

# Byencit Duncan



Byencit is an economist and sustainability advocate passionate about renewable energy, sustainable transport, and climate policy. Currently, as Project Manager for Strategic Partnerships (Renewable Energy and Mobility) at Sterling Bank, she leads initiatives in green finance and electric mobility. She also managed the Guinness World Record for the Greatest Distance Travelled on an Electric Tuk-Tuk/Autorickshaw in 12 Hours, demonstrating the viability of the Qoray electric “keke” for the Nigerian market. Her previous roles include spearheading the Net Zero Villages Project at PAM Africa and managing the electric mobility portfolio at the Clean Technology Incubation Foundation, where she co-authored the E-Mobility Market Intelligence Reports (2022 and 2023).

Byencit has worked closely with the National Automotive Design and Development Council to develop Nigeria’s Electric Vehicle Roadmap and the Energy Transition Office to organise key stakeholder engagements. She also established the E-Mobility Stakeholder Forum Nigeria, laying the groundwork for a national industry association, now Electric Mobility Promoters Association of Nigeria (EMPAN). She is committed to advancing climate action, fostering sustainable economic development, and promoting an inclusive, low-carbon future for Africa. Her work highlights her dedication to impactful solutions and partnerships in the sustainability and renewable energy sectors.



Lagos, Nigeria



**Transport systems can be considered inclusive only if...**

... the services are thoughtfully crafted to meet the diverse needs of all users, with a particular emphasis on those who have historically been marginalized within mobility systems, including women, young people, and individuals with disabilities. This commitment encompasses the provision of transportation that is not only affordable and accessible but also safe and efficient, ensuring that even the most underserved communities can benefit. By prioritizing inclusivity and equity, the aim is to create a robust transportation network that reaches every corner, fostering greater mobility and opportunity for all.

**If I was in power of our transport systems, the first thing I would do is...**

... decentralize planning and funding priorities by establishing local advisory groups that include women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Transport systems must not be built for people; they must be built with people. Transport systems should not just cater to the needs of people; they should be developed collaboratively, with the community's input and experiences at the forefront. Additionally, I would advocate for innovative financing

mechanisms that support sustainable mobility initiatives. This is a cause I am passionate about, and I've championed it through my work with Sterling Bank and Clean Technology Hub, where I strive to foster green solutions that enhance accessibility and equity in transportation for all.

**How does the current situation for women and young people in your city influence your work?**

The current situation for women, girls, and young people in my cities, Abuja and Lagos, significantly shapes my work and advocacy efforts. In Abuja, many women face harassment and safety concerns while commuting, particularly on public transport, where overcrowding and inadequate security measures contribute to an environment of fear. Similarly, in Lagos, young people often struggle to find affordable and reliable transportation options, resulting in lengthy commutes that can last up to two hours or more. The limited availability of comfortable and dignified transit choices further exacerbates their challenges, leaving them feeling undervalued and restricted in their daily lives. This context drives my commitment to creating safer, more accessible transportation solutions that empower these groups and ensure their mobility is respected and protected.

What's the main challenge that you face in your daily work?

The primary challenge I encounter in my day-to-day work is the fragmented institutional coordination, which leads to inefficiencies in communication and collaboration among various stakeholders in the transportation sector. This is exacerbated by the limited policy support for sustainable mobility initiatives, making it difficult to implement comprehensive strategies that promote environmentally friendly transportation. Additionally, the lack of adequate financing for the sector hampers the development and deployment of innovative solutions, further obstructing progress towards a more sustainable and efficient mobility framework. This combination of issues not only slows down advancements but also undermines the potential for meaningful change in promoting green transportation options for communities.

Why is it important to listen to young people?

Engaging with young people is vital because we are not merely the future users of transport systems; we are dynamic architects of our current realities. Our unique perspectives and innovative ideas offer fresh, localized solutions that resonate with the communities to which

we belong. Moreover, youth are often at the forefront of advocating for transport systems that are both intersectional and attuned to the pressing challenges of climate change. The successful transformation of sustainable transport hinges on the meaningful integration of young voices within decision-making frameworks. Our involvement is crucial for fostering systems that are inclusive, adaptive, and environmentally responsible, ensuring that the future of transportation reflects the needs and aspirations of all.

What would you tell other young people working in the transport field?

Your voice carries immense validity, and your vision holds remarkable power. Embrace the courage to assertively advocate for policies and programs that genuinely reflect the needs of your community. Engage in collaboration that transcends borders, as I have discovered that partnering with international organizations like GIZ and Agora Verkehrswende allows us to magnify our impact and shape global conversations around transport equity. Together, we can forge pathways to a more just and inclusive future.

My work aligns with the Hamburg Charter Principles!

Principle #2 Inclusivity in Transport

My efforts to address behavioral and financial constraints through international platforms and advocacy campaigns contribute to involving underrepresented groups in mobility planning.

Principle #5 Accessible and Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

By supporting financing programs for electric vehicle adoption, I am promoting investments in safe and sustainable transport infrastructure.

Principle #7 Promotion of Electric Mobility

My role in financing EV adoption and organizing Nigeria's first E-Mobility Conference directly supports the transition to electric mobility solutions.



