

...NOT IN THISDAY STYLE? THEN YOU'RE NOT IN STYLE

THISDAY

Style

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022



SHATU
GARKO

44TH MISS NIGERIA

NIGERIA @ 62

LOOKING AHEAD



WE STAND AS ONE

Happy Independence Day, Nigeria!
from all of us @ Access Corporation



COVER NOTE



Every year, the first day of October gives us the opportunity to give a truthful rendering of our journey since independence, not only as a historical record but also to reflect on the choices of state actors and the socio-political crosscurrents which defined our past and are now shaping our future.



Montaigne Place and The House of Creed Launch Wind Flowers 8

Society

THE AGUNZE CHIB IKOKWU FOUNDATION BOOK PRESENTATION
Recently Agunze Chib Ikokwu Foundation played host to guests at The presentation of the book "Learning about Ndi Igbo". The event took place at the Colonades Hotel, Ikoyi and was chaired by H.E Dr Patrick Dele Cole OFR.

6



Style

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Lifestyle & Fashion

Nigeria in Numbers 7

Ten Things This Week 10

Shatu Garko: 44th Miss Nigeria 16

Every Outfit You Need In Preparation For The Upcoming Party Season 18

The Nigerian Tradition Lives On In Fashion 20

Naija To The World 22

EDITOR'S LETTER



EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Andrew, no check out o, Nigeria go survive!

I don't know about you, but being optimistic about Nigeria has been so difficult lately. Just when you ask yourself, "Can it really get worse?", you wake up to even more bad news that makes you feel like we are definitely the worst country in the world. It's now the norm to daily hear of another "Andrew checking out."

Like most Nigerians in my generation, I have often had cause to ask myself, are we under a curse? Is it ever going to get better? Or is it better to just break up Nigeria?

Now, while it is true that we all sometimes feel these negative vibes, it is also true that there's a part of us that wears our identity as Nigerians with pride and so badly want to see her do better.

The only hope we seem to have is yet another messiah come 2023. And isn't that a problem in itself? Like Yomi rightly pointed out, "This systemic depravity was nurtured by us for us and will not end by us being simply "obidient," "atikulate", or "bati-fied," - for these are mere men, not gods."

If every Nigerian should begin to dish out the qualities they want in the next President, we would never be able to complete that list. This is why I believe that, at this point, it is up to us Nigerians to save Nigeria. Politics, religion, tribalism and ethnicity should not be used to divide us. We cannot be the people that gave up even as others fought to save their own countries. Nigeria is ours.; it is all we have and truly own. Let us be united in protecting and saving her. When many are ready to let the change begin with them, we will begin to see the change we want. We should all aim to be individuals that will be proud of this country and that the country will be proud of too.

So today, while many would instead opt to celebrate the nation's sour points, I chose to highlight her high points. I choose to see a Nigeria that will become the envy of nations. A Nigeria that will rise above its current challenges and will again become prominent globally. A Nigeria that will again be the 'Giant of Africa'. As she trudges on, may her journey be smooth, fulfilling and safe. On this occasion of her 62nd birthday, these are my wishes.

God Bless Nigeria!!!
God Bless Nigerians!!!

Konye



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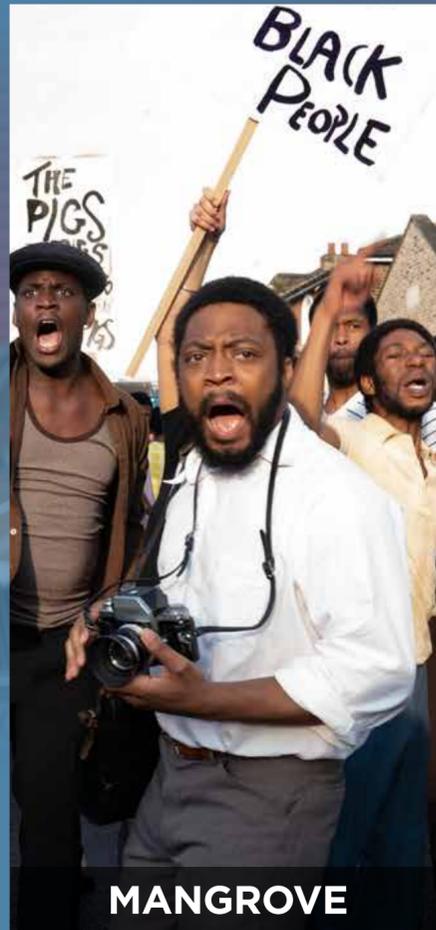
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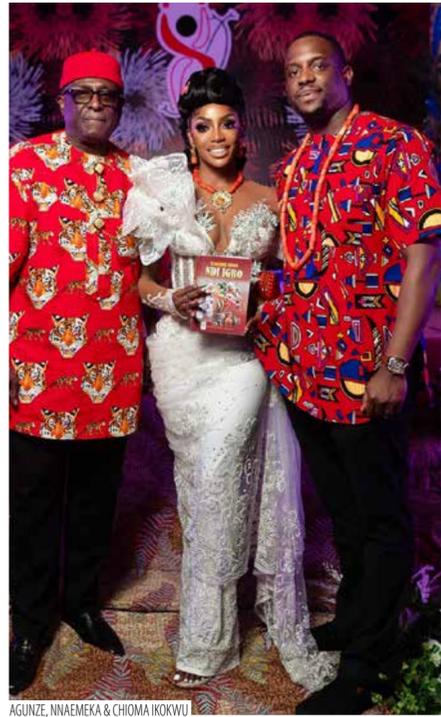
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THE AGUNZE CHIB IKOKWU FOUNDATION BOOK PRESENTATION

Recently Agunze Chib Ikokwu Foundation played host to guests at The presentation of the book "Learning about Ndi Igbo". The event took place at the Colonades Hotel, Ikoyi and was chaired by H.E Dr Patrick Dele Cole OFR. Highlights from the day include a book review by Former Minister of Aviation and Corp Marshal, Chief Osita Chidoka OFR and a sideshow celebrating the beauty of Igbo Fashion.

The Agunze Chib Ikokwu foundation was founded primarily to promote Igbo culture by encouraging Linguistics, Education, Music, History and Art.



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PRETTY MIKE



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H.E. NKEME OKEKE, LOTANNA OJUKWU



CHIEF MRS OSUNDJU ADEFAALA & MARK ANTHONY NDUKA-EZE



L-R, KATOR ANWEH, MEDLIN BOSS, CHIOMA IKOKWU, ASOGWA ALEXANDER



AMY AGHOMI FASHION COLLECTION



ERICA MOORE BRAND FASHION COLLECTION



OBI & CHIOMA MADEKWE

Globacom unveils Tobi Amusan as Glo Ambassador

HOW AMBASSADORSHIP, LUCRATIVE DEALS, INSPIRE MORE TALENTS

- LANRE ALFRED

In its established tradition of trumping and trumpeting athletes who embody the never-say-die and can-do spirit and philosophy of Globacom, the foremost telecommunications company recently unveiled Tobi Amusan, the current world record holder in 100m hurdles, as its new ambassador. Yes, apart from redefining the art of telephony in Nigeria, and introducing the per-second billing when the pioneer operators said it was impossible, Globacom, thanks to its chairman, Dr Mike Adenuga, Jnr's love for the arts, has changed the story of many Nigerian entertainers - established and unheralded - alike. Indeed, from a virtual anonymity barely six months ago, Amusan's rise to global athletic renown and recognition has been both dramatic and heart-warming, which earned her the coveted Globacom ambassadorship, writes Lanre Alfred.

Over the years, Globacom has, indeed, perfected the art of projecting the image of Nigeria and Africa, stoking patriotic fire in citizens and motivating the teeming youth to reach beyond the stratosphere.

As she sauntered into the expansive headquarters of Globacom, last Thursday, September 29, 2022, it was hard to picture the lissom, petite, and dark-skinned Tobi Amusan as a world champion. But she is. The fleet-footed young lady became the first Nigerian world champion in an athletic event when she won the gold medal in the 100metres hurdles event at the 2022 World Athletics Championships held at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon, United States, from July 15-24, 2022. It was a feat that resonated around the globe especially as she set a new world record of 12.12 seconds in the semifinal, and followed this up with 12.06 seconds in the final to take the gold medal.

Prior, Amusan, the current African, Commonwealth, and World Champion in the 100m hurdles, had won back-to-back African and Commonwealth titles in 2018 and 2022 in the 100m hurdles event and went on to wrap up her long and successful 2022 campaign by competing in the 100m hurdles at the Zurich Diamond League event, which she won in 12.29 seconds.

The Ogun State-born hurdler has counted many good and glorious days in her successful athletic career but, this particular Thursday was of a different hue. Yet, Amusan was without the swashbuckling affectation of an elite athlete. Coy, but confident; she, however, seemed to walk on air as she was welcomed into the Globacom office at Mike Adenuga Towers in Victoria Island, Lagos.

For embodying the never-say-die, unlimited, can-do spirit of Globacom which undergirds and constitutes its philosophy, the telecommunications giant unveiled her as its latest Brand Ambassador, a fitting denouement to a year where she announced her arrival on the global stage as a hurdler par excellence. She joins a constellation of sports stars on the rarefied ambassadorial list that once had Osaze Odemwingie, Julius Aghahowa, Victor Moses, Emmanuel Emenike, Mikel Obi, and, most recently, Anthony Joshua, and Odion Ighalo.

Speaking at the event, Globacom's Regional Manager, Sales, Lagos, Lawrence Odediran, said that the company's decision to make Amusan its ambassador was not just a gratuitous reward for her sterling accomplishments, but also to promote the growth of sports in Nigeria and encourage the country's teeming youths to aspire toward realising their dreams by looking up to the new ambassador as a mentor.

"At Globacom, we are very proud of what Tobi Amusan has achieved in her athletic career. She is an embodiment of the Nigerian spirit of resilience, hard work, and enterprise, which enabled her to excel irrespective of the enormity of the challenges she encountered in her quest for success. These are qualities that Globacom identifies with", Odediran stated. He declared further that Amusan has become a testimony to the famous saying by Malcolm X that: "the future belongs to those who prepare for it today", adding: "She prepared very hard in the previous years and today belongs to her. Tomorrow is also waiting for other determined Nigerian and African youths who begin their preparations today. We, therefore, urge them not to be discouraged by present challenges, but to continue to strive to realise their dreams."

A delighted Amusan thanked Globacom for appointing her as its ambassador and promised to be a good representative of the company and the youths at all times. She also assured the company that she would continue to project a positive image of the brand across the world. "I am proud to be associated with Glo as its brand ambassador. It is a proudly Nigerian company doing great things and empowering Nigerians. I am grateful to the Chairman, Dr. Mike Adenuga, Jr., for giving me this amazing opportunity," she declared.

Interestingly, however, Dr Mike Adenuga Jnr, the chairman of Globacom's love for the arts is intrinsic and invaluable. Perhaps after his passion for business, making money, and philanthropy, appreciation of the arts is next in line. The entertainment industry has featured prominently in Globacom's Corporate Social Investment (CSI) initiatives on account of Adenuga's passion for the industry.

Aside from direct financial commitments including massive sponsorships, Globacom currently retains the largest number of key players in the entertainment industry as brand ambassadors while upholding that by actively engaging these key entertainment drivers, they, in turn, can help to grow the sector and the economy. Many entertainers, both established and unheralded, have been blessed immeasurably by this love and patronage. Though patently elusive, he once drove himself to the album launch of Paul Play Dairo, a phenomenon in the Nigerian music scene in the late 90s and early 2000s, to the consternation of guests.

"The chairman, Dr. Mike Adenuga, showered me with so much love and I enjoyed so much favour from him. The height of the good gestures was when he honoured the invitation to my album launch in 2004. A lot of naysayers in the press said I was too inconsequential to get him to attend my launch. But they were all disappointed," he recalled. When Paul Play fell sick in 2009 and took a long break to treat what many thought was cancer, he confessed that he didn't try to publicly raise funds because "People like Dr. Mike Adenuga were there for me."

Likewise, when Juju music maestro, Ebenezer Obey, who had retired from secular music decades earlier to concentrate on evangelism, required an eye surgery many years ago, Adenuga bankrolled the entire treatment, which took place abroad. That gesture restored Obey's health and return to musical reckoning. The Globacom boss also blessed the Miliki Exponent with an Escalade SUV.

Adenuga loves a good laugh and he loves to share happiness, which is why he has supported and sponsored many comedy shows ranging from Glo Lafta Fest, regarded as the biggest music, dance, and comedy event in Nigeria, which brings top-rated African comedians like Bovi, Salvador of Uganda, Basket Mouth, Gordons, I Go Dye, 2Cantok, Seyi Law and others together in one place for an evening of unlimited fun and laughter; Glo Slide and Bounce, a travelling music and dance show; and the Bovi man on Fire Lagos and Warri editions, among others. His favourite comedians like Basketmouth and Bovi who, at various times have been ambassadors for the Glo brand, have also benefited immensely from their personal relationships with the man fondly called 'The Bull'.

Industry sources say Adenuga is almost always one of the first individuals to have a movie exclusively screened to him and his family in his expansive home cinema. Reports say Kunle Afolayan, one of Nigeria's foremost filmmakers and former Globacom ambassador, has screened a number of his movies to him at home. Even when he was no longer an ambassador, Adenuga still found Afolayan's movies a compelling watch. His love for the entertainment industry didn't start recently.

Since it began operations in 2003, Globacom has made home-grown stars from the entertainment industry the faces (ambassadors) of its brand while making them their popularity in affluence and influence. At a time when entertainers were being paid peanuts for their artistry, Globacom upped the ante, dishing out millions of naira to their ambassadors, and helping them to live the life they only see in the movies or on MTV.

The least paid ambassador, sources said, was getting at least N10million per annum depending on their level of stardom. But the highest-paid ambassador was P-Square, which, at the height of their fame, was reportedly paid over N200m and got an expensive SUV each. While Peter got a 2015 G-Wagon, Paul got a Range Rover as part of the deal. Prior, D'banj was reputed to be the highest-paid ambassador. In 2008, he was signed on as a Globacom ambassador in a deal worth N70m and got a branded SUV estimated at N15m. As the headlining act during the company's Rock and Rule tour of Nigerian cities then, he got N2m per show and was signed on for 18 cities. He was disengaged in 2010 due to a face-off with the company over performance engagement fees and re-engaged in 2013.

Indigenous entertainers are not left out of the Globacom largesse as stars like Pasuma, Baba Latin, Iya Rainbow, Papi Luwe, King Sunny Ade, and a host of others are not left out. Neither are new generation artists like Davido, Olamide, Tiwa Savage, Timaya, Sani Danja, Ali Nuhu, Chioma Akpotha, and Funke Akindele. At various points, their artistry has earned them a sip or a gulp from Adenuga's cup of magnanimity.

As part of reaching out to the youth and motivating them to attain excellence in their chosen fields, Globacom, in 2010, announced that it was taking over Naija Sings, the music talent-search reality show being organised by MNET, which 'aimed at discovering, developing and rewarding Nigeria's brightest and boldest musical talents. In an exclusive three-year deal, the reality show was rechristened Glo Naija Sings and a mouth-watering prize regime including \$100,000, a record deal and brand new Toyota RAV4 SUV was introduced. The telecoms giant promised that it would endorse the winner of the show as an ambassador. Celebrities like Dare Art Alade, OIisa Adibua and Tosin Martins were some of the beneficiaries as they participated actively in the show.

In 2013, Globacom announced that it would be sponsoring the Nigerian version of the British music reality television show, X-Factor. The auditions were held in Nigeria and Ghana with the ultimate prize being a \$150,000 cash reward as well as a deal to be managed and produced by Sony Music to record an album.

The company also collaborated with MTV on The Big Friday Show in 2012, an alliance that made the show more interactive and gave viewers the opportunity for live appearances on the show. There was an added benefit of GLO subscribers winning the network's products every week. That was for the unheralded talents who needed a platform and motivation to get started with their careers.

Indeed, more than any other Nigerian company, Globacom has, over the years, supported the industry through corporate endorsement for practitioners of all genres by providing massive platforms for Nigerian nay African entertainers to practice their trade through direct sponsorship of concerts such as Glo Campus Storm, Glo Rock 'n' Rule; Glo Slide 'n' Bounce; Glo Lafta Fest; Glo Mega Music Nationwide Tour, Dance with Peter, Glo X-Factor, Glo Naija Sings and the popular sit-com, Professor Johnbull featuring among others Kanayo O. Kanayo, Yomi Fash Lanso, Bidemi Kosoko and Bishop Umeh.

In the tradition of Globacom, which had successfully established itself as ambitious, bold, daring, and endearing, the athletic gem will subsequently help to propagate its message of the relentless Nigerian spirit.



MONTAIGNE PLACE AND THE HOUSE OF CREED LAUNCH WIND FLOWERS.

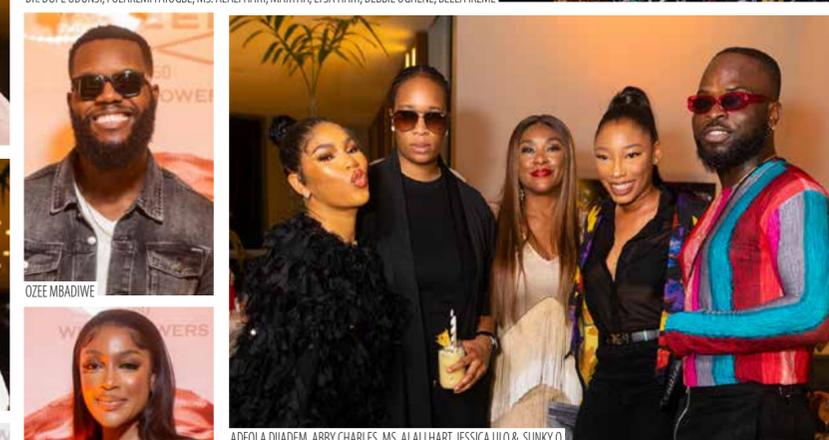
Montaigne place, the leading Luxury Fragrance, Skincare, cosmetics retail, and lifestyle company, has launched WIND FLOWERS from The House of Creed in Lagos, Nigeria. WIND FLOWERS is a Floral, Fresh, Amber Fragrance inspired by the strength and grace of modern femininity created by Master perfumer Olivier Creed. Speaking about the perfume, he says:

"There's a huge contrast in such a short space of time, and you have to emote that very quickly to the audience. Scent puts me right in that time and place. It hits me harder than any costume or accessory."

"Wind Flowers comes in a really pretty glass bottle with a silver ribbon bow tied at the neck. The bottle shape is timeless and is different from the usual Creed fragrance bottles."

The fragrance has alluring notes that are Floral and fresh.

WIND FLOWERS is Exclusively available at Montaigne Place.



NIGERIA IN NUMBERS; 20 interesting facts we bet you didn't know

The term "Giant of Africa" was given to Nigeria mostly because it has the continent's greatest population. This metaphor, however, may be used for more than just the population. Here are 20 other reasons.

By Bukola Amoye



1 . World Population: Nigeria is the sixth most populous country in the world. With a population of an estimated 216 million people, according to the UN, Nigeria places sixth behind China, India, the United States, Indonesia and Pakistan.

2 . Oil Production: While we are the largest oil-producing country in Africa, Nigeria is 11th in the world, producing about 2 million barrels daily.

3 . Oldest Dye-pit: Nigeria is home to the oldest dye pit in Africa: The 'Kofar Mata' is a 500-year-old dye pit in Kano used to create a beautiful tie and dye designs.

4 . Football Ranking: Nigeria is currently ranked 31st in world football, according to FIFA and 3rd in Africa behind Morocco and Senegal.

5 . International Study: Nigeria has the highest number of African International students studying in the United States.

6 . Language Diversity: With over 500 languages, Nigeria sits comfortably in third place amongst the most linguistically diverse countries in the world.



COCOA



FOLORUNSHO ALAKIJA

7 . Cultural Diversity: Culturally, Nigeria places 18th in the most culturally and ethnically diverse countries in the world, having over 250 known ethnic groups.

8 . Cocoa Production: Behind Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Indonesia, Nigeria is fourth among the world's largest cocoa producers.

9 . Military Strength: The Nigerian Military is ranked the 4th strongest military in Africa and the 35th strongest worldwide.

10 . Entertainment: Nollywood, Nigeria's film industry, is the second largest film producer in the world by volume.

11 . Economy: Nigeria boasts of having the largest economy in Africa.

12 . Sorghum Production: Sorghum is a gluten-free substitute for wheat, rye and barley. Just behind the United States, Nigeria ranks 2nd as the largest sorghum-producing country in the world, supplying about 11% of the world's total sorghum.



KOFAR PITS

13 . Pineapple Production: Nigeria is ranked as the 8th largest producer of pineapple in the world.

14 . Millet Production: Just behind India, Niger and China, Nigeria is the fourth largest millet-producing country in the world.

15 . Young Population: According to World Atlas, Nigeria is the 16th country with the most population under the age of 18. About 50.4% of the nation's population is under 18.

16 . Wealth: Nigeria is home to the richest man in Africa and the richest black man in the world, Aliko Dangote, as well as the 3rd richest black woman in the world, Folorunsho Alakija.



SUPER EAGLES

17 . Infrastructure: Until 1996, the third mainland bridge was the longest in Africa. It now places second in Africa, behind the 6th October Bridge in Egypt.

18 . Music: The most successful African artiste in the world is from Nigeria! You probably guessed it- it's Wizkid. With over 40 million career sales worldwide so far, the 32-year-old Nigerian is the best-selling African artiste in the world.

19 . Fintech: Nigeria is home to some of the biggest fintech giants in Africa, including Flutterwave and Opay.

20 . Agriculture: Nigeria boasts the largest agricultural output and the highest number of cattle in Africa.

Ten Things This Week

NEWS

NEWS

NKWU ONWUKA WINS THE BICESTER COLLECTION AWARD FOR EMERGING DESIGNERS



This week, some of the most significant forces in fashion came together at the CNMI Sustainable Fashion Awards to discuss and honour fashion's sustainability movement. During the ceremony, 14 prizes and two special mentions got awarded. And the Bicester Collection Award for Emerging Designers to Nigeria's Nkwu Onwuka, Creative Director of leading sustainable fashion brand Nkwu.

Rosy De Palma presented the awards ceremony.

WIZKID TO DEBUT NEXT ALBUM ON APPLE MUSIC LIVE.



Nigerian singer Wizkid headlined a special performance at London's Roundhouse for Apple Music Live. "Apple Music has always been a supporter of my career and a major tool in connecting me with my fans," Wizkid says. "Collaborating with them on something like this is special. I'm excited to debut new music from my forthcoming album 'More Love, Less Ego' and share my Apple Music Live show with fans across the world."

The which was a huge success took place on Tuesday, September 27.

The Grammy-winning musician's performance is available to stream in 165 countries.

MIKEL OBI RETIRES FROM FOOTBALL AT 35

John Mikel Obi has officially announced his retirement from professional football. Obi, who has enjoyed a hugely successful career, took to his official Instagram account to reveal his retirement decision. "There is a saying that "all good things must come to an end", and for my professional football career, that day is today," he said. "I look back at the past 20 years of my career, and I must say that I am very satisfied with all that I was able to achieve and, more importantly, the human it has helped shape.



AYRA STARR HITS NO. 1 ON APPLE MUSIC'S TOP SONGS.

...TO FEATURE KELLY ROWLAND ON A NEW SINGLE.



Nigerian fast-rising Afropop singer Ayra Starr has a new single called 'Rush' which currently tops the list of Apple Music's top songs. She has been confirmed to be featured on a new song with four-time Grammy award-winning artist Kelly Rowland. Kelly Rowland took to her social media platform to share the first glimpse of the upcoming project.

CBN RAISES INTEREST RATES TO 15.5% TO TAME RISING INFLATION



The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has raised the monetary policy rate (MPR), which measures interest rate, from 14 per cent to 15.5 per cent, the third consecutive increase in 2022. The CBN governor Godwin Emefiele, governor of the apex bank, said ten members of the policy-setting committee voted for the rate hike. He said the rate hike would shape the country's economic growth. The committee also raised the cash reserve ratio (CRR) to 32.5 per cent from 27.5 per cent. CRR is the share of a bank's total customer deposit that must be kept with the central bank in liquid cash.



CHIMAMANDA ADICHIE TO RECEIVE HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S W.E.B. DU BOIS MEDAL.

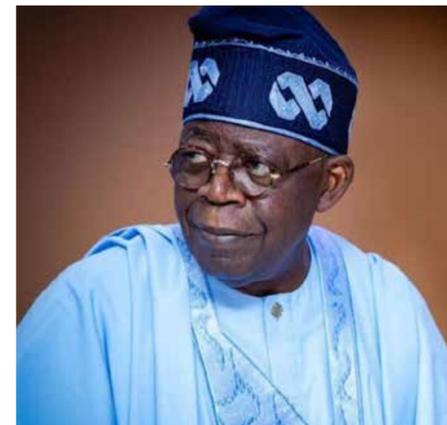
Award-winning Nigerian writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie will receive Harvard University's W.E.B. Du Bois Medal on October 6. This marks another return to Harvard for Chimamanda, who was the Harvard College Class Day Speaker in 2018 and was previously a Harvard Radcliffe Institute Fellow (2011-2012). The Hutchins Center for African and African American Research announced in The Harvard Gazette that Chimamanda, alongside six other honourees, will receive the medal as people "who embody the values of commitment and resolve that are fundamental to the Black experience in America". Other honourees include basketball legend, cultural critic, activist Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and ground-breaking actress Laverne Cox.

APC POSTPONES CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF.

The All Progressives Congress (APC) Presidential Campaign Council has postponed the kick-off of its campaigns. The Director-General of the Tinubu/Shettima Presidential Campaign Council and Governor of Plateau State, Simon Lalong, disclosed this in a statement.

According to him, the adjustment of the timetable and schedule of activities is to accommodate growing interests shown by various political tendencies in being part of the campaign council.

According to him, a new date for the kick-off would be announced soon.



JACQUELINE SOUWARI KICKS OFF DEBUT SOLO EXHIBITION IN LONDON.

Come October 7, 2022, Jacqueline Suowari will kick off her debut solo exhibition in London. The exhibition themed "The Way They Sees Us" will be at the London Lighthouse Gallery and will be open till October 31, 2022. Jacqueline Suowari is a fast-rising Nigerian ballpoint pen artist who has inked her way onto the global art scene with a pen in one hand and a vision to put Nigerian art on the map.



RIHANNA TO HEADLINE SUPER BOWL HALFTIME SHOW.

The NFL has announced that pop superstar Rihanna will headline the halftime show at February's Super Bowl in Arizona. The nine-time Grammy winner broke the news by posting a photo of an NFL-branded football on Twitter. The show is one of the most coveted slots in music, with this year's 14-minute spectacle drawing in more than 120 million viewers. "Rihanna is a once-in-a-generation artist who has been a cultural force throughout her career," the NFL's head of Music, Seth Dudowsky, said.



DANIEL LEE IS BURBERRY'S NEW CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

Daniel Lee has officially been appointed as the new Chief Creative Officer of international fashion brand Burberry. He will join the fashion house on October 3 and report to the company's new CEO, Jonathan Akeroyd. Lee has previously worked at Maison Margiela, Balenciaga and Donna Karan and is most well-known for his time at Bottega Veneta. His first collection will be unveiled at London Fashion Week in February 2023.





WE STAND AS ONE

Celebrating the freedom to chart a progressive course on the strength of our diversity and connections, building a future together as one people.

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COVER



NIGERIA @ 62

LOOKING AHEAD

By Yomi Owope

When we were children, the sounds of Atilogwu dancers and stadiums draped in our national colours were what we looked forward to on October First. Later, after university, we wanted to travel the country and experience its dizzying diversity through our national youth service. Depending on where you were posted, your journey would take you through the forests of the South-West, the hills of Plateau and the mountains of Gongola. You could see the splendour of our military in Kaduna or do a day's journey to Maiduguri in a 504-station wagon. Enugu was the heart of the East and yielded unparalleled beauty, while Cross River was ready to feed you fat, almost for free. In Kano, Christians joined Muslims to commemorate Sallah and joyfully exchanged gifts at Christmas. Exotic stories of people from Bendel to Benue had you longing to visit to see the sights and meet the people. And Lagos! Well, that was the poor man's London, with overhead bridges and swanky hotels; it was everyone's dream to visit at least once. In the end, many would settle at the place of their posting, learn the language, find a wife or husband, and live peaceably in all godliness and honesty.

Nothing happens that way anymore.

Nigeria has a storied history. Depicted in the words of poets and politicians, it is a vibrant splash of people and money and a place of many casualties – of war and circumstance. More than one hundred years after amalgamation and 62 years of independence, our common destiny is beset by conflicting ideas of where we are and where we should be. If we say that 1914 was the unilateral daydream of one man, we cannot deny that 1960 was what we – North and South – collectively sought: the freedom to choose our future and determine our destiny as one nation. Every year since then, the first day of October gives us the opportunity to give a truthful rendering of our journey since independence, not only as a historical record but also to reflect on the choices of state actors and the socio-political crosscurrents which defined our past and are now shaping our future.

Nigeria is no longer the mere geographical expression of Awolowo's 1947 text; it is a real-world human endeavour made up of a people wrought together by a common struggle, like most diverse countries of the world. At major points in the last six decades, we have stood on the brink of disaster but have been pulled back



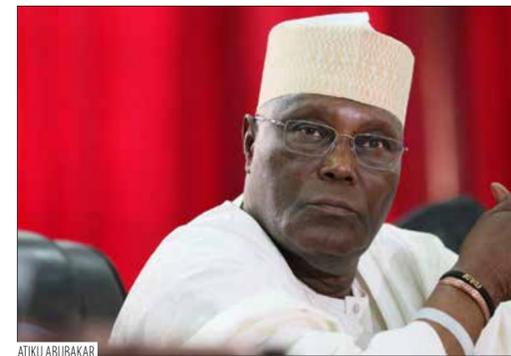
by providence. And while many of our problems have given us a sense of common purpose, they have somehow left us more resentful of power and more divided than ever. "Which way, Nigeria?" Sonny Okosun asked nearly forty years ago. It's a rhetorical question that our parents still raise with some wistfulness and a hint of hope. But if hope deferred makes the heart sick, then the present generation is seeking urgent answers that can no longer wait.

Born into bankruptcy, many of Nigeria's young arrive belligerent and seem to be consistently fighting a losing battle. No Food for Lazy Man was a familiar axiom inscribed on the rear of molues in the 1990s, but what happens if a young man is not lazy but still cannot find work? And what should he do if his hunger threatens to drive him mad? When one examines the past, does this help explain Niger-Deltan militancy, Northern banditry and Biafran aggression, or are we oversimplifying our problems? A pathology of youth restiveness in our country is rooted in our widening wealth gap and rising poverty. It cannot be painlessly cured with tanks in the streets and Tucano jets in the air! But let us not digress.

The present administration swooped into power on the promise of change. Whether the change has occurred for better or worse is a matter of vigorous debate on every platform. Today, we have a president who has said he wants to be judged fairly based on



PRESIDENT MOHAMMADU BUHARI



ATIKU ABUBAKAR



PETER OBI



AHMED TINUBU

his work of nearly eight years. His allies believe the president's achievements speak for themselves. They point to impressive infrastructure projects like the completion of the Second Nigeria Bridge, the rapid expansion of rail projects across the country, airports, and roads as evidence of progress while directing us to other critical sectors like power and agriculture as undergoing slow but sweeping transformation. However, the World Bank and public policy experts believe that the successes advertised by the president are sadly overshadowed by several looming problems that have refused to go away. In terms of growth, 2021 turned out better than expected for us, and the prospects for 2022 have improved. However, in keeping with the Nigerian paradox, growth has not translated to progress for the guy on the street, and inflationary pressures have left us more vulnerable. Further impugning on our progress are kidnapping and terrorism, problems in the education sector, and the ever-present albatross around Nigeria's neck – institutional corruption.

However, this is not to pass any verdict on the Buhari administration's handling of corruption. The reason is that it is hard to discuss the perils of corruption without conveniently forgetting ourselves. It is hard because our corruption is multidimensional, just like our poverty. Parents teach their children to lie at a young age; we send them to "special centres" to write JAMB and SSCE, where there is extensive cheating and bribing of invigilators. They then con their way to a B.Sc. by hiring people to write their exams and dissertations. Later, they "work" their national youth service to Abuja, Lagos, and Port Harcourt; finally, they become part of the workforce and continue gaming the system. Everything is for sale here, and we will rather pay ten times over for shortcuts instead of waiting in the queue for our driver's license or international passport. This systemic depravity was nurtured by us for us and will not end by us being simply "obidient," "atikulate", or "batified," - for these are mere men, not gods.

This brings us to the question of how we have, since 1960, loved the idea of a Lion-of-Judah-type hero riding into town, purging us of all the bad guys and setting us on the path to redemption. Indeed, that was the impression many had of Mr Buhari when he rode in on his archetypal horse in 2015. Everyone said, "there's a new sheriff in town; even his body language evokes fear." Imagine then the consternation when they did not see the lame walk and the dead raised to life eight years after the messiah showed up. At some point, we all have to reckon with

the fact that Nigeria is not a one-man job and that the fiery fervency of a political campaign is different from actual governance. A president is not a conquering king; he is only as good as the people who advise him, his ability to work with the national assembly to get his vision passed, and the courage to take unpopular decisions. On the last point, this president has chosen to kick the can down the road for the next guy.

The Choice Ahead

A former president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, said this week that Nigeria's problem is "our leaders." It's not a unique perspective, especially coming from an elder statesman and a two-era commander-in-chief. Nevertheless, he further offered some guidance into what may finally help Nigeria attain its full potential – a national dream and identity to unify all of us and provide a sense of pride in the nation. This may be true, but if we are ever going to hope for unity as a nation, we will also need a time of reckoning with our past. While Nigeria pushes for colonial-era reparations with the West, internally, we must consider reparations to our own selves for our inhumanity to one another.

Nations have a long record of compensatory payments to right their historical wrongs. Reparations have often been used to reduce the risk of relapse after a conflict and to help governments transition. In Nigeria, we can start by revisiting every civil strife since 1960. If the US is still discussing reparations for the transatlantic slave trade 400 years after, we can begin by being truly honest about Biafra. The US, Colombia, South Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, Peru, Philippines, and Germany all paid reparations for injustices perpetrated during wars and repressive regimes. From Southern Kaduna to Plateau and the South-East, one cannot impose loyalty on a people who bear deep-rooted resentment for a country that has failed to protect them; neither can you enforce lasting peace with the barrel of the gun.

At the end of the day, we should not give up on the idea of a united Nigeria with fully committed, patriotic citizens. In a country of extremes, where cutting-edge technology dwells side-by-side with the lack of access to potable water, we must learn the meaning of human dignity for every person, high or low, and we must give everyone a voice. The world watches Nigeria, the largest black nation on earth with more than 525 languages, to set the example and break the African jinx of hunger and strife. At 62, we have come a long way and yet have miles to go before we sleep.

Interview - Konye Chelsea Nwabogor
Photography - @ngozieme
Stylist - @mosesebite

SHATU GARKO 44th Miss Nigeria

Shatu Garko's emergence as the 44th Miss Nigeria and the first-ever hijab-wearing model to win the Miss Nigeria pageant was one which sparked conversations around the modern-day Muslim woman and pop culture—with the Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC), backed by the Kano State Hisbah Board's decision to question her parents over their daughter's participation in the pageant.

For Shatu, religion and culture should not constitute barriers to one's dreams in life. "Do not let religion and cultural beliefs stop you from pursuing your dreams and achieving them. The key is finding the right balance between it all. Never in a million years would I have thought that I, Shatu Garko, an 18-year-old average girl from Kano state, would ever become Miss Nigeria. But, if I didn't try, I wouldn't be here." she says.

Can you share a little bit of your story for those who aren't familiar with how you got into the world of modelling and pageantry?

I graduated high school in 2020 and was waiting to get into the university. Then the Covid-19 pandemic and I had no choice but to stay home. I hated being idle, so I decided to engage in activities I love - sports, fashion and beauty. I started playing basketball, but it was hard for me to cope. It was at that time I took an interest in modelling. I wasn't sure it would work out, but I was determined to try. I applied to international modelling agencies but heard nothing.

My first modelling audition was rocky. I was initially selected, but the people in charge later said I needed better management, so they rejected me. But that didn't discourage me. Instead, it encouraged me to do better and push harder. My mom said, "You can't just start this thing and be successful immediately." She made me understand that it is okay to fail before one succeeds. So, I kept trying until I saw the Miss Nigeria advert on Instagram. Knowing no girl from my state (Kano) had ever competed for Miss Nigeria, I decided to apply. And here we are today.

What moment has been the most surreal for you regarding your career?

Hearing my name called out as the 44th Miss Nigeria. I still haven't gotten over that moment. It's amazing. Also, when I think about the thousands of lives, I have been able to impact through my outreach programs, it's mind-boggling to think that this time last year, it never would have been possible.

How would you describe the journey since you were crowned?

Pure fantasy. Most people don't realise the importance of self-discovery and awareness at a young age, but I did as a teenager, thanks to the Miss Nigeria Organisation. It has helped me become more self-aware as an 18-year-old. As a result, I am confident of my worth.

Is the journey turning out to be what you were expecting?

It's more work than I expected. From Instagram, it looks glam, but I've been very busy with The Green Girl Company Limited outreach programs and brand endorsement obligations.

What does it feel like to be a beauty queen?

Amazing. So far, I've learnt a lot of life lessons. I'm more punctual, responsible, and environment aware. I've met many people, learned about their lives, culture, and beliefs, and travelled the country. Most importantly, I love that I could show other young women like me what is possible. When people see people



CREDIT
Look 1 - LDA dress x head wrap @midemide
Look 2 - black @vionate dress, headpiece from stylist closet
Look 3 - full look @lisafawiyq_studio
Accessories @karlhajewels
Photography @ngozieme
Styling: @mosesabite
Makeup @ameriecode
Production @clicknigeri
Green kaftan - @itan_ayinke



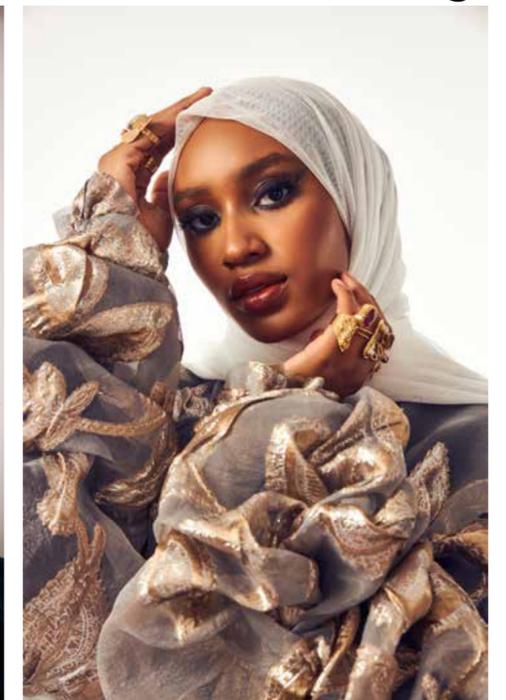
Never sacrifice your faith, culture, or beliefs for fashion and beauty. Losing your identity follows. However, do not let religion and cultural beliefs stop you from pursuing your dreams and achieving them.

of their kind make groundbreaking achievements, they get inspired to do the same. Even other girls who do not wear hijab will see me and be like if a hijab model can do this, how much more me? So, there is representation and inclusion. When I was crowned, I received many congratulatory and encouraging messages from social media users and other beauty pageant contestants worldwide. From countries like South Africa, Rwanda, Somalia, Malaysia and Tunisia, telling me that I inspired them. I am pleased that I can be a source of inspiration to others.

Let's talk about the backlash when you



Never in a million years would I have thought that I, Shatu Garko, an 18-year-old average girl from Kano state, would ever become Miss Nigeria. But, if I didn't try, I wouldn't be here. So, I encourage young Muslim women and girls everywhere to go for their dreams! Just do it.



became Queen. How were you able to handle it?

At first, it was difficult, but I can only say that I don't let some things bother me because it may not be worth it. No one can judge me or any other human being except God. Alhamdulillah, I was able to cope by blocking my ears and remaining true to myself and my originality. Negative comments about you can cause you to doubt yourself and sometimes lead to depression. I didn't want to go through that, so I followed my heart and went about the business of becoming the 44th Miss Nigeria.

In your opinion, why is it so important for young Muslim women everywhere to see someone like you on the cover of magazines or on the runway?

Aside from the reasons I gave earlier, I believe seeing someone like me, a young Hijabi model, on a magazine cover or the runway will inspire girls - regardless of religion, culture, or race - to become who they want to be. To dream bigger and go for their heart's desires. I am grateful to the few Hijabi models already breaking ground globally before I became Miss Nigeria.

I look forward to seeing this become normal.

As a Muslim woman, what advice would you give younger women trying to balance tradition, religion, and fashion?

Never sacrifice your faith, culture, or beliefs for fashion and beauty. Losing your identity follows. However, do not let religion and cultural beliefs stop you from pursuing your dreams and achieving them. The key is finding the right balance between it all. Never in a million years would I have thought that I, Shatu Garko, an 18-year-old average girl from Kano state, would ever become Miss Nigeria. But, if I didn't try, I wouldn't be here. So, I encourage young Muslim women and girls everywhere to go for their dreams! Just do it.

How has your faith inspired your approach to fashion and modest dressing?

And what would you say the biggest misconception about modest dressing is?

: Dressing modestly is like a religious art for a Muslim woman. It is an act of devotion and submission. Modest fashion requires looser fits, but not baggy clothes. You can be stylish and keep up with the latest trends by choosing waist-defining pieces with gathers, sash belts, or tie fronts.

What do you hope your career says to women worldwide?

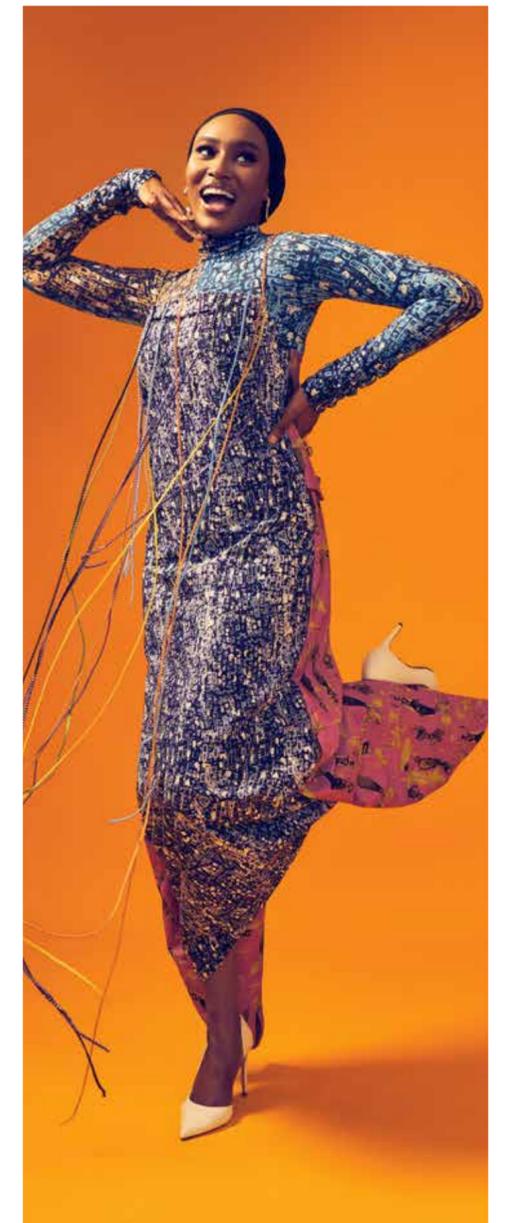
Lots of young girls want to do many things, but they stay in their shells because they're afraid of what others will say. I hope I have paved the way for such girls and young women. Despite the negativity, I'm getting better every day, Alhamdulillah. I pray my story inspires others, and I can hopefully continue to be a beacon of inspiration.

Your reign wraps up in a couple of months. What plans do you have as you hand over the crown?

I am continuing my work with the incredible team at Miss Nigeria and the Green Girl Company for the rest of my reign. Alongside other projects, I am focusing on eliminating period poverty or at least significantly reducing it. No girl should be denied an education because they do not have access to period products. These are necessities, not luxury items. I am also delighted to share the news that I have been accepted to study at a highly regarded institution in Dubai. Fortunately for my education, the Miss Nigeria Organisation has decided to extend my reign. This way, I can complete all my outreach programs across other states in Nigeria.

Nigeria turns 62 this weekend. What are your hopes and desires for her going forward?

Because my love for Nigeria is just as profound as my love for my family and closest friends, I want to wish her same things as I do for my family and friends : success, happiness, prosperity, and peace.



FASHION & STYLE

FASHION & STYLE



ERICA OKUNDAYE AND NANA ANNAH



JENNIFER OBAYUWANA



ALEXANDRE VAUTHIER

Co-Ords

There are different kinds of two pieces, so you can find the one that best suits your style. Classy two pieces are versatile and can be worn to concerts, theatre shows, casual dates, birthdays, etc.

Dinner Dresses

If you are 'high-society', chances are that you would be busy attending all sorts of classy dinners, so dinner dresses are a must-have. You should prepare at least one or two dinner dresses, whether short or long. To make it stand out, you can decide to go for an Ankara dinner wear. You could also wear the dresses for a date night with 'Le boo.'



ABISOLA DEJONWO



LES REVERIES

EVERY OUTFIT YOU NEED IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING PARTY SEASON By Bukola Amoboye

As we enter the month of October, the year starts to wrap up with all sorts of events ranging from concerts to stage plays, conferences, weddings, birthdays, comedy shows and even date night with 'Le boo'. Since you're never to be caught unfresh, now is an excellent time to start planning your outfit. Today, we break down several essential outfits you need in your wardrobe that can work for most possible events.



WAJE

Jeans

Whether skinny or mom, jeans are an absolute must. They can be worn to various events, from concerts to casual brunch with friends, comedy nights, etc. Pair them with really nice tops/shirts with extra accessories, and you're good to go!

Crop -Tops

Crop tops are the new cool and go with trousers and skirts. Although they come in different designs, we recommend pairing them with boyfriend jackets or jean jackets for a chic casual look.

Blazers

Female blazers have a way of giving off a confident vibe and are perfect for casual brunch, theatre shows, comedy nights, birthdays, etc.



BALMAIN



BALMAIN



CHIKA EMMANUELLA



RITA DOMINIC



ASHISH



AZ FACTORY KIMONO ROBE

Kimono Robes

Although simple, this chic piece screams fashionista and will look good for casual outings like lunch with the girlfriends.



CHRISTOPHER JOHN ROGERS



NORMA KAMALI



IFY UMENIYORA



Minis

Be it dresses or skirts the party season is the perfect excuse to flaunt your legs. You can go for the classic black or a fiery colour like red that's sure to make you the centre of attraction.



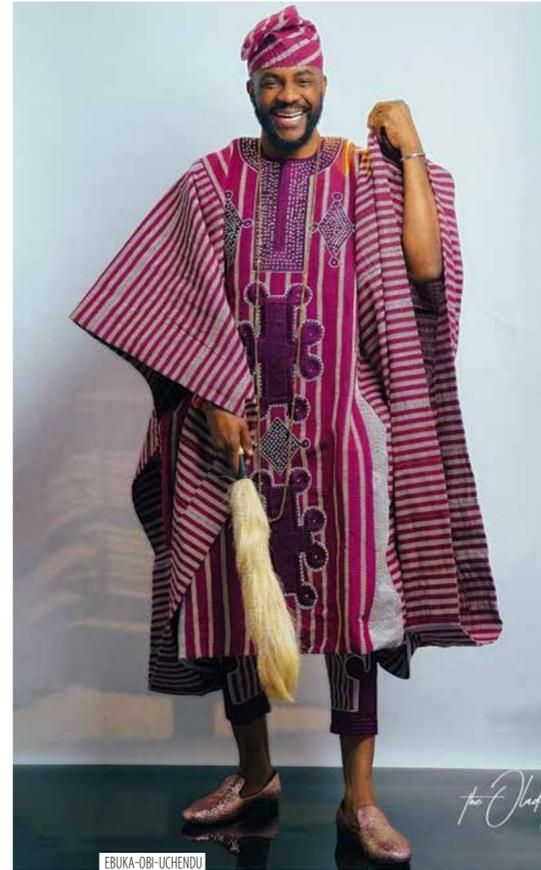
TRADITION OUTFIT FOR THE IGBO IN MODERN TIMES



THE NIGERIAN CULTURE LIVES ON IN FASHION.

By **FUNKE BABS-KUFEJI**

Nigerians have a reputation for making a statement, and it's no different when it comes to fashion. Our style has always been distinct, flamboyant and very defining. Over the years and decades, we have continually reinvented our style, taking parts of the old and mixing them with the new, yet retaining our distinctive allure and flavour. To talk about fashion in Nigeria is to highlight the beauty in its diverse, multicultural identity. Even before our birth as a country, the illustrious and uniquely different culture has shown through fashion. This part of our identity remains unmatched due to each culture's version of traditional beauty and style.



EBUKA-ORI-UCHENDU

Despite the heavy influence of westernisation, our culture shines through our unique attires, hairstyles, and footwear. We have held on tight to several of our pre-independence and post-independence fashion trends, centred mainly around the cultural attires of the various tribes within the country.

Many decades later, it is indeed exciting to see how millennials and Gen-Z's have embraced most of these old fashion trends and are reinventing and redefining them to fit into the modern contemporary culture.



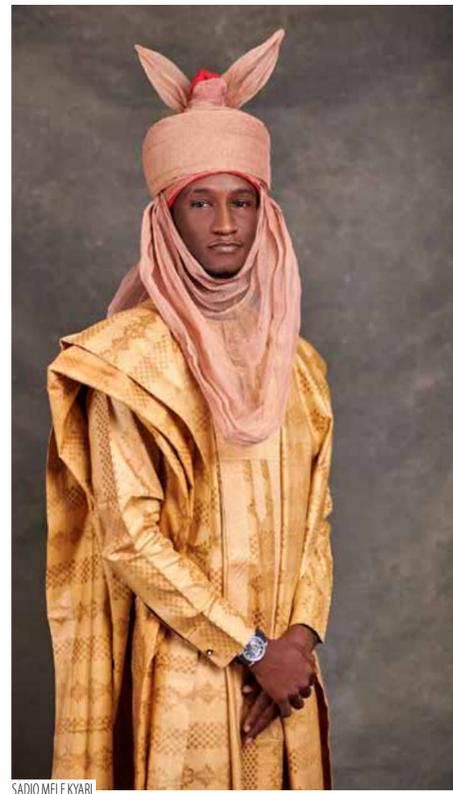
OLUSEGUN_OBASANJO



9ICE & SUKANMI



TRADITIONAL OUTFIT OF THE YORUBA'S IN THE 70'S



SADIQ_MELEKYARI



A-TI-DE-EDITORIAL BY OYE DIRAN



NAIJA TO THE WORLD: How the Entertainment Industry is reshaping our image across the Globe.

By Bukola Amoboye

For years, Nigeria has mostly trended negatively on the global stage due to issues surrounding fraud, insecurity and corruption. Diasporans and Nigerians who travel abroad constantly had to deal with the backlash from owning an identity tied to a list of negativities. For a while, it became increasingly difficult to hold our heads high or boldly defend the integrity of our nation. However, things are a bit different now, and amongst the several sectors making us proud globally, we have one particular one to thank—the Nigerian Entertainment Industry.

In the last two decades, this sector has grown exponentially, sharing our beliefs and culture in the form of art, music and movies with the world. With names like Chimamanda Adichie, Burna Boy and Wizkid, Nigerians, irrespective of their tribes, wear their identity with pride. It all started with the Nollywood industry. Early Nollywood movies reflected our colourful culture and relatively affluent societies while remaining true to authentic, believable storytelling. Before this era, Nigerians and Africans in general only had for visual entertainment movies produced by either Europeans or Americans. The birth of Nollywood made it possible for Africans to view films made by fellow Africans on a huge scale for the first time. Over time, with global recognition came bigger budgets and improved productions from the likes of Kunle Afolayan and Mo Abudu. Today, Nollywood produces about 50 movies per week, second only to India's Bollywood—more than Hollywood in the United States. Although its revenues are not on par with Bollywood's and Hollywood's, Nollywood still generates an impressive \$590 million annually. Over the years, our movies and stars have gained international



WIZKID



TIWA SAVAGE

recognition and popularity, with the internet and streaming platforms also playing a massive role in this growth. Former President Goodluck Jonathan once referred to Nollywood as “our shining light,” adding, “whenever I travel abroad, many of my colleagues ask me about Nollywood.”

Making an even more significant impact is the Nigerian Music Industry. Our unique position as the hub of Afrobeats has allowed us to attract investment through music streaming services, record labels, and even investment companies looking to cash in on the boom, turning our homegrown stars into global superstars. Recently, music streaming giant Spotify disclosed that 20,935 songs were added to the platform by Nigerian creators since market entry, placing Nigeria as the second country with the most musical streams. The music industry is growing at such a dizzying speed that there may be nothing left for it to conquer soon as it reaches its peak. This growth is powered by young Nigerians who, despite the difficulties faced at home, tell captivating stories with every sound and beat they produce. Artistes such as Wiz Kid, Burna Boy, Tiwa Savage, and

Davido lead the pack, are not far behind are equally great talents like Kizz Daniel, Oxlade, Asake, and Ayra Starr coming up strong. These artists sometimes express themselves in their local dialect leaving a touch of Nigerian flavour wherever their sound is heard. With these names, we have finally gotten the whole world to listen.

There is no disputing the fact that the music that emanates from the country is one thing that gives every listener joy and a sense of fulfilment. Our danceable melodious tunes are said to come across as therapeutic. Beyond the soothing melodies produced by these artists, the music industry is one sector that has contributed significantly to youth empowerment. According to statistics, Nigeria's music industry is expected to be worth \$44 million in revenue by 2023. The most important factor driving this surge of creative talent remains the same, our way of life, history, outlook, passion, diversity, and, most importantly, our brave and innovative young people. As our stories become more globally appealing, let us remember that we might not be able to shake off our past, but we can rewrite our future and present Naija differently to the world.



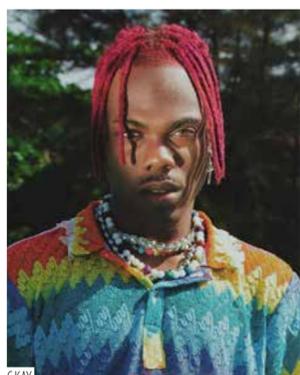
MO ABUDU



KUNLE AFOLAYAN



FUNKE AKINDELE



CKAY



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Unlimited Night (Monthly) N10,000 30 days	Unlimited Family N18,500 30 days	Unlimited 90 N51,000 90 days	Unlimited 180 N100,000 180 days	Unlimited 365 N195,000 365 days
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