As he marks the first anniversary of his coronation Ogiame Atuwatse III speaks to KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR on the controversies leading to his emergence as King, being the voice of the people and his hopes for Warri youths.

Society
COMMENORATIVE BIRTHDAY FOR PRINCESS MARGARET OBAIGBENA

As part of activities lined up to celebrate the passing and burial ceremony of late Princess Margaret Obaigbena, (nee Usifoh) mother of the Chairman/Editor in Chief, THISDAY and ARIS Group, Prince Nduka Obaigbena; a commemorative birthday ceremony and tribute day was held at her home town Owa-Oyibu, Delta State.

Lifestyle & Fashion
On World Photography Day Meet Five Women At The Forefront Of Nigerian Tech The Silk Scarf Trend For Men Staycations Are The New Vacations

Style
EXECUTIVE EDITOR KONYE NWABOGOR DEPUTY EXECUTIVE EDITOR ODUFUNE BABA-KUFEJI VISUAL/SENIOR DESIGNER MATHIAS ARCHIBONG STYLE CORRESPONDENT ISIOMA USIADE PHOTOGRAPHER @TY BELLO DIRECTOR, PRINT PRODUCTION CHUKS ONWUDINJO

EDITOR’S LETTER

As he makes the first anniversary of his coronation Ogiame Atuwatse III speaks to KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR on the controversies leading to his emergence as King, being the voice of the people and his hopes for Warri youths.

A Different View

Whether you’re a baby boomer or a millennial like me, we can all agree that — Gen Z is making waves in the fashion world, and there is no way to ignore them.

Don’t you all love how they approach fashion in the most unorthodox manner? Whoever thought there would be a time when we would entertain outrageous yet stunning fashion trends like scarfs, pinafores and skinny jeans on men?

Never one to jump on trends, though, I have more often than not found the business of it a bit ostentatious and somewhat frivolous, but I’ve also worked in fashion long enough to realize that they work in mysterious ways. Initially, we cringe and reject certain styles, but after seeing them repeatedly — often on our favourite celebrities — they begin to grow on us. Pretty soon, they’ve invaded our wardrobe, and then we find that we can’t even imagine living without them.

I believe that trends generally and not just in fashion, mind you, are most relevant, exciting and valuable when you use them constructively and conscientiously with regards to your style, story and viewpoint. It’s certainly not about blindly following what you see everyone doing, but rather about keeping yourself up-to-date and well equipped to make the best decisions.

Of course, there’s also a long list of subtler Gen Z-approved trends that I’ve now fully embraced, all of which suit my everyday style, which is a bit more classic than extreme. Going forward, though, I plan to be a bit more adventurous, and you should too. Tap into your inner Gen z and try some of these trends; you just might end up loving it. One thing is certain though, whether you think bucket hats are old-fashioned or oversized clothing paired with skinny sunglasses just make you look crazy, Generation Z and their loud and unapologetic fashion choices are here to stay.
As part of activities lined up to celebrate the funeral ceremony of the late Princess Margaret Onymakonor Onyemakonor Obiaigbena (nee Usifoh), mother to Chairman/Editor-in-Chief THISDAY & ARISE Media Group, Prince Nduka Obiaigbena, a Commemorative Birthday and Day of Tributes ceremony was held at Owa-Oyibu, Delta State Tuesday last week. In attendance were family members, friends and royal representatives.

A Dame of the Anglican Church, the late Princess Obiaigbena passed on 16 June, 2022.
The Emir of Kano, Alhaji Aminu Ado-Bayero, and his entourage, paid a courtesy visit to the Obi of Owa, HRM Obi (Dr.) Emmanuel Efeizomor JP in his Palace ahead of the funeral rites for late Princess Margaret Obaigbena, mother of the Chairman, Editor in Chief THISDAY and ARESE Group, Prince Nduka Obaigbena in Owa-oyibu, Delta State on Thursday.
ON WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY
How TY Bello's Vision Influenced and Inspired a Generation Of Photographers

By Usiade Isioma

In an era where social media has given everyone the opportunity to produce stunning pictures and be called a photographer, the World Photography Day, which is marked on the 19 August, presents an opportunity for us to celebrate the veterans whose visions paved the way for the fast growth of the photography industry in the country. Toyin Bello, aka TY Bello, an artist who taught many of us how to see beauty in everyone with every shot she has produced, is one of such names. “Every human being has this gift, but it’s a privilege to do this every day as a job. Being aware of this virtue, that I can make something out of nothing and that there is always a new perspective has been a beautiful experience. I’ve always used my ability to create to show people just how beautiful they really are,” she says.

TY would first cross our path as a member of the now-defunct gospel band KUSH. “Music has always been a part of me. I started writing songs since I was ten years old. I guess the year that I started taking my music seriously was pretty much the same year that I went to beauty school. It’s interesting how all the different parts of my creative life came together all at the same time when I was 15 years old.”

KUSH gained popularity in the early 2000s with the single “Let’s Live Together”, before its members eventually went their separate ways. “KUSH was an amazing part of my life and musical journey. The friendships that I forged with Lara George and Emem Ema are very precious to me. I believe that we were very fortunate to have made beautiful music and explored the way we did. Life eventually called us in different directions, but I’ll always be grateful for the incredible years we spent working together.” Following this, TY became a solo singer, with her first debut solo album titled Greenland becoming an instant hit, earning her multiple prestigious awards. She explained that Greenland describes her every day journey into life. “Over time TY’s love for creativity would eventually move music to the back burner letting photography take its place but not completely. Perhaps one of the most notable photographers of our time, she influen

industry has not gone unnoticed, as she has several awards and accolades to show for it, right from the early years of her career. Her distinct work and photography style, which cut across different dimensions like portrait photography and documentar

ies, has made her a favourite amongst top politicians and influential personalities. It is worthy of mention that she was not only an official photographer to the former president of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan, during his reign but has also had the opportunity to photograph three sitting presidents in the country. Not many would forget how her lens turned Olajumoke, the bread seller, into a super model. She discovered her on the streets of Lagos while working on a THISDAY Style photo session with Tinie Tempah, a Nigerian-British rapper, and the rest, as they say, is history.

One to always lend her voice to a social cause that she believes in, TY was one of the celebrities featured in an eight-minute anti-rape video documentary by the Nigerian Ministry of Youth Development. The anti-rape video shed light on the victim of a gang rape at Abia State University in 2011. She also partnered with Canon for the ‘Live for the Story’ campaign in early 2018. The campaign was a call for everyday Nigerians to tell their personal stories on what makes Nigeria unique.

Bello’s works have taught us to visualize things without being so obvious, especially things we should be sceptical about. Through her, we have learnt that the simplest photograph might carry the most significant meaning. “I’ve had so many amazing moments in my life and work as a photographer. When I was a much younger photographer, I probably would have told you about getting awards and international recognition, but now, it’s clear to me that my best moments are when I get feedback from people, either people I’ve photographed or people who have come in contact with my work and tell me how the work has influenced and blessed them in some way. For me, these are my best moments, and they keep me going.”

Perhaps one of the most notable photographers of our time, she influenced a whole generation of creatives who would eventually take to photography as a thriving career as opposed to a mere hobby using her famous THISDAY Style cover visuals as a template.
footwork of warriors
Access Bank Football Tournament #RoadtoQatar.
At this point, we make bold to say that our emergence is not simply the filling of a role. We will be redefining the essence of the throne of Olu of Warri."

In his coronation speech, Prince Tsola Emiko made this declaration when he was crowned Ogiame Atuwatse III, the Twenty-First Olu of the Warri Kingdom. 365 days later, he has lived up to his words modernizing the institution and inspiring a new generation with his progressive attitude.

As he marks the first anniversary of his coronation, he speaks to BONYTE CHELSA NWABOGH on the controversies leading to his emergence as King, being the voice of the people and his hopes for Warri youths.

Good afternoon your Ògíamẹ̀. It is indeed a pleasure speak to you. You have been a year since you ascended the throne. What has it been like so far?

It’s not unlike anyone in a position of great responsibility. It takes a bit of settling into. There’s a lot of justling and demand- ing for one’s attention. But one must prioritize, identify the most important things, and give it your best. God gives one strength, grace, discernment & wisdom. And to those on the other end, he gives them patience and an open heart/mind.

Is this a role you have prepared for all your life? What was your approach to being crowned?

One can’t say there was a conscious preparation. But in hindsight, because there’s always God’s hand or providence, it’s made clear that everything He allowed to happen ended up preparing one in ways that may not have seemed obvious or con- nected. And there was no clear indication that there was always an automatic situation where this would occur without any issue. So, it all comes down to the fact that it was God’s plan.

I can’t help but touch on the controversies from 2015 before you were crowned. There were talks of you not being quali- fied for this position. Please walk me through this, what qualifies a prince to sit on the throne of the Warri Kingdom?

Well, there’s a gazette that tries to put to paper what has been our age-long practice. And this paper was first written in the 19th century, but we have dealt with succession situations since the 15th century. The origin of the gazette wasn’t without controver- sy, but despite all its provisions, it made it clear that the oracle had the final say. The controversial bit in question; was that it said, the mother of the Prince should be Isiloki or of Edo origin. And my mother is Yoruba. So, the debate raged on. Was Yoruba wrongly omitted? Isn’t it obvious that there’s an inseparable and deep connection between Isiloki and Yoruba that doesn’t have to be stated? Since the oracle is the final authority, why not just simply place him in front of the oracle, and so on and so forth?

Many questions, comments and concerns. But it was expedi- ent to say that Yoruba was not explicitly mentioned in the gazette and, therefore, set the Prince aside for others to be considered.

Are we here, so clearly, you were destined to be King, but I’d like to ask what it felt like moving past 2015 and then being called upon again in 2021?

Moving past was not easy, but at the same time, God gave sufficient grace. Nothing forced, nothing imposed, total submis- sion to Him. It was down to trusting and believing that up until that moment in time, it was either God’s perfect will and purpose for me not to be crowned or accepting that He had a better life planned for me. Or, it simply wasn’t time, and still, trust that He wouldn’t allow me to see shame. Either thought still depended on trusting God and His perfect will.

I have seen videos and pictures that speak volumes of the joy and pride in the heart of the average Isiloki man/woman since your coronation. This comes with a lot of expectations. What difference do you believe your reign has had on the people of Warri, especially Women and Children?

I think there’s a certain level of pride and confidence being restored in not just Isiloki people but all people who call Warri home. We have observed that many non-Isiloki Warri citizens are proud and going out of their way to identify with our emergence, and this is something we are happy to accept and all humility. And I think it’s important for everyone to have a strong sense of identity and be proud of that identity. And this crown and throne are a great inspiration for that identity.

We are very deliberate in opening doors and opportunities for women and the youth because oftentimes, it’s very easy in Nige- ria to associate thrones and traditions with the realm of men. Our women and youth must be an active part of this because there’s so much embedded in them that could only add value, and we will never extract that value if we do not invite them.

As children, this role is one of being a father, a father to all, and young children are no different. It’s easy to project the image of a tough, disciplined and proving father, but the completeness of being a father is much more than that. It’s still a learning expe- rience for me, but I know it’s important that our children see an example of a good father in their King and home.

Many are saying that you represent the new generation of monarchs in Nigeria. Do you agree?

Well, I don’t know why they’re saying that. Maybe because of my age. Perhaps the circumstances through which I emerged. Maybe my faith, my views, my “conduct”, charitable, whatever it is. For me, we are changing, and while traditions are good and they’re here to guide us, one must find a way to incorporate the good that those traditions give us while we look to see how we improve and reinvent things. All to add value, of course. I believe I will be one of those who will lead the reinvention of mon- archy in not just Nigeria but Africa. It’s unfamiliar to some and inspiring to so many, but the truth is, it requires boldness, cour- age, and focus. All to make it even more relevant and relatable in these modern times.

I remember in your coronation speech, you spoke to youths to play their role in moving the Niger Delta forward. What would you say is the greatest need that our youths have to- day to fulfill this mandate?

They need hope. They need to be believed in; they need to be encouraged. Because it’s been a long time of consistent dis- couragement and disappointments from all angles. They need to know and believe that they are better than the fears and stigmas that have come to be associated with the Nigerian youth. They need to know that they are loved, appreciated, valued and have so much more to give and contribute to their environment and society that doesn’t involve negative or destructive energy.

The Olu of Warri will often be the voice of the people to the government. What are the most critical areas the govern- ment needs to address for the people of Warri and the Niger Delta?

The youth, education. But even though the government is strug- gling to create jobs, I would say a conducive atmosphere for education and enlightenment fosters out-of-the-box thinking. Once there’s an enabling environment that doesn’t lead to the usual rush for the usual jobs, I think that would solve more than half of the problem.

You recently said that your wife has won the hearts of the people faster than you. How important has she been to your journey as a King?

After God, she’s very important in the pro- cess. She, along with the entire family, is my strength. Her support, encouragement, praying wife. She sees things, situa- tions, and perspectives that we may miss or not consider. And that was God’s intention from the start. She sees what most will not be able to, in the private and vulnerable moments, and those are the difficult and most important moments. The interactions in those moments make or break any man in what he has been called to do and be. As the saying goes, if you marry the wrong woman, you are finished. But if you marry the right woman, you are complete. I married the right woman.

One thing that stands out about you is your deep Christian faith. Initially, there were some questions about your faith and how that would affect your reign. Have you experienced any challenges with that?

The challenges that were ever raised were so small, they were no challenge at all. God made it clear that you can’t be a son of the Holy Ghost if there’s no challenge. So, it was just a matter of so much embedded in them that could only add value, and we will never extract that value if we do not invite them.

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concerns that you might be unable to balance your faith and commitment to the church with the traditional rites, beliefs and practices that come with the throne. How’s that going so far?

It’s going well. I have always committed myself to God. He led me throughout the process and still holds my hand. I have made it clear where my stance and non-negotiable are, and so far, so good. For me, it’s an opportunity for God to prove Himself. There need be no contact confrontation about it. He is more than able to keep and secure me and prove to everyone that He indeed rules in the affairs of men. His name is on the line, but that name is a strong tower. To Him belongs all power. He kept my father here for 28 years. He will keep me; of that I am sure.

Seeing as your role as Olú of Warri comes with enormous responsibilities, are there any social activities or hobbies you had to give up?

I was never extremely social per se, I had friends, but I was very private. So, a few things must be given up, but somehow, we are making it work.

It’s been one year on the throne; your message at the beginning was one based on unity. With the elections coming, what’s your message to the people of Warri?

Be peaceful, wise, circumspect, and open-minded.

As the saying goes, if you marry the wrong woman, you are finished. But if you marry the right woman, you are complete. I married the right woman.
Ten Things This Week

WILLIAM RUTO WINS KENYA’S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Kenya’s Deputy President William Ruto has been elected as the country’s next President. He will become Kenya’s fifth President since independence, winning the seat on his first attempt. Ruto won with 50.49% of the vote, narrowly defeating veteran opposition leader and former Prime Minister Raila Odinga, who was contesting his fifth election.

BUHARI INAUGURATES NIGERIA END MALARIA COUNCIL AND APPOINTS DANGOTE AS CHAIRMAN

In line with the African Union Assembly Declaration for the Establishment of an ECDC continent-wide, President Buhari has inaugurated the Nigeria End Malaria Council. He also appointed the Chair of Dangote Group, Aliko Dangote, as Chairman of the 16-member Council, noting that the successful implementation of the Council’s agenda will lead to N2tn savings in the next eight years.

BUHARI TO PRESENT 2023 BUDGET BILL IN SEPTEMBER

President Muhammadu Buhari is expected to present the 2023 appropriation to the National Assembly in September. The Director General, Budget Office of the Federation, Alhaji Bashir Ahmad, made the revelation at a training on budget preparation using the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System.

BUHARI REAPPOINTS BASHIR AHMAD AND PROMOTES HIM TO SPECIAL ASSISTANT

President Muhammadu Buhari has reappointed his former Personal Assistant on New Media, Bashir Ahmad, as Special Assistant to the President on Digital Communications. The media aide had resigned from his previous position as Personal Assistant to Buhari in line with a presidential directive urging all political office holders wishing to contest elective office to resign. He has his bid to secure the ticket of the AP CON at party primaries.

JUMIA LAUNCHES A RAPID COMMERCE PLATFORM IN NIGERIA WITH A 20-MINUTE DELIVERY TIME

Jumia, Africa’s e-commerce giant, has joined the list of e-commerce operators in Nigeria. The company will offer free delivery within 20 minutes for up to 4,000 popular items and FMCGs from leading local and global brands. Jumia’s foray into e-commerce seems to have been in the company’s pipeline for quite some time. The e-commerce giant entered into a partnership withErrorException 360, a Lagos-based bicycle delivery company. Quick commerce (q-commerce) is the instant or rapid delivery of ordered products to customers.

EMIRATES SUSPENDS NIGERIA FLIGHTS EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1.

Emirates Airlines has announced the suspension of its flight operations in Nigeria from September 1, 2022. It was said that the suspension became necessary following its inability to repatriate its funds from Nigeria. In its statement, Emirates Airlines stated that “it has tried every avenue to address our ongoing challenges in repatriating funds from Nigeria, and we have made considerable efforts to initiate dialogue with the relevant authorities for their urgent intervention to help find a viable solution.”

I’VE PERFORMED IN PRACTICALLY EVERY PLACE ON THE PLANET, SAYS SINGER BURNA BOY

Burana Boy recently took to his Twitter page to share his career journey. He stated that he started touring Nigeria in 2013, and by 2015, he had performed in almost all 36 states. The musician said he is left with his forthcoming tours in Asia, Australia, and South America to achieve the feat of performing in all countries in the world. “My documentary is deep sha. Watching some old videos and realised I’ve been touring since 2013 and by 2015, I had already performed in almost all 36 states of Nigeria with Glo and Star, by 2018 I had performed in almost every African country already,” he wrote.

MISS UNIVERSE ANGOLA 2022

24-year-old Swelia Da Silva Antonia has been crowned Miss Universe Angola 2022 Sibelia, a social scientist from the Netherlands, beat 24 other contestants to win the national competition. The highlight of the evening was the dresses designed by Nigerian fashion brand - Pillz n Poizn which were worn by all the 25 contestants individually. The brand which has dressed many local and international stars, was carefully selected based on its consistency in exquisite designs and mastery of elegant pieces. Each piece celebrated the contestants’ feminine form and silhouette tastefully in various colours and textures embellished in rich Swarovski crystals, glass beads and paillettes.

FIREBOY AND ASAKE RELEASE THE VISUALS FOR THEIR SMASH HIT “BANDANA”. DIRECTED BY TG OMORI

Fireboy DML, and Asake have released the visuals for their hit track Bandana. The video, which TG Omori directed, features Asake’s signature choir style and has garnered a lot of attention on social media.
MEET FIVE WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF NIGERIAN TECH

According to surveys, there are about 625 registered information technology companies in Nigeria and not even 3% of these firms are owned or controlled by women. This is not a very good sign regarding productivity or equality, but that’s not our conversation today. The situation may seem to be changing slowly, quite honestly, maybe that’s what is needed. In other to leave things on a positive note, we have decided to give honour where due by celebrating women who have been able to hold a torch for others to follow. These young ladies are progressively navigating the tech industry in Nigeria and the African continent to even more successful heights.

Adora Nwodo
Adora Nwodo is a software engineer, published author and tech content creator based in Lagos, Nigeria. She currently works at Microsoft, where she builds cloud services related to artificial intelligence and mixed reality. She owns a blog called “AdoraHack”, where she publishes articles on the developer community in Nigeria and is always trying to drive inclusion for women in technology.

Fara Ashiru Jituboh
Fara Ashiru Jituboh is the co-founder and CEO/CIO of Okra Incorporated, a fintech Nigerian-based startup that allows for the exchange of real-time financial information between customers, applications, and banks. Before establishing Okra alongside her partner, she built and scaled products with organisations such as Canva, Tech-Hustle, the health insurance company Sana Benefits, and the health tech company Donata. Fara also previously worked with JP Morgan, Fidelity Investments and Daimler Mercedes Benz. She is, first of all, an entrepreneur, and a trained software engineer, who happens to be fluent in over 20 programming languages.

Honey Ogundeyi
Honey Ogundeyi is the Founder and CEO of Edukoya, an education technology (ed-tech) company. Edukoya is an app that provides online mobile learning which connects primary and secondary school learners, giving them a 99.9% chance of meeting certified tutors for real-time and one-on-one learning schedules. She has been listed by Forbes as an emerging entrepreneur to look out for and has been mentioned amongst the most influential women in technology by the world Economic forum.

Fara Ashiru Jituboh
Fara Ashiru Jituboh is the co-founder & Chief Operations Officer of PigoVest, one of Nigeria’s largest digital and investment platforms. She is also the co-founder of Feminist Coalition, as well as a co-founder for First Check Africa and a board member at Village Capital, the most active supporter of impact-driven, seed-stage entrepreneurs in the world. She has seven years of experience in Business Analysis and Operations. Fara is an award-winning fintech entrepreneur who works tirelessly for diversity, equity and inclusion in fintech and technology.

Tito Ovia
Tito Ovia is the co-founder and head of public sector growth for Helum Health, which was formally known as OneMedical, a Nigeria-based health tech company that is building the technology infrastructure that’s piloting African healthcare. Before establishing Helum Health, Tito worked for Orbis in Mongolia and the Lagos State AIDS Control Agency. Alongside her partners, Tito was featured on Forbes 30 Under 30 US and made it to the Canada Health Care list that same year.

THE SILK SCARF TREND FOR MEN

Many of you might be wondering how scarfs and men can coexist in a setting, but for the longest time, this has been one fashion accessory that tends to go and come back even bigger each time it resurfaces. Well, this time around, it’s the silk scarf that has made its resurgence as one of the trendiest looks for men in 2022. From being used for streetwear ensembles to Italian luxury garments, silk scarves are versatile and continually raise the bar depending on their use.

Depending on preferences, men can put the silk scarf on full blast either around the neck or on their heads or keep things a bit more subtle by tying it to a belt loop or on their main bag, making it an every-outfit kind of accessory.

Essentially an easy way to infuse a flash of elegance into your wardrobe and offer the possibility of creating some nice contrasts and highlights across your outfits. The allure of the silk scarfs lies in the colours, patterns and texture, as these are the things that accentuate the entire look anyway.

Whether your scarf is floral, plain, or bandana patterned, there is no need to feel inadequate cause, at this very moment, you are doing the right thing by accessorising appropriately. So, if you haven’t indulged in this current trend, it’s not too late to make an impression today. Go get a scarf. We’ve totally got your back!
STAYCATIONS ARE THE NEW VACATIONS

By Funke Babs Kufeji

It baffles me when I hear “times are tough, and money is scarce” when my Instagram feed is filled with pictures of people jet-setting around the world. Anyway, it isn’t surprising because I understand that every once in a while, people need to get away from the hustle and bustle of the country and just relax. But if you are anything like me and can’t get out because maybe your bank balance is laughable, or you are way too busy with events in town, then a staycation is for you. You can have a wonderful holiday without travelling to Europe or any other exotic location. Here are some fun ideas to ensure your Nigeria staycation is memorable.

Plan a boujee picnic
Picnics are not something we as Nigerians do very much, but I love them because they are so boujee and fun to plan. So, whether you are picnicking at the back of your house, at the beach or in a park, I suggest you go all out to heighten the experience. Don’t just grab a blanket to throw on the floor. Gather some small pillows to sit on, a short table to elevate food, and a flower vase to place on the table. The food should be just as boujee too. Instead of paper plates, use proper dinnerware and silverware. A charcuterie board is a sure way to spruce up your picnic, keep the meals simple with appetisers, and finish with a lovely mimosa or Bellini.

A spa day should be at the top of your list.
Spa days are synonymous with relaxation. So, why not book a spa day like you usually would on vacation? Book a massage, a facial, a manicure, or whatever else tickles your fancy and sounds luxurious. This is a perfect way to treat yourself and unwind.

Host a dinner party for your nearest and dearest
The best thing about being on vacation is experiencing new foods and eating at fancy restaurants. To taste the best seafood pasta, you don’t have to be in Italy. You can create your menu right off the internet and invite a few family and friends to experience the meal with you. To make it a little more fun, make a themed dinner where you all get the chance to play dress-up while savouring a taste of wherever else you choose to get your recipe from.

Funke Babs Kufeji
Sunday, August 21, 2022 Vol. 22, No. 9964
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