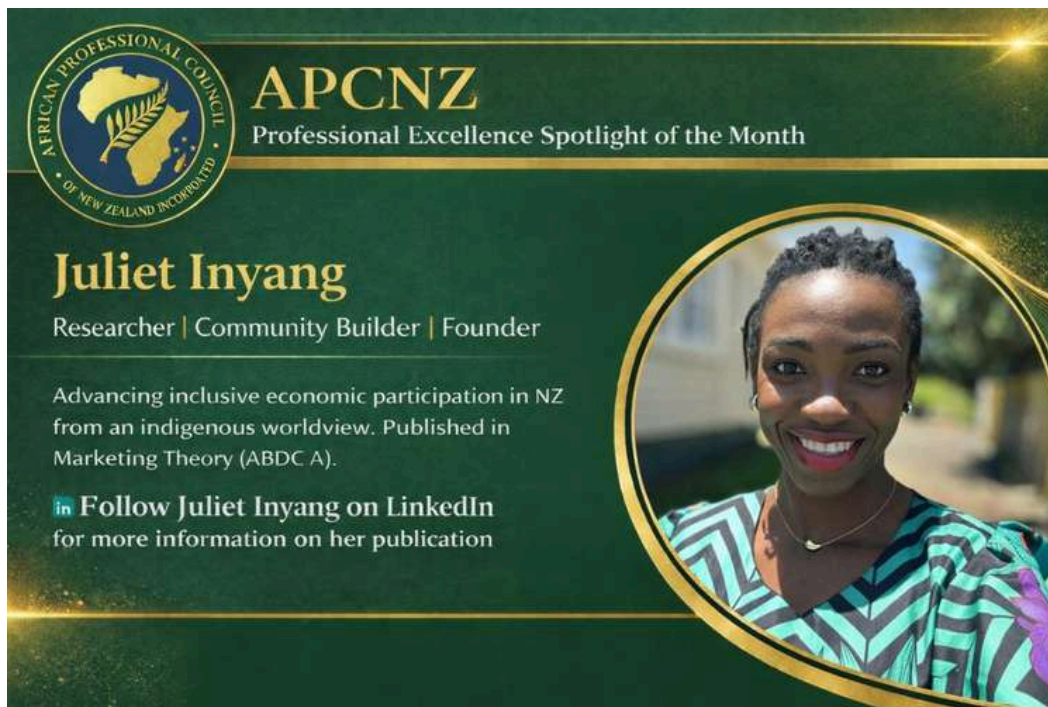
The APCNZ Scholarly and Professional Excellence Spotlight Series exists to ensure that African excellence in Aotearoa New Zealand is not hidden, fragmented, or forgotten, but recognised, amplified, and connected to national conversations about leadership, contribution, innovation, and community impact.



April 2026 Scholarly spotlight

APCNZ Scholarly Excellence Spotlight Award

Juliet Inyang




APCNZ
Professional Excellence Spotlight of the Month

Juliet Inyang
Researcher | Community Builder | Founder

Advancing inclusive economic participation in NZ from an indigenous worldview. Published in Marketing Theory (ABDC A).

[in Follow Juliet Inyang on LinkedIn](#) for more information on her publication



Kola Fatokun



APCNZ
Scholarly Excellence
Spotlight of the Month

Kola Fatokun
Senior Information Management Specialist
Management Scholar | Researcher | Mentor | Advocate

Kola Fatokun graduated on 17 April 2026 from the University of Waikato after completing his research on how entrepreneurship can strengthen refugee resettlement and socio-economic participation.

Kola's commitment to evidence-based solutions that empower vulnerable communities, support inclusive capacity-building, and advance economic development is highly commendable.

- PROFESSIONAL IMPACT**
Provides expert advice and support to corporate organisations, contractors, and community stakeholders. Mentors emerging Information Management professionals and evaluates performance against legislative and policy frameworks.
- RESEARCH & CONTRIBUTIONS**
Operates at the intersection of research, evaluation, and strategy, translating insights into actionable policy and programme development. Research interests include entrepreneurship, refugee resettlement, socio-economic participation, and inclusive development.
- MENTOR & ADVOCATE**
Mentors and supports former refugees as they navigate employment pathways and the resettlement journey.
- GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT & IMPACT**
Committed to evidence-based solutions that empower vulnerable communities, support inclusive capacity-building, and advance economic development.



Founders Award
Professional Excellence
African Professional Council of NZ

“ Evidence. Inclusion. Impact. ”
Building pathways to resilient communities and sustainable development.

Hawkes Bay Regional Chapter

Ruth Opiyo



APCNZ
AFRICAN PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED

Recognising Excellence.
Building Professional Community.

RADIO HAWKES BAY
104.7FM
1431AM

MEDIA INTERVIEW
SPOTLIGHT

 **Dr. Oliver Chigariro**
(Face of Africa)
in Conversation with

 **Ruth Opiyo**
(Hawkes Bay Representative)

INTERVIEW THEME:
**AMPLIFYING AFRICAN
PROFESSIONAL VOICES
IN NEW ZEALAND**

Youth Excellence Spotlight

Blossom Dele Oluwole



**AFRICAN
PROFESSIONAL
COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**
— INCORPORATED —



RECOGNISING
EXCELLENCE



BUILDING
PROFESSIONAL
COMMUNITY



EMPOWERING
FUTURES

HELP BLOSSOM GET TO TED SUMMER SCHOOL IN SINGAPORE!

RECOGNISING YOUTH EXCELLENCE. BUILDING FUTURE VOICES.

Blossom is a finalist in the “Learning to Be Heard” Global Public Speaking Challenge, run by TED and Immerse Education. Out of a record number of submissions from students across the globe, she was selected as a finalist and awarded a partial scholarship to attend TED Summer School.

Why this matters

Blossom is passionate about using her voice to speak on issues that impact people but are often left unspoken. TED Summer School will equip her with world-class training to grow her confidence, articulation, and technical skills so she can give back to her community and deliver her own TED-style talk on racial marginalisation.

“ To speak for those who can't speak for themselves, but most importantly, to speak for yourself. ”



**TED
SUMMER
SCHOOL**
SINGAPORE



A two-week residential leadership and public speaking programme for students aged 15–18.

12TH – 25TH
JULY 2025

SINGAPORE
CAMPUS

PAYMENT DUE BY
1ST JUNE 2025



APCNZ is proud to support Blossom's journey. We invite our members, professionals, families and friends to contribute or share this campaign.

Donate. Share. Encourage. Let's help Blossom take her voice to the world.



LET'S SEND BLOSSOM TO SINGAPORE!

Your support can turn a dream into a life-changing opportunity.



DONATE NOW ON GIVE A LITTLE

givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-blossom-get-to-the-ted-summer-school



Scan to
donate!

RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE • BUILDING PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY • EMPOWERING FUTURES
African Professional Council of New Zealand Incorporated | www.apcnz.org.nz

Professional Excellence Spotlight

April

Michelle Mudawarima




Recognising Excellence
Building Professional Community

APCNZ PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE & CREDIBILITY Spotlight OF THE MONTH

MICHELLE MUDAWARIMA



Michelle Mudawarima has demonstrated Professional Excellence and Credibility as recognised by the Inland Revenue for filing **100.00 %** of the 2025 income tax returns for her clients in a record time.

 Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake

Certificate of Achievement

MONEY SAVVY MOVE LIMITED

This certificate recognises that you have filed 100% of your clients' 2025 Income Tax Returns.

I appreciate your effort in achieving this target.

Account Manager
10 April 2026

 Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake

ird.govt.nz

MONEY SAVVY MOVE LIMITED

IRD Num:
Reference:
Issued:

Dear Sir/Madam

2025 filing performance as at 31 March 2026

Congratulations – I am pleased to advise that by 31 March 2026, you filed 100.00% of the 2025 income tax returns for your clients who have an extension of time.

This is an excellent achievement. Thank you for the effort and commitment you've shown over the past year in achieving this excellent result.

Please find attached your Certificate of Achievement.

I look forward to working with you over the coming year.

★ *Congratulations Michelle!* ★

Thank you for upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and service excellence. Your achievement reflects the values APCNZ stands for.

Professional Excellence Spotlight

May

Peter Muzariri



**AFRICAN
PROFESSIONAL
COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND**
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CONNECT | EMPOWER | REPRESENT

WEBINAR

CROSS-BORDER PROPERTY INSIGHTS: NZ vs AUSTRALIA

Smart decisions. Stronger futures.
A comparative conversation on property investment and purchasing your first home in New Zealand and Australia.



SPEAKER

PETER MUZARIRI

Peter Muzariri is a Commercial Lawyer, Co-Founder and Partner at Muzariri Penny Lawyers, a commercial law firm based in Melbourne.

WHAT YOU WILL GAIN

-  Market comparison: Australia vs New Zealand
-  First home buyer pathways and grants
-  Investment opportunities, returns and risks
-  Lending, taxes and legal considerations
-  Actionable strategies to build wealth and security

 DATE 11 JUNE 2026	 TIME 6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM	 FORMAT ONLINE WEBINAR	 PLATFORM Zoom (Link will be shared upon registration)
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 **JOIN THE CONVERSATION.**
INVEST IN KNOWLEDGE.
BUILD YOUR FUTURE.

REGISTER NOW >

Don't miss this opportunity to gain clarity, confidence and a competitive advantage in property.



www.apcnz.org.nz | [/APCNZ](https://www.facebook.com/APCNZ) | [/company/apcnz](https://www.linkedin.com/company/apcnz) | info@apcnz.org.nz

"Empowering African Professionals. Building Stronger Communities."

REGIONAL CHAPTERS

NETWORKING EVENTS

Waikato Chapter



Wellington Chapter



Celebrating International Women's Day 2026

Auckland Chapter



**Queen Oluchi
Barnabas**

Recipients of the Women of Influence Award

**Anthonia
Uzoigwe**



Radio Interview with Face of Africa Radio Hawke's Bay

Hawkes Bay Chapter



Ruth Opiyo



Dr. Oliver Chigariro



APCNZ Mentorship Program

AFRICAN PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED

APCNZ MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Guiding Today. Empowering Tomorrow. Inspiring Impact.

The APCNZ Mentorship Program connects emerging professionals and students with experienced leaders who guide, support, and empower you to achieve your personal and professional goals.

YOU WILL BENEFIT FROM:

- PERSONALIZED GUIDANCE**
Gain insights and advice tailored to your goals and aspirations.
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT**
Enhance your skills, confidence, and career opportunities.
- NETWORK & COLLABORATE**
Build meaningful connections within a dynamic community.
- SHARE & LEARN**
Exchange knowledge and experiences that drive growth.
- MAKE AN IMPACT**
Become a leader who inspires and creates positive change.

SIGN UP NOW! BE PART OF A JOURNEY THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES!

www.apcnz.org.nz | contact@apcnz.org.nz | [@apcnz](https://www.linkedin.com/company/apcnz)

SCAN TO SIGN UP

The African Professional Council of New Zealand Incorporated (APCNZ) is proud to introduce the APCNZ Mentorship Program — a strategic initiative designed to strengthen leadership, professional growth, and intergenerational excellence within the African professional community across Aotearoa New Zealand.

This program is more than mentorship. It is a platform for transformation, connection, and legacy building.

Across every profession, the journey toward excellence is often shaped by guidance, exposure, encouragement, and access to the right networks. Many emerging professionals, students, researchers, entrepreneurs, and young leaders possess extraordinary talent and ambition, yet often lack structured support systems that connect them to experienced professionals who understand both the opportunities and challenges within New Zealand’s professional environment.

The APCNZ Mentorship Program seeks to bridge that gap.

Through this initiative, APCNZ aims to connect aspiring professionals and future leaders with experienced mentors across diverse sectors including law, health, academia, engineering, finance, business, governance, technology, public service, and entrepreneurship.

The value of mentorship cannot be overstated

A strong mentor can help accelerate career growth, provide practical guidance, strengthen confidence, expand professional networks, improve leadership capability, and support informed decision-making. Equally, mentors themselves contribute to shaping future leaders, preserving professional knowledge, and strengthening community capacity for long-term impact.

The APCNZ Mentorship Program is built on the principles of:

Professional Excellence

Ethical Leadership

Knowledge Sharing

Community Empowerment

Intergenerational Growth

Sustainable Professional Development

Professional Excellence

Ethical Leadership

Knowledge Sharing

Community Empowerment

Intergenerational Growth

Sustainable Professional Development

Participants will have opportunities to:

Receive professional and career guidance

Build meaningful industry connections

Develop leadership and communication skills

Gain exposure to new opportunities and pathways

Strengthen confidence and professional identity

Learn from real-world experiences and insights

Contribute to a culture of excellence and collaboration

At APCNZ, we believe that empowered professionals build stronger communities, stronger institutions, and stronger national outcomes.

By investing in mentorship today, we are investing in the next generation of African professionals who will lead, innovate, contribute, and inspire tomorrow.

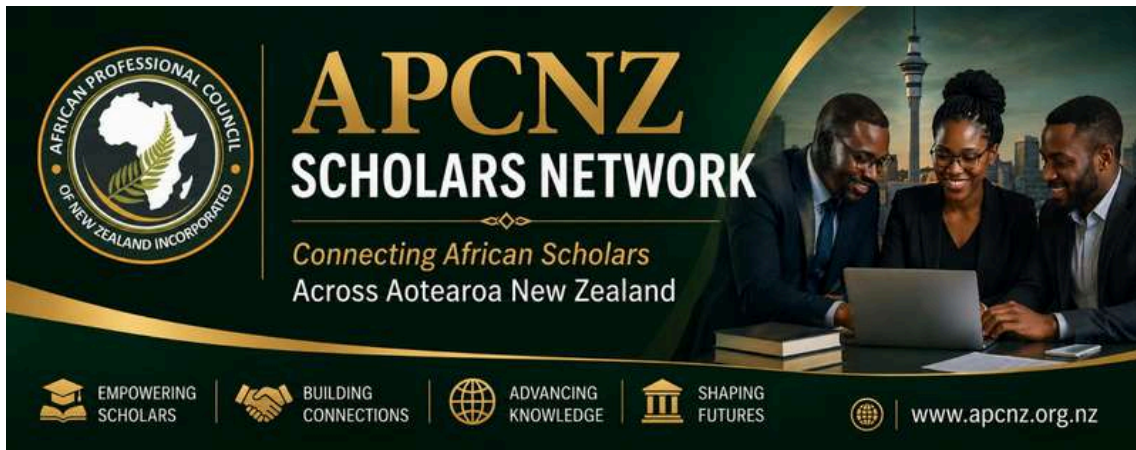
We invite professionals, students, emerging leaders, and experienced practitioners across New Zealand to become part of this important movement.

Whether you choose to mentor or be mentored, your participation contributes to building a more connected, empowered, and impactful professional community.

Join the APCNZ Mentorship Program today.

Learn. Grow. Lead. Inspire.

APCNZ Scholars Network



**AFRICAN PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED**

APCNZ SCHOLARS NETWORK

Connecting African Scholars
Across Aotearoa New Zealand

EMPOWERING SCHOLARS | BUILDING CONNECTIONS | ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE | SHAPING FUTURES

www.apcnz.org.nz



**AFRICAN PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED**

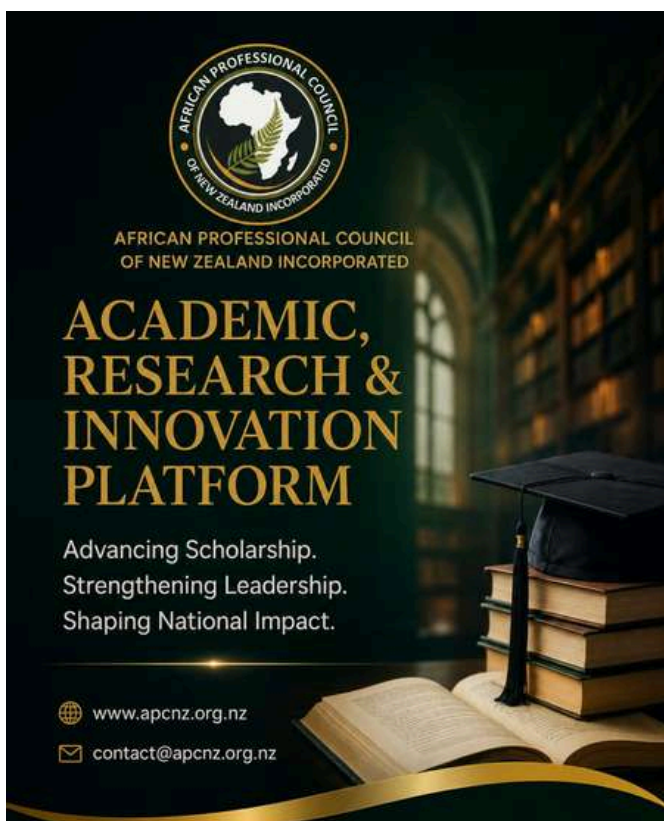
CALLING ALL SCHOLARS!

Are you a researcher, academic,
or postgraduate student?

**JOIN THE APCNZ
SCHOLARS NETWORK**

BUILD CONNECTIONS. | SHARE KNOWLEDGE. | CREATE IMPACT.

www.apcnz.org.nz



**AFRICAN PROFESSIONAL COUNCIL
OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED**

ACADEMIC, RESEARCH & INNOVATION PLATFORM

Advancing Scholarship.
Strengthening Leadership.
Shaping National Impact.

www.apcnz.org.nz
contact@apcnz.org.nz

Upcoming Events

1. Wellington Networking Event Xero – 27th May 2026
2. Webinar – Cross-Border Property Insights with Peter Muzariri, Commercial Lawyer at Muzariri Penny Lawyers - 11th June 2026.
3. APCNZ AGM – 27th June 2026
4. Wellington Networking Event- July 2026
5. Auckland Chapter Networking Event July 2026
6. APCNZ Symposium | Gala Award Dinner

Coming Soon

Featuring:

- *Industry Leaders
- *Policymakers
- *Academics
- *Entrepreneurs
- *Community Leaders



UPCOMING INITIATIVES

APCNZ Awards Programme

Recognising excellence in:

Leadership

Entrepreneurship

Academic Excellence

Community Service

Professional Achievement

