



EXCLUSIVE · GLOBAL EDITION

THE BOY WHO SOLD MANGOES — AND BUILT A CONTINENT

From **\$850** to global boardrooms, Times Square headlines, and a multi-sector empire across continents — this is the journey of **BAKO AMBIANDA**, the architect of *Afridevelopism* and one of Africa's defining business minds.



OPENING

The Man Behind The Movement



There are men who chase success — and there are men who define purpose. **Bako Ambianda** belongs firmly to the latter.

He is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of **Bako Group Holdings**, a pan-African investment company spanning finance, technology, energy, real estate, mobility and media. He is the CEO of **Backbone Capital Ventures**, an early-stage venture firm backing African founders. He leads **Labacorp Industries** across mineral and energy resources, and convenes governments, investors and corporations through the **ATIGS Network**. He is a New York Times best-selling author, a sustainable energy advocate, a sought-after global speaker, and the visionary behind a bold economic philosophy he calls **Afridevelopism**.

“Live full, die empty. You can’t get out of life alive — you must be willing to jump and grow your wings on the way down.”

— Bako Ambianda

\$850

STARTING CAPITAL

\$385M+

INVESTMENT
FACILITATED

90+

COUNTRIES
CONVENED

80,000+

LIVES IMPACTED

6

BEST-SELLING
BOOKS



— STAGE 01 OF THE JOURNEY —

Where The Fire Was Lit

A Cameroonian boy who refused to wait for permission — and discovered enterprise with a knife, a few mangoes, and a corner of his school dormitory.

Long before boardrooms, global summits, and international recognition, there was a young boy in Cameroon. While others ate fruit, he saw inventory. While others rested, he calculated margin. He would slice mangoes, bananas and avocados from home and sell them to classmates in his dormitory. The profit was small. The lesson was enormous.

By 18, in **Bamenda**, that instinct became **Magic Club Businesses** — a small provision store, commercial motorcycles, and trading goods. It was raw. It was scrappy. It was real. And it taught him the three fundamentals he would carry into every venture for the rest of his life: **value, demand, and initiative.**

“You don’t need permission to start.”

What separated him from his peers was not access — it was **mindset**. He did not see his environment as a ceiling. He saw it as a starting line. The boy who turned fruit into profit was already practising the philosophy that would later define his global identity: *start with what you have, then expand the vision until reality has to catch up.*



Bako Ambienda — the disciplined gentleman behind a continental movement.



— STAGE 02 OF THE JOURNEY —

The Leap Across The Atlantic

At 20, he left Cameroon for the United States — not to survive, but to expand. America did not change him. It revealed him.

In 2011, Bako enrolled in **Civil Engineering at Anne Arundel Community College** and later continued his studies in Texas. The classroom was only part of the curriculum. His real education happened in the rooms where decisions are made.

He served as a **Citizen Diplomat at the Maryland State House**, working alongside lawmakers and policymakers. He became **President of the International Student Association**. He stepped into global conferences through Market America. He began organising events across Washington D.C., Maryland, and New York. And at **21**, he became one of the youngest self-published authors from Cameroon.

It was here that a quiet truth crystallised: **development is not accidental — it is designed**. Leadership is learned. Influence is engineered. And impact must be built on purpose.

“Africa is not lacking resources. Africa is lacking connections and execution platforms. I chose to fix that.”



— STAGE 03 OF THE JOURNEY —

\$850. One Decision. A Global Beginning.

Most entrepreneurs wait for capital. He started with conviction.

In **2012**, with just **\$850**, Bako launched his first company — **Velocity Xperiences Global (VX Global)**. No big office. No funding. No team. Just vision, hustle, and execution.

He started small: student engagement fairs, personal-development gatherings, high-impact rooms. What he lacked in capital, he compensated with execution and positioning.

WITHIN FIVE YEARS:

- **28+ events** launched across the United States
- **18+ trade and investment missions** connecting Africa to the world
- Participation in organising global energy congresses linked to world leaders
- A new identity as one of the most strategic young African connectors of his generation

“Start small. Think global.”



— STAGE 04 OF THE JOURNEY —

The Empire — Building Across Sectors, Across Continents

From a single founder's bet to a multi-sector group operating across Africa, the Middle East and North America.

In **2015**, Bako stopped thinking like a founder of a company — and started thinking like a builder of an ecosystem. **Bako Group Holdings** was born: a diversified pan-African investment company designed not just to generate profit, but to **drive development**.

Around it grew an empire: **Labacorp Industries** (energy, mining and minerals), **Backbone Capital Ventures** (early-stage investing in African founders), the **ATIGS Network** (global trade and investment), **Bako Motors Manufacturing** (mobility and EVs), **Lagilio Homes** (real estate), **Bako Solar Ghana** (renewable energy), **Bako Studios & Bako Nation Entertainment** (media and storytelling), **Bako Events Centre**, **Gravity Bar & Grill**, and more.

ENERGY	TECHNOLOGY	REAL ESTATE
MOBILITY	AGRIBUSINESS	MEDIA
FINANCE	MANUFACTURING	EVENTS

Sectors and ventures across the Bako enterprise group — a deliberate architecture of nation-building through enterprise.

By design, this was never just business diversification. It was a blueprint — what Bako would later define as **Afridevelopism**: the belief that Africa's growth must be intentional, structured, and led by Africans through strategic global collaboration.



— STAGE 05 OF THE JOURNEY —

The Global Connector

A man who didn't wait to be invited to the table — so he built the table itself.



Bako Ambienda at the Bloomberg New Economy Gateway Africa — bridging African enterprise with global capital.

In 2018, Bako didn't just host an event — he made history. The **Africa Trade & Investment Global Summit (ATIGS)**, held at the **Ronald Reagan Building** in Washington D.C., drew **3,300+ delegates** from **92 countries**. The summit lit up **Times Square's Nasdaq Tower** — a moment far greater than visibility. It was Africa stepping onto the global stage, on its own terms.

He built more bridges: **AfriWAPA** (Africa Worldwide Alliance Partnerships), the **Solar Business Festival**, the **Afridevelopism Institute**, and **Africa House** at major global festivals. Together, they have helped facilitate over **\$385 million** in economic activity and connected African opportunity to global capital.



— STAGE 06 OF THE JOURNEY —

Words That Move Mindsets

The best-selling author who has used the page to shift how a generation thinks about wealth, work and worth.



Bako is a **New York Times best-selling author of six acclaimed books**, and a recognised authority on human potential, mindset and personal effectiveness. Through his writing, he distils decades of hustle, study and global exposure into practical strategies for transformation.

SELECTED WORKS

- *Destined to Win in the Game of Life*
- *Invest in Your Mindset*
- *Who's in Your Ears*
- *Ingredients to Uplift Your Journey*
- *The Unstoppable Warrior*
- *Fueling Africa's Economic Development*

Beyond books, his voice now reaches global audiences through **The Bako Show**, **The Bako Zone Podcast**, and his media platforms — translating business lessons into accessible insight on money, leadership, relationships and personal growth.



— STAGE 07 OF THE JOURNEY —

The Voice On The Global Stage

From Cameroon to the Capitol. From Bamenda to Bloomberg. From a school dormitory to the Nasdaq Tower in Times Square.



Bako Ambienda addressing global press — a defining voice for African economic transformation.

Bako has spoken on stages where decisions are made and futures are influenced. His insights sit at the intersection of **entrepreneurship, sustainable energy, leadership, international trade, and the future of emerging markets** — positioning him as a defining voice on the next frontier of global prosperity.

“When undertaken with determination, nothing is unattainable.”



— STAGE 08 OF THE JOURNEY —

Impact: Lighting Africa, Lifting People

A sustainability advocate building renewable power, electric mobility, clean water, and dignified opportunity for the next generation.

With more than a decade leading transformative projects, Bako is widely recognised for his leadership in **renewable energy, climate sustainability, and green technology**. Through Bako Group's portfolio, he is reshaping Africa's sustainability narrative — developing and operating renewable power and electric vehicle (EV) projects across the continent.

But his impact reaches deeper than infrastructure. Through the **Bako Ambianda Foundation**, he is investing in young African entrepreneurs — equipping them with mentorship, belief and access. His work has provided **clean drinking water** to underserved communities, supported **solar academy initiatives** for skills development, and inspired **over 80,000 lives** through speaking, books, and mentorship.

\$385M+	92	80K+	120-yr
INVESTMENT FACILITATED	COUNTRIES AT ATIGS	LIVES IMPACTED	VISION HORIZON



— STAGE 09 OF THE JOURNEY —

A Life Lived Across Continents

Cameroon. The United States. Ghana. The UAE. Trade missions across 25+ countries. A global mind, with an African soul.

Bako's journey has taken him from a school dormitory in Cameroon to **Maryland and Washington D.C.** as a Citizen Diplomat, to **Texas** for advanced studies, to high-level summits across the United States, the United Arab Emirates, and major African capitals. He has led **trade and investment missions** into more than a dozen African markets and engaged leaders from **over 90 countries** across continents.

In **2019**, while many sought opportunity abroad, he made the opposite move. He returned to Africa — to build it. He laid down deeper roots with **Labacorp Energy in Cameroon**, expanded into **Ghana** with the **ATIGS Net Hub**, and by 2022 — based in Accra — began constructing what is now the full **Bako ecosystem**: a blend of business, culture, lifestyle and influence.

HOMELANDS & BASES

- Bamenda, Cameroon
- Maryland & Washington D.C., USA
- Texas, USA
- Accra, Ghana
- United Arab Emirates

OPERATING REACH

- Pan-African operations across multiple markets
- North American investment & trade platforms
- Middle East partnerships and capital flows
- Global summits engaging 90+ countries
- Leaders from 25+ nations engaged personally



— STAGE 10 OF THE JOURNEY —

The Storms Behind The Glory

Behind every visionary is a season of uncertainty. His was no exception.

Bako's rise was never linear. There were moments when the vision was bigger than the resources. Moments of being overlooked in rooms that did not expect a young African entrepreneur to belong. Moments of fighting for credibility on global stages, navigating complex international systems, and managing the weight of multiple ventures expanding at once.

- **Capital scarcity** — building from \$850 in markets where access to funding for African founders remained uneven.
- **Credibility battles** — earning trust as a young African entering global investment and policy rooms.
- **Overextension** — managing multiple companies across multiple sectors and continents simultaneously.
- **Structural complexity** — designing the legal, operational and governance architecture of a multi-country group.
- **Pressure of pace** — balancing speed of execution with discipline of long-term capital allocation.

His response became his strategy: **focus on cash-generating ventures first, then reinvest into long-term impact sectors**. He refined rather than retreated. He compressed lessons into discipline, and built a rhythm that turned every setback into a system improvement. That discipline is the quiet architecture behind everything visible today.

“He refused to shrink his vision to fit his reality. Instead, he expanded his capacity to match his vision.”



— STAGE 11 OF THE JOURNEY —

The World Took Notice

Awards are not the measure of his impact — but they confirm a truth others can no longer ignore.

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- ★ **FORBES AFRICA**
30 Under 30 — Class of 2020

 - ★ **MIPAD**
Most Influential People of African Descent

 - ★ **AFRICA FORTY UNDER 40**
Continental Business Leadership

 - ★ **OONI OF IFE**
Royal African Leadership Award (2024)

 - ★ **MOST ADMIRER**
Young Global African (2019)

 - ★ **GLOBAL BUSINESS**
Disruptor of the Year (2018)

He has been featured by **Forbes Africa**, **Africa24 TV**, **Bloomberg New Economy Gateway Africa**, and major African and international business media. But the awards he treasures most are not framed on walls — they are the **jobs created**, the **founders funded**, the **communities lit**, and the **young Africans who now believe they can build globally from where they stand**.



— STAGE 12 OF THE JOURNEY —

The Man, Beyond The Headlines

Behind the boardrooms and global stages: a husband, a father of twins, a builder of homes — and of legacy.

Amidst the expansion, life unfolded. **Marriage. Fatherhood — with the birth of twins. Homes built across continents.** These were not side notes in his story. They are anchors. For Bako, success has never been measured only in companies — but in **legacy, family, and impact.**

He carries himself with the same code he brings to business: discipline, gratitude, faith, and a quiet obsession with constant learning. He reads. He writes. He mentors. He collects ideas the way some collect art. And he holds tightly to the people who walked the early road with him — long before the spotlight arrived.



Bako Ambienda — the builder, the believer, the bridge.



— STAGE 13 OF THE JOURNEY —

Afridevelopism — The Philosophy

A bold economic concept. A continental conviction. A daily discipline.

Afridevelopism is the belief that Africa's development must be **intentional, structured, and led by Africans** — through strategic global collaboration, long-term thinking, and platforms designed to unlock the continent's human and economic potential.

It is not theory. It is the operating system of every Bako venture, every speech, every book, every summit. And it powers a deceptively simple set of principles:

- 01 START WHERE YOU ARE**
He didn't wait for millions. He started with \$850.
- 02 THINK BEYOND BORDERS**
From Cameroon to Times Square — vision has no postcode.
- 03 BUILD SYSTEMS, NOT JUST COMPANIES**
Companies fade. Systems create generational legacy.
- 04 REINVENT WHEN NECESSARY**
Growth requires evolution. Identity must scale with vision.
- 05 MAKE LIFE A MISSION, NOT A CAREER**
Profit fades. Purpose scales.



— STAGE 14 OF THE JOURNEY —

Thinking In Centuries

Most entrepreneurs build for years. Bako Ambienda is building for generations.

His ambition is not measured in quarterly earnings. It is measured in centuries. He has spoken openly of his vision to build a group designed to last **120+ years** — a multi-generational architecture creating **jobs, industrial capacity, investment flows, and platforms for African innovation**. A vision rooted in the conviction that Africa's future will not be given. It will be built.

By 2026, the journey expanded again — into a new phase of **capital allocation and institutional philanthropy**: **Backbone Capital Ventures, Capital Allocators 100**, and the **Bako Ambienda Foundation**. The boy who once sold mangoes for pocket change now shapes how capital flows across a continent of 1.4 billion people.

“You don’t wait for opportunities. You build platforms that create them.”

— BAKO AMBIANDA



— THE FINAL WORD —

Your Starting Point Does Not Define Your Ceiling.

From a school dormitory in Cameroon to a global enterprise spanning continents, Bako Ambianda's journey is more than a success story. It is a **call to action** — to dream bigger, act boldly, and build relentlessly. To stop waiting for permission, and to start building platforms that create permission for others.

#TheBakoWay · #Afridevelopism

www.bakoambianda.com