

UBA Strengthens the UK–Africa Financial Corridor with New Leadership at UBA UK

As the United Kingdom renews its engagement with African markets from trade partnerships to green investment initiatives UBA – Africa's Global Bank, is deliberately strengthening its London operations to serve as a strategic bridge for cross-border investment, innovation, and partnership.

This move reflects a broader shift in how global financial centres are increasingly looking toward Africa, not only as a destination for development support, but as a continent of growing economic influence, trade potential, and investment opportunity.

UBA's Pan-African Mission and Global Presence

UBA's purpose has always been clear: to facilitate financial flows for organisations doing business with and in Africa, while connecting global investors and partners to the continent's vast opportunities.

With operations across more than 20 African countries and international banking hubs in New York, Paris, and London, UBA sees London not merely as a market presence, but as a gateway — a critical link between Africa's fast-growing economies and global capital.

UBA UK plays a significant role within this network, supporting African corporates, financial institutions, sovereigns, and global partners through correspondent banking, trade finance, transaction banking, and treasury services.

Recent UK policy direction signals a clear intent to deepen trade, infrastructure finance, green investment, and innovation collaboration with African economies. As the UK seeks stronger economic partnerships across the continent, financial institutions that understand both markets become essential enablers of this agenda.

This evolving UK-Africa relationship aligns directly with UBA's mission — to be the financial connector that enables seamless business flows between Africa and the world.

Driving the Next Phase of Growth for UBA UK

To lead this next phase of strategic expansion, UBA Group has appointed Loknath Mishra as the new Chief Executive Officer of UBA UK.

Mishra brings decades of international banking experience across retail, corporate, investment, and transaction banking, with a strong record of building and leading regulated banking platforms in the UK and Europe. Prior

to joining UBA, he served as CEO of ICICI Bank UK and held senior leadership roles in global wholesale and transaction banking.

His expertise in regulatory governance, correspondent banking, and digital innovation in trade finance and cash management positions him well to strengthen UBA UK as a centre of excellence for customer service, compliance, and cross-border financial facilitation.

Under his leadership, UBA UK will further deepen its role in facilitating trade finance, investment advisory, and sustainable partnerships between African and British enterprises. On his part, Mishra who expressed delight over his appointment, said, "I am honoured to join UBA at a time of significant opportunity for the Group. UBA's unique role in connecting Africa to global markets is both compelling and strategically important. I look forward to working with colleagues across the UBA Group to strengthen UBA UK's platform and to support clients in unlocking growth across Africa and beyond."

Commenting on the appointment, UBA's Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Oliver Alawuba, said, "Loknath brings an exceptional combination of global banking experience, regulatory credibility and deep expertise in wholesale and transaction banking. His leadership will be instrumental in advancing UBA UK's role as a flagship subsidiary for the Group and in strengthening our capacity to support trade and investment flows between Africa and international markets."

Alawuba explained that the appointment underscores UBA's continued investment in building a world-class international banking franchise that supports Africa's economic integration into the global economy.

What This Means for African Markets — A Kenya Perspective

Commenting on the appointment, Ms. Mary Mulili, MD/CEO, UBA Kenya noted: "The United Kingdom remains one of the most important international financial and trade corridors for Kenya. Many Kenyan businesses, exporters, development partners, and investors maintain strong links with the UK market, making UBA UK a critical gateway for facilitating trade, correspondent banking relationships, and cross-border financial flows. We are delighted to welcome Loknath Mishra as CEO of UBA UK. His appointment reinforces UBA's commitment to strengthening its presence in the UK and across the global financial landscape. For UBA Kenya, this development is particularly significant as it enhances our ability to support customers engaged in international trade, correspondent banking, and cross-border business with the UK market. We look forward to continued collaboration and growth across our markets."



UBA UK plays a critical role within UBA Group's international network, supporting African corporates, financial institutions, sovereigns and global partners through its strong capabilities in correspondent banking, trade finance, transaction banking and treasury services.