

Issue Number .9, **MAY 2021**

A-CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine

**ONE OF THE GREATEST
LEGENDARY IN BOTH
MUSIC AND IN LIFE.
DMX BROUGHT A
HEAVY METAL
ATTITUDE TO
HIP HOP AND
ALL THOSE
WHO ARE IN
THE SAME
GENRE
STAND ON
HIS RATHER
GIGANTIC
SHOULDERS.
TRULY AN
INSPIRATION.**

**REST IN
PERFECT PEACE...X**

**DMX:
DEATH OF
AN ICON**

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CONTENTS

01	Cover page	- Ex-Burkina Faso president Compaore charged in Thomas Sankara murder	40
03	About us		
04	Meet the Team	Medical Tourism	42
05	Editor's Letter	PRESIDENT OF CHAD KILLED ON BATTLEFIELD AFTER THREE DECADES IN POWER.	46
08	DMX:DEATH OF AN ICON	Peter Okoye releases Album years after breakout from PSQUARE	48
18	A TRIBUTE TO HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH	DMX's Funeral	52
24	Gun control and recent shooting in America	Daniel Kaluuya makes Oscar history as first non-white Brit to win for acting	58
28	THE LUKEWARM CHURCH	Kamaru the Beast	72
32	There is only one God	IS YOUR SKIN FACING A COVER-UP CONUNDRUM?	78
35	The hipocrisy of Christistianity		
38	'Luther': BBC diversity chief says Idris Elba's character "lacks authenticity"		

ABOUT US

A-CHOICES -The African Lifestyle Magazine

A -CHOICES magazine is an online African lifestyle magazine for ordinary-ed-ucated reader in English. It is not entirely about entertainment but covers other broad topics including business and economy(market) arts & culture fashions, personality stories, sports, etc. It is a channel through which we celebrate African achievers at home and in the diaspora. A-CHOICES hopes to entertain, empower and inspire Africans around the world.

Write for Us

We're accepting submissions from writers, thinkers, makers, scholars, and readers of online publishing and editorial work. We re currently accepting submissions for our next Issues . We accept submissions on a rolling basis, and generally don't close sub-missions until halfway through a given issue, so there are no set closing dates.

We do not accept work that has been previously published o blogged.

Please send submissions to achoices@a-choicesmagazine.com

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EDITOR'S LETTER



Hello, and welcome to our May edition. With summer comes a sense of life opening up again. This is, of course, festival season, and whilst we may not be able to gather en masse for the time being, we can recreate festival moments in smaller, more intimate ways. I would like to use this opportunity to express sincere condolences to Her Majesty The Queen and family on the death of her husband Prince

Philip.

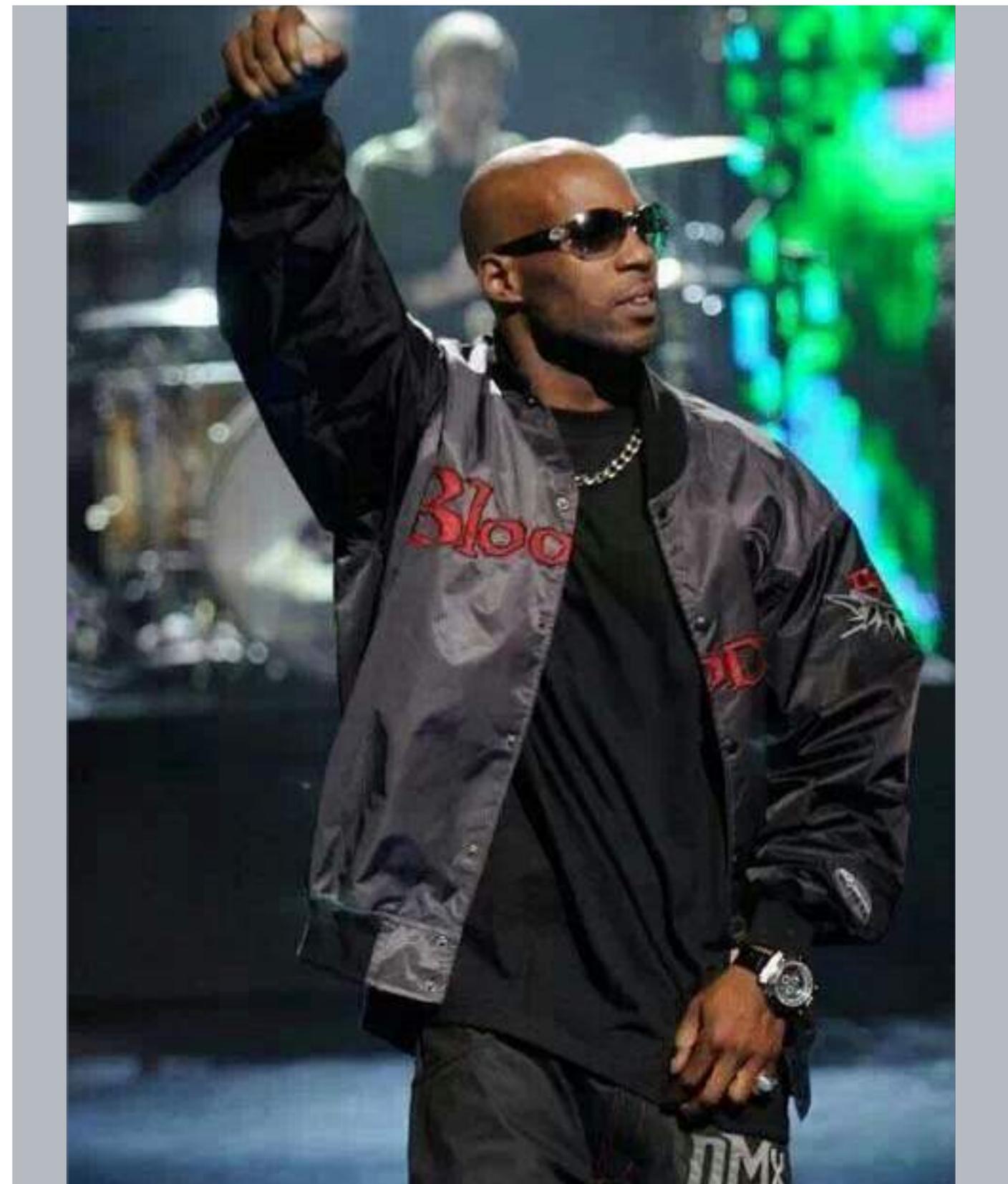
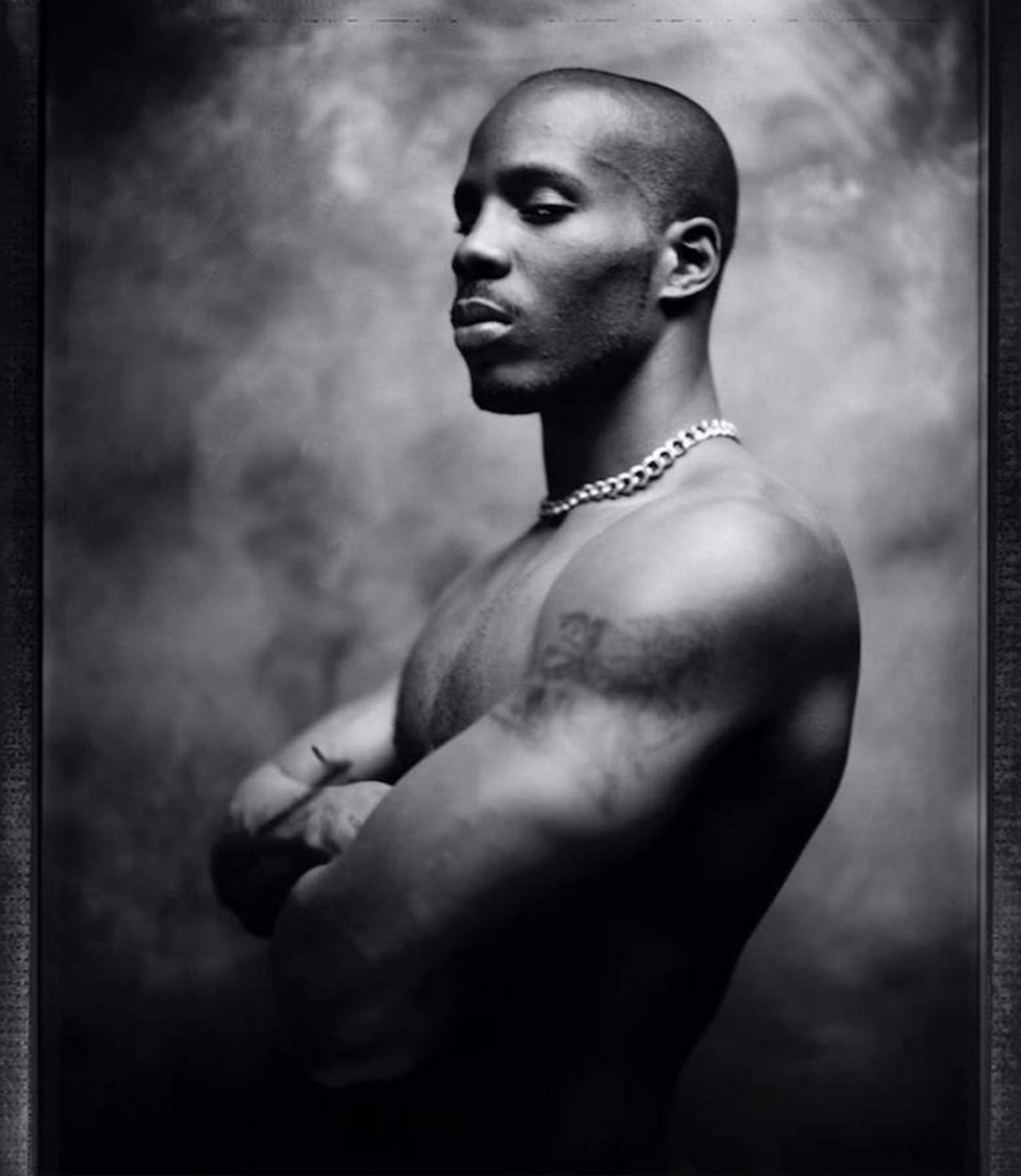
Throughout his long and remarkable life, he devoted himself to worthy causes and to others. Needless to say, The United Kingdom has lost an extraordinary public servant in Prince Philip. He dedicated his life to The UK - from a distinguished career in the Royal Navy during the Second World War to his decades of service as the Duke of Edinburgh.

However, he will be remembered most of all for his extraordinary commitment and devotion to The Queen. May His gentle Soul Rest in Perfect Peace.

American rapper and actor Earl Simmons, known by the stage name DMX or Dark Man X, died on Friday 9th of April at age 50. The announcement of his death came to me as a rude shock!. DMX was a realist and one of the best of the best rappers!

His gift meant so much to so many. Even though he had battles he touched so many through his MUSIC. This world has lost a REAL ONE but the heavens have gained an ANGEL. Rest in Perfect Peace..X

Cheers
Editor-in-Chief/Publisher
Gbenga Teejay Okunlola



DMX: DEATH OF AN ICON



By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola.
London. UK

Grammy-award nominated rapper and actor-Earl Simmons, popularly known as DMX, was born in 1970 as a second child to Arnett Simmons and to Joe Barker in Mount Vernon, NY. In his early life, Simmons had learned trade of robbing and committed several crimes of robbery.

He had spent most time as an adolescent at youth group homes and juvenile detention. He has always found it easier to rob from street level dealers of the drug. He has remained close to very few relatives but stray dogs have remained his true companions.

Earl Simmons has though achieved excellence as a song writer, actor and a rapper, however, all these has helped him to escape from troubles. He had acted in several films including "Last Hour", "Cradle 2 the Grave", "Exit Wounds", "Romeo Must Die", and "Belly".

Some of his recent films include "Pimp", "Beyond the Law", "Fast and Fierce: Death Race" and "Chronicle of a Serial Killer". He was also starred in "DMX: Soul of a Man", a reality television series that was aired through "BET cable television network".

However, other television serials include "Moesha", "Half & Half", "Chappelle's Show", "Trippin", "Life Changers", "Black Ink Crew", "Couples Therapy", "Big Pun: The Legacy", "Iyanla, Fix My Life", "Fresh Off the Boat", "The Sharon Osbourne Show", and "Jimmy Kimmel Live". DMX also showed his skills as a writer where he published "E.A.R.L.: The Autobiography of DMX" in which he has stated his memories and autobiography.

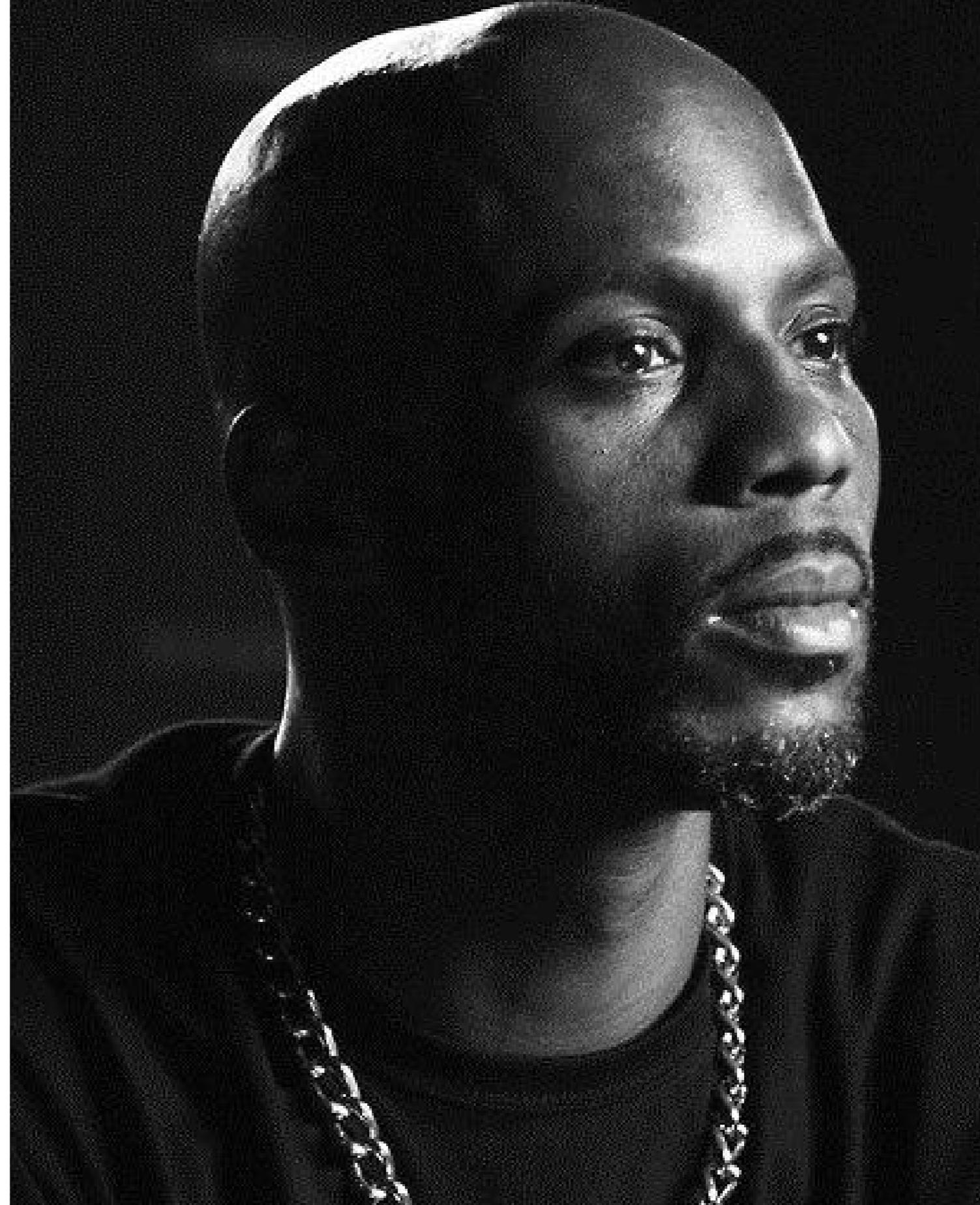
In his early career in 1984, at the age of 14, he started writing and performing his own lyrics at local recreation center. Later in 1988, he dedicated his free time in prison for carjacking to write lyrics.

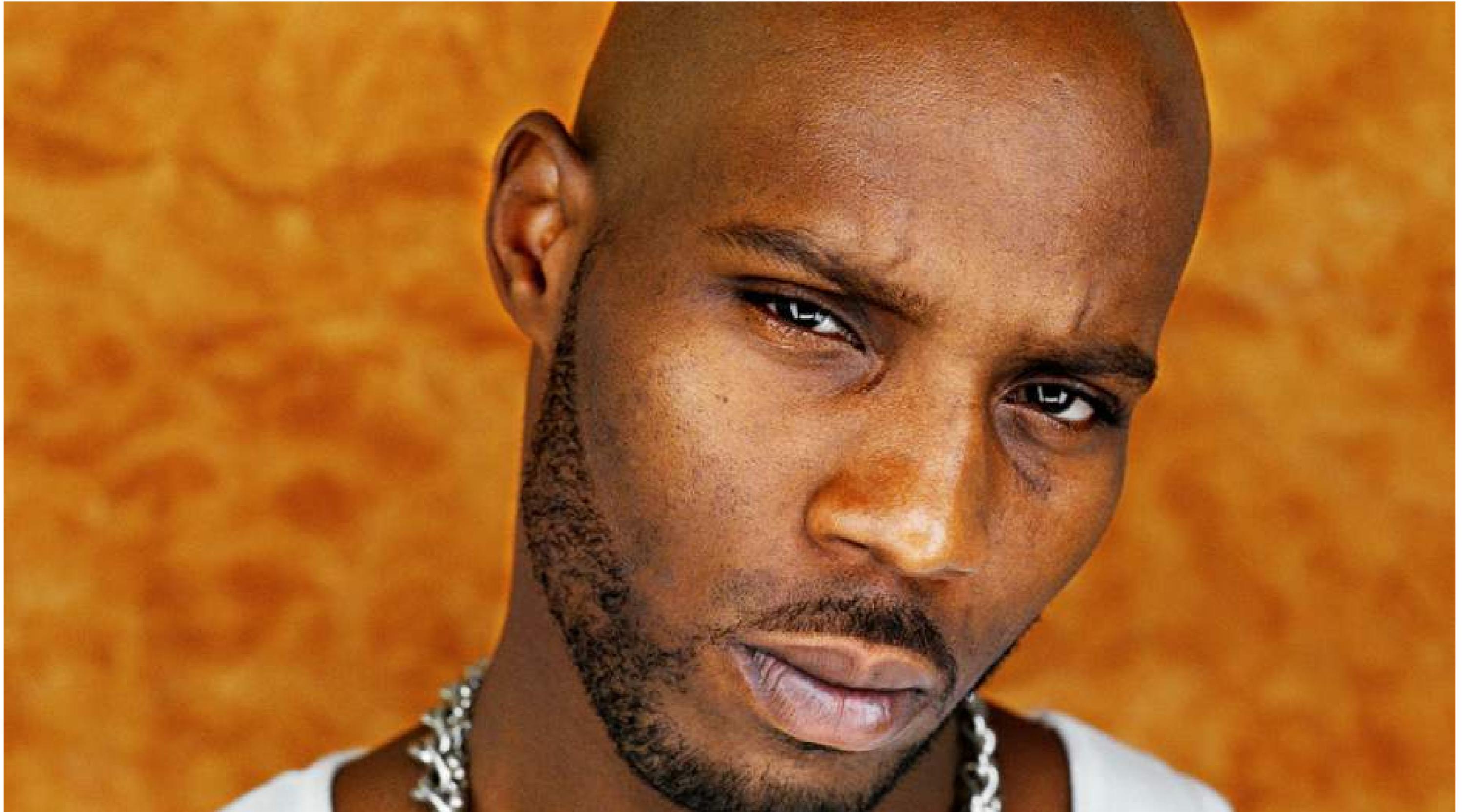
He also met and rap with K-solo. After releasing from prison, he produced and sold his own mixtapes in which he had recorded rapping over instrumentals of different songs sung by others. He sold his mixtapes himself on street corners that has helped him to create local fan base in his home city. His skills were praised as unsigned hip-hop artists in The Source magazine in 1992.

In the following year, he signed with Columbia Records to release "Born Loser" debut single. In 1994, he released "Make a Move", a second single. He appeared as a guest alongside Mic Geronimo, Ja Rule, Jay-Z.

During 1996-1998, DMX emerged as a star. He recorded several tracks for his debut album and made appearances on LL Cool J's single, The LOX's single and Mase's singles which had created buzz for him.

The year 1998 brought him more success as he received RIAA gold certification on "Get at Me Dog" a major-label single. In the same year, he released "It's Dark and Hell Is Hot", his first major label album that debuted at number one on chart of Billboard 200 and sold more than 5million copies. In the end of the same year, he released, "Flesh of My Flesh, Blood of My Blood", his second album that went multi-platinum and was again number one on chart of Billboard 200. In the end of 1999, he released, "And Then There Was X", his third album which is his one of the bestselling album that maintained his position as number on chart of





Billboard 200.

The third album was nominated at 2001 Grammy Awards for 'Best Rap Album' and was certified platinum six times.

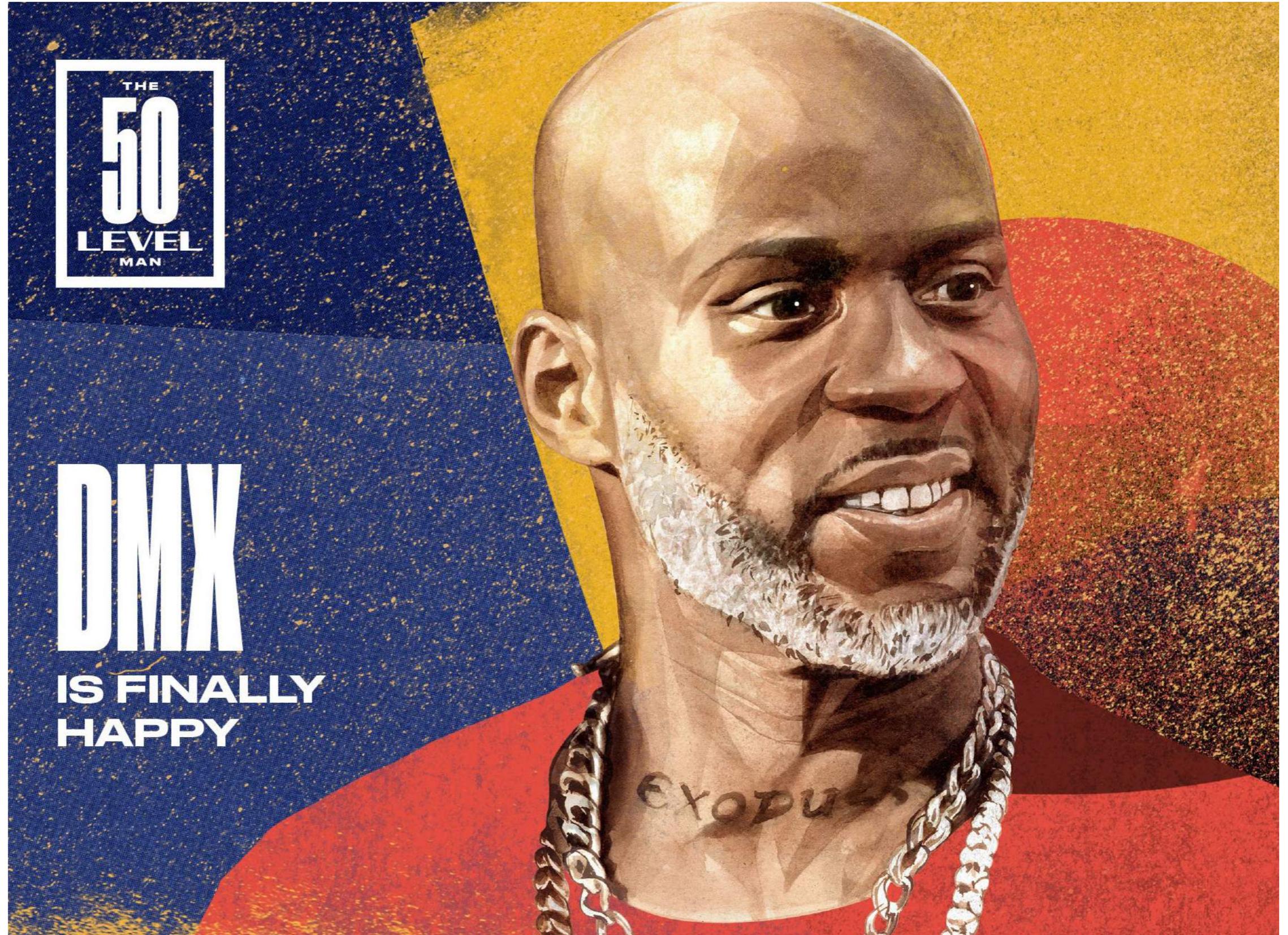
The success has improved his legal situation which encouraged him to release "The Great Depression", fourth album in 2001. It was again ranked number one on Billboard 200 and received triple Platinum certification. He released "Grand Champ", fifth album in 2003 which again ranked one on Billboard 200 charts which was his consecutive success for his albums. Though, the fifth album was his last album as he had planned to retire; however, in 2006 DMX signed to Columbia Records and recorded an album which was released in the same year. However, this album did not rank number one on Billboard 200. In 2009, DMX's greatest compilation hit, "The Definition of X: The Pick of the Litter", was released by Jam Recordings followed by another compilation hit of "The Best of DMX" in 2011.

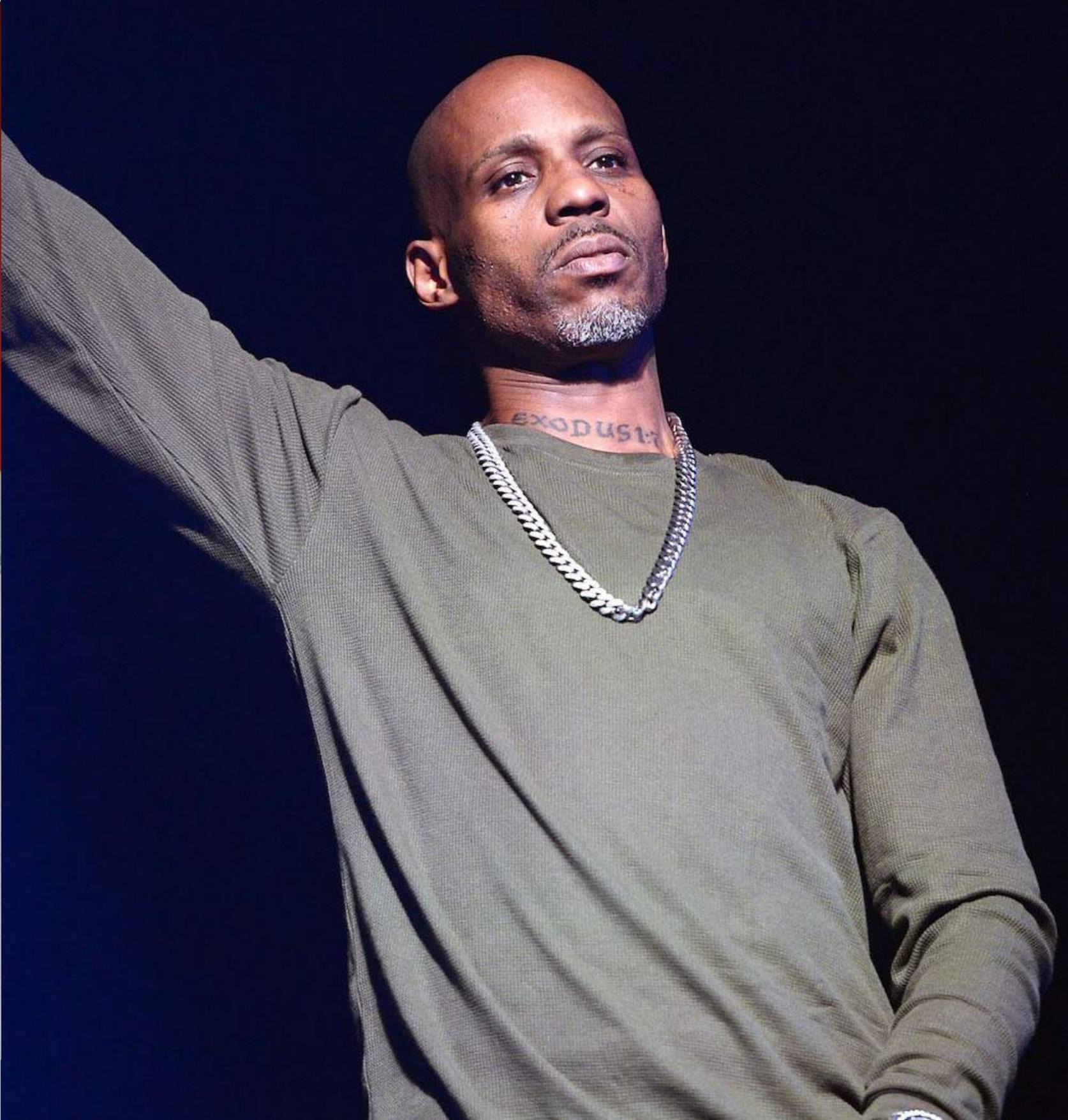
DMX completed his Gospel music album before his imprisonment and worked on his seventh album "nonstop, every day" which was titled "Undisputed" later and was released in 2012 after numerous delays. He released his track "Last Hope" through internet in September 2011. In the following year, DMX signed two-album deal with Seven Arts Pictures who had also acquired DMX's music catalog. He then worked on eighth studio album in 2013 and collaborated with producers Dame Grease and Swizz Beatz.

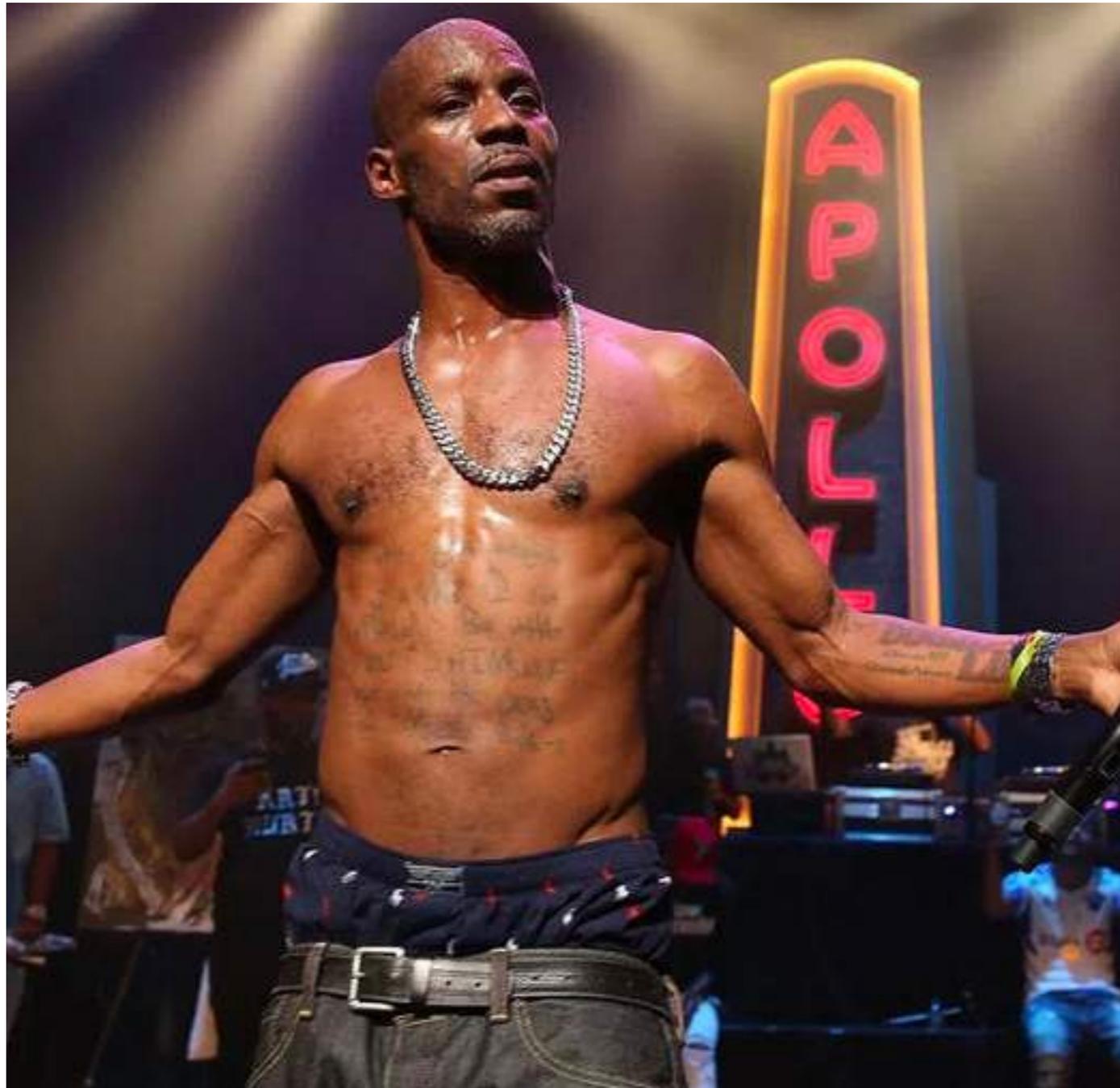
However, the deal with Seven Arts Pictures was misused and several legal actions were taken against them for unauthorized release of DMX's "Redemption of the Beast" in 2015.

During 2016 and 2017, he released new songs, i.e., "Blood Red" and produced by Divine Bars; and "Bain Iz Back" by Swizz Beats.

Later in 2018, he reunited with Def Jam Recordings and signed record deals.







He collaborated with Skyla Talon (Blackburner) for his another album "Dog Eats Rabbit" which was released in 2017.

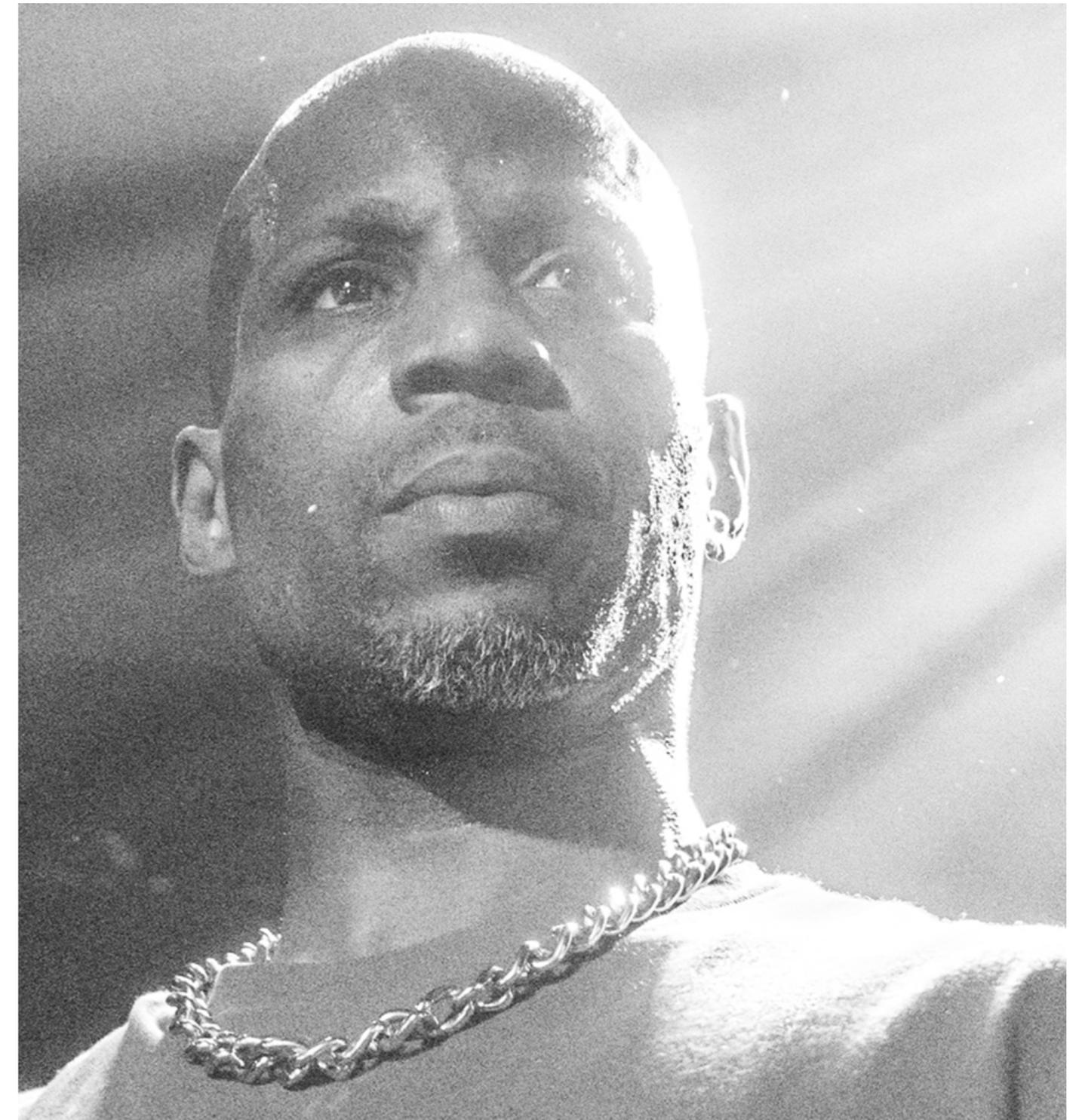
In 2020, he released a pair of EPs, X Is Coming and Dark Man X, which was failed to materialize. Earl Simmons was though a successful and a legendary rapper with acting and writing skills, however, his escape from imprisonments and troubles have made him addicted to drugs since he was 14 years old. His personality also had bipolar disorder where the addiction to drugs has put his life in danger. He entered rehabilitation several times, i.e., in 2002, 2017 and 2019, but his addiction has taken his life.

On April 2, 2021, he was rushed to White Plains Hospital due to critical condition of heart attack

resulting from drug overdose.

He remained in critical condition and before his death on 9th April 2021, he suffered from cerebral hypoxia, brain failure, kidney failure, liver failure and lung failure.

The famous rapper with an impressive skills of writing and acting died at the age of 50.



A TRIBUTE TO HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH (10 JUNE 1921-9 APRIL 2021)

Lifestyle



By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola.
London. UK

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the man who stood by The Queen's side for 73 years, sadly passed away on Friday 9 April at Windsor Castle, aged 99. Following the news of The Duke of Edinburgh's death, A-Choices magazine offered the following words of condolence: " We are saddened by the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh and profoundly grateful for his extraordinary service to the nation over so many years. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family.





His Royal Highness was born on 10 June 1921 in Corfu where his parents, Prince Andrew of Greece and Princess Alice of Battenburg, had fled to avoid political upheaval.

Prince Philip studied at Gordonstoun School in Scotland, where the emphasis was on self-reliance, and at the age of 18, he attended the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. Soon after his first meeting with his distant cousin, the young Princess Elizabeth, Britain was at war and Philip had taken his first naval posting.

He had a distinguished war record, being mentioned in dispatches for his service during the Battle of Matapan, and became a senior naval officer. After the war, he became a frequent visitor to Buckingham Palace and in the summer of 1946, he proposed marriage.

In 1947, when Philip became a British citizen, his engagement to Princess Elizabeth was announced.

The wedding, which did so much to lift post-war spirits, took place in the same year, and in November 1948 Princess Elizabeth gave birth to Prince Charles.

Witty, intelligent and fiercely inquisitive, it was Philip who did much to help the Royal Family transition to a more relaxed age.

He was a passionate and knowledgeable environmentalist, a proponent of the new technological age and determined to find a way to help young people from all backgrounds develop self-reliance, confidence and a sense of duty and self-worth.



He founded The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme in 1956, which now operates across the world, and was patron of 800 organisations and a very active president of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).



Prince Philip learnt to fly, was a beautiful cricketer and a skilful polo player, sailed, enjoyed wildlife photography, painted and took up the sport of carriage riding to compete at international level. Above all, he was the most extraordinary consort to The Queen and, as she said herself on the occasion of their Golden Wedding in 1997, Prince Philip "has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years" It is with great sadness I write this tribute of the death of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. He was a true statesman who served his country with dedication and distinction. He will be long remembered and sadly missed. R.I.P.

PRINCE PHILIP 1921 - 2021



Gun control and recent shooting in America



By: Bunmi Johnson
New York
USA



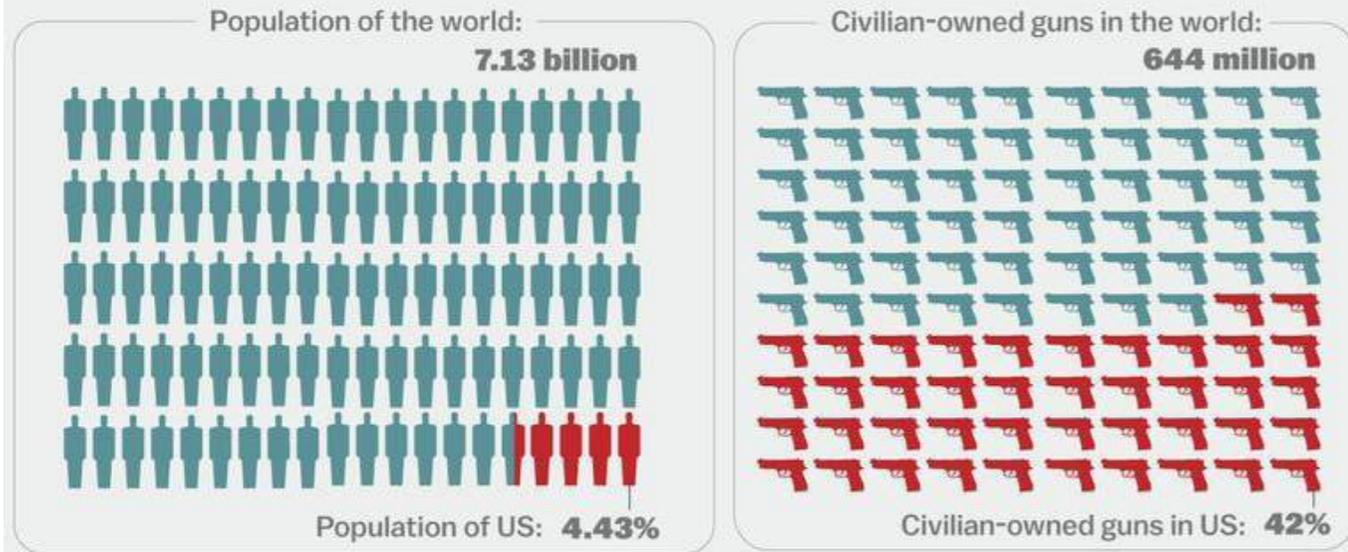
Gun control has been a topic of critical interest across nations including both the developed and developing ones. Where most of the developed countries consider gun control as essential and the issue is not politicised there, some developed countries including the US consider the issue to be controversial. As a result, there are no stringent laws in US restricting the ownership and use of guns and other similar products that can be harmful for other humans.

The gun control is not as controversial in other developed countries as the US as the constitution protects possession of guns despite the fact that the incident of murder are too common in the Country. Recent history in US is full of events involving firing and use of gun / other firearms, where innocent individuals lost their lives as well.

The recent incidents such as the one that happened in Minnesota involving a murder of Black man by police officer. The 20-year old black man was killed by police during a traffic stop on Sunday April 11, 2021. As the shooting led to killing of an innocent person, who was not supposed to die so early if there were Gun control laws in the US. This also led to resignation by police officer, who was otherwise expected to serve the community and safeguard their interests.



Americans own a ridiculous number of guns



SOURCE: UNODC, Small Arms Survey, via The Guardian.

Vox



Another example illustrating abused use of guns and firearms in the US is the murder of 8 policemen at an Indianapolis FedEx facility.

The event caused chaos and victims had to run here and there to save their lives near Indianapolis main airport in the month of April 2021. The Gunman was soon identified but in the meantime, 8 policemen lost their life due to the lack of laws available on controlling the possession of guns and relevant arms by the general public.

The two events lead to the finding controlling the possession of Gun is important for both general public as well as government officials including police officers as anyone can make a abused use of firearms in no time. Despite such events happening all around, there are two groups in terms of their view of gun ownership and possession in US. First group believes

that the gun control will lead to reduced crime and murder rates in the country.

On the contrary, other group of individuals believes that it is other way around because the gun control will not be 100% effective and individuals still in possession of guns can exploit others. It is believed by the latter that the guns and other firearms are also used by individuals for their protection, which eventually leads to a lower crime rate in the country.

The recent events under discussion lead to the suggestion that the gun control needs to be considered by US authorities to avoid such events in future.

THE LUKEWARM CHURCH



By: Akosua Darko
Senior Writer
London, UK

“You are neither hot or cold so I will spit you out of my mouth to the lukewarm church, Ghana.” You say I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’

But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.”

Hypocrites stop condemning people in the name of Jesus. Satan, socerors and those not in church are not bothered by hypocrites disapproving of them.

Nobody cares what you like or dislike, what you think, you are not God. I’m the bible the evil spirit said to the fake Christians trying to rebuke it in the name of Jesus, Paul I know, Jesus I know BUT WHO ARE YOU!? it’s only those who don’t really know God or have powers from gods intimidated.

The scribes and pharisees “preach, but do not practice.” They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear! and lay them on people’s shoulders! but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger! They do all their deeds! to be seen by others! But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces! For you neither enter yourselves nor allow those who would enter to go in! Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!

For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful! but within are full of dead people’s bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

These are the words of our very own humble carpenters son, son of God Jesus.

Friend of prostitutes, samaritans, tax collectors, fishermen, sensible pharisees and lover of mankind.

A couple of months ago there was a whole bouhouha about LGBT+ issues, have we forgotten to love. The kind of words used and cruel behaviour was shocking.

Ghanaians have created their own sin book and decided the sins to persecute according to their cultural values. Adultery (doesn’t matter if your wife doesn’t cook and clean, you have money or you’re a man of God), going naked, tattoos, dreadlocks, going against other people’s ideas of what you should be and insult.

Corruption, stealing, self righteousness, pride, being wise in your own eyes, earthly, sensual and demonic wisdom and being a busy body in other people’s affairs and judging are okay.

The gospel is no longer the good news and Jesus’s time of mercy has been turned to a time of judgement. The gospel is for the sick and Christians are suppose to be the ones going around providing the medicine.

That’s the good news of Jesus Christ. Nobody goes to heaven because they’re good. They go because God had mercy on them. Not because we loved God but God loves us. There will be some legalistic so called truth tellers saying they are ‘administering’ tough love.

Yet the Bible says it’s the Lord that disciplines, not man. There’s a difference between gracefully convicting someone and condemnation, please look at Jesus. Let’s be honest most of the condemnation is for gloating about perceived superior righteousness.

Justice weighed on false scales are an abomination to God. Akuapem Poloo was jailed because of a naked picture on social media, someone couldn’t go to school because of dreadlocks

Yet corruption is going on in the church and nation. The bible says train up your child the way they should go, therefore the world or media cannot be spoiling people’s children.

People are complaining about money rituals and children wanting them. Yet seek ye first the kingdom of God is now seek ye first cash. That’s why many are seeking money and to be honest in Ghana without money you’re nothing.

In the book of James, God makes it clear he won’t give you anything you ask for because you lust for what someone else has. Period! So there’s only another way, con men, or blood witches. Witch doctors the proper ones don’t give money for money or take human blood for money.

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It’s a shame as a church we frown on learning other views. No one is saying practice them but know to have conversations about God. There is the good, bad and ugly in the bible. We don’t learn about traditional religion so don’t know Okomfo (high fetish priests) and witches are different.

Yet they know the Bible exceptionally well. I study their religion for knowledge and I met some witches at university, very clever. Fetish priests deal in protection, help, healing and revenge.

The Fetish priest and witch don’t care about whether you think what they do is bad! Yes especially the Fetish priests. They have the power of life and death in their hands.

Unless you can offer them something better, like Jesus Christ having more power, they are not going to stop over something as silly as you think they’re evil. Even the bible says there must be atonement for sins, a Christian under grace has Jesus’s sacrifice as their atonement. Which gives them the right to call God ABBA father.

However if a Christian rejects Jesus’s sacrifice or people are willfully in sin or sin against someone they have to pay the price for their sins. That means they’re fair game for the socerors. If I didn’t know Jesus and I had their powers, my goodness what I will do, I think sometimes they are very leniant. I’m praying God takes away my lust for revenge, because I even clapp for them sometimes.

The Socerory or evil or the devil you consider evil won’t be stop because you think they’re.

As a Christian the solution is putting on the full armour of God. So no one can defeat you, especially when you’re innocent. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. The devil is not scared of you.



For
God so
Loved
THE
WORLD
that he gave his
One & Only Son
that whoever
Believes
in him should not perish, but have
ETERNAL LIFE
JOHN 3:16

He went to tempt Jesus, asked God to destroy Job and Jesus said when demons are cast out they come back stronger if the holy spirit is not in you.

See no evil, speak no evil, do no evil will never shoo away the devil. Ofcourse as a human naturally you'll do evil. You may please a crowd.

Nevertheless to Satan without Jesus you're nothing. The devil isn't chasing most of you either, you cursed yourself by taking the short bad road and have reaped what you sowed.

Do you see Satan going for the Pharisees, Jezebel, Ahab and Goliath. He is busy chasing Job, Daniel, Paul, Peter and the likes. You think he cares about your money, Babylon the Great and Persia had more money, more intelligence and more of the gospel and take away everlasting life.

Satan is probably happy with you. Your condemnation is keeping people out of a relationship with God because they feel unworthy of grace. He's winning, you are living under the law and at the same time shutting the door to God by making people feel unworthy of grace.

I know some think they're well educated in God and the bible. They have money.

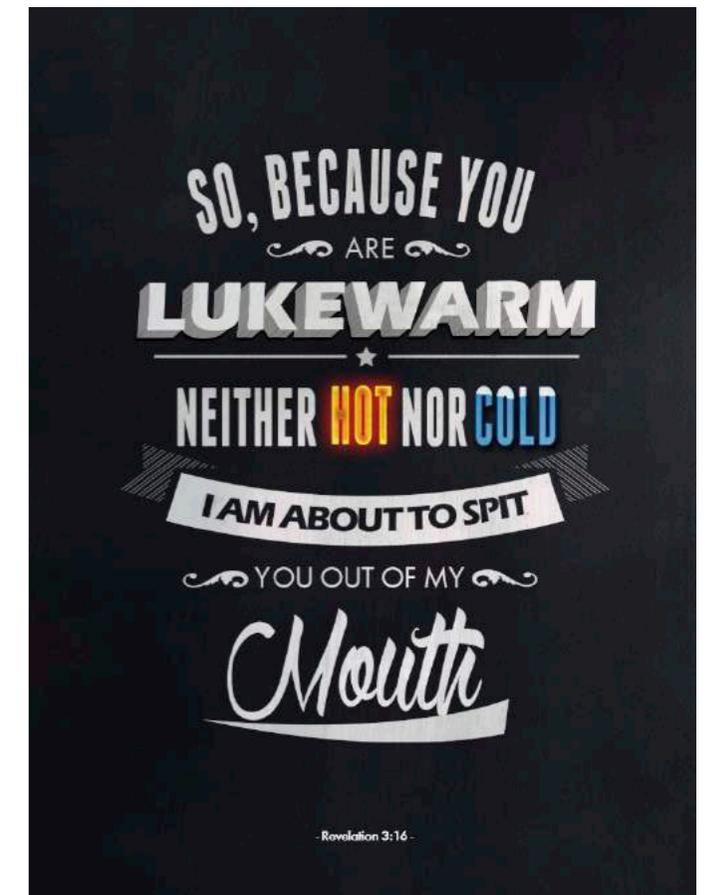
Every knee must bow to them. Otherwise they will be unhappy. Some think their unhappiness with other people's behaviour is a reason for people to change. It's only witches who can be evil apparently. The politicians not fixing roads people die on to buy houses are sacrificing the blood of the innocent for money. The judges that let innocent blood flow without justice and innocent blood suffer in prison, for money and title like blood money. The examples are endless.

Okomfo Anokye was greater than you. Babylon the great and Ancient Egypt had great mathematicians, writers, politicians of use, even the Bible calls them Babylon the great. Their brains were able to decipher things that we now study at a high level. They had gold, diamonds, and real gems.

Not common paper money that some flaunt around thinking their impressing God or the devil. Paul and Peter were greater Christians than you.

Solomon was wiser than you. David and job were richer than you. You will never be so big you amaze God or the devil.

Even a murderer made it into heaven and the hypocrite pharisees did not. God's thoughts are definitely not like ours. Repent, God still loves you, and it's pitiful to miss joy in this world and the next. Love people to God not push them away .



There is only one God



By: Akosua Darko
Senior Writer
London, UK

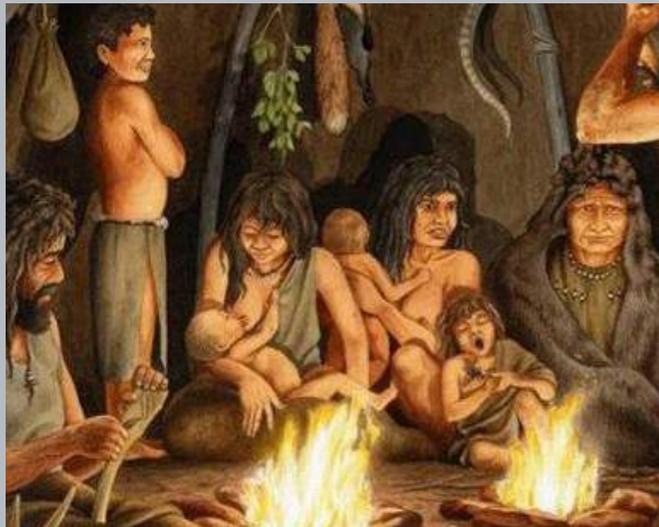
After all science is trial and error. Science teaches us about our world but I don't think it's wise to worship fallible scientists who can get it wrong. Isn't it better to worship a supreme God than man who is just as imperfect as you and prone to make mistakes?

Once upon a time sorcerers, prophets and priests, astrologers and philosophers were considered the wise men of nations. The Bible refers to them as wise men. Among God's people the prophets and priests were the wise men, the linguists by which God spoke to his people. However, the modern age has decided the things of the past cannot be compared to the intelligence of the present day. Yet the self-proclaimed or considered intelligent men of this age study the words and works of dead men like Pythagoras and Aristotle to make now discoveries.



(Aristotle 322 BCE)

For man was not made for the world but the world for man. Once upon a time the discovery of fire was amazing to man.



So was the ability to build huts, dwell in caves and make clothes. The earth, knowledge and science were made for man, not man for the earth, knowledge and science. Therefore, all man has discovered since ancient days are just a tip of the iceberg, science can be right today and wrong tomorrow. Many have come and gone, nations have risen and fallen and still man does not know much at all. Even now with all these so-called revolutionary discoveries (all was revolutionary at one time), we have discovered we're destroying the planet.

There is the theory of Evolution yet we haven't evolved for centuries. Evidence can always be denied, discounted, and wrong when new evidence comes to light in science.

THE FOOL HAS SAID IN HIS HEART,
"THERE IS NO GOD."



PSALM 14:1

Electricity could always be made; man just didn't know. Everything man makes always has a side effect against the Earth. Nonetheless, human discovery is god in today's age. So, humans are now their own gods.

Pride has always been the fall of man, our hubris. Now even the wise men of the world who didn't operate under God but of gods are considered stupid.

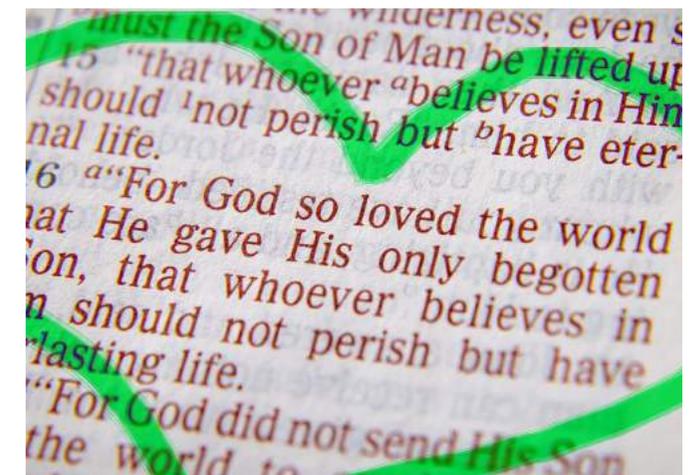
Yet isn't it wiser if you don't worship the supreme God, to worship beings with supernatural power. Isn't it even wiser to worship a living God with all power?

Some worship mother nature, though it's better to worship the supreme God. If you, don't it's better to worship gods, yet this is the next best thing in terms of a wise decision. Nature is where mankind eats from, drinks from, builds from and lives on.

Those who worship animals are next in terms of wisdom of worship. Animals provide pest control, skin for clothes, grazing, fertilisation, themselves as food, and give back to nature. After that those who worship man made things and money. These things bring profit. Next are those who worship being worshipped by other men, they live to gain the praise of others so in turn those others can worship them. It's a catch 22. The saddest of all are those at the bottom of the list who worship other men. Men like them who eat salt and pepper, who die without water.

A common believe is that religion (self-righteousness) not to be confused with the Christian believe in grace has caused many destructions in our world. That is true. Yet those wars had nothing to do with grace or Jesus Christ. They had everything to do with money, land and power. Jesus said God and Mammon (Greed, money, wealth) cannot be served together.

Whoever serves one hates the other. Those people were storing up treasures on Earth, not loving God nor neighbour. False prophets coming in Jesus' name. There's such a thing as blood sacrifice even in the West beacons of modern intelligence. The bloods of slaves, natives, and indigenous, they called savages have built these lands and their coveted wealth. It's not their superior discoveries of the human brain and intellect claimed. In this world the wealthy can bribe and push money to get more money. Even before the West dominated, the great kingdoms of the past, also slew blood to get rich. Survival of the fittest seems like another human being sacrificed in terms of their life and wellbeing for the benefit of another. It doesn't seem like a better option than God's message of love.



Human beings love crime and punishment. Those who don't believe in God, believe in prison, rehabilitation and deterrence. There are debates that whole generations being cursed is evil for the innocent should not pay for a family members sin.

Yet when a family member is sent to prison, the innocent in their family suffers. Statistical studies show they are more likely to have mental illnesses, poor health, early deaths, be poor, also commit crimes and struggle. Science is fortune telling and cursing. Aren't nations and countries fighting against each other over wars fought by previous generations.

Ask Osama Bin Laden, whether he got a right to a fair trial when he was shot in the head, without going to court. I'm sure his family are not living normal lives even though it was his sin. Almost everyone believes we must have a moral standard; we know that good should be done yet can't always do it. There must be a reason.

The church holds no perfect people. We are all sinners and need grace. Even in day-to-day life if you don't believe in God, you know you need grace. Reading the bible doesn't make one special. No one has seen God because of their sinful nature according to the Bible. Yet Satan the Angel of the highest post knew God and his word, chose sin and sins wilfully. The gods through the ages have been extremely legalistic, living under grace is much easier than their laws. Though they professed to engage in shenanigans, they thought humans shouldn't disobey them. Disobedience came with swift punishment. The gods didn't like destruction of nature where some resided, climate change can also be considered a curse.

Weather men prophecy on what the weather will be. Doctors' prophecy life expectancy and health. Astrologers and medicine men did the same thing. Native Americans recycled. Native indigenous people wore attire made out of leaves (cotton) and cow skin (leather) or the skin of animals.

Education is only useful mixed with humility. Education mixed with pride is stupidity. Man was not made for education but education for the man. They say people have progressed but it seems moderners don't have an open mind.

They know it all because they've been to school, to study those who spent their lives learning only to not know all we know now, when we don't study as much. Though Darwinism is popular.

Just like the existence of a God or gods, Darwin can be questioned. The Bible says test the spirits. Darwin couldn't walk with lions, elephants and ostriches like a certain ancient tribe who haven't lost their roots in Namibia today. They know animals very well too. No matter how many schools or universities you've been to, degrees you have or positions you've held. You can never be an authority on everything. Some worship Kant, Plato, Capitalism, Communism, Liberalism, Socialism, Utilitarianism, Darwinism, Education itself yet say there is no religion but worship the words of those men. Yet disbelief at those who have faith in God's word.

Sadly, some in religious, Christian and non-religious circles seek education for material possessions not knowledge, worship of other men and to manipulate others into submission for their prosperity.

Some say I'm very clever but I don't think that's the case. God speaks and if you spend time in prayer, reading the bible and accept grace. God will show you great and mighty things, open your eyes.

If you want real power in this world, not be intimidated, bullied, always win, defeat your enemies always, have wisdom and live abundantly. I'm slowly learning Christ is the only answer! Listen to what the holy spirit says to the churches and the world and see if it isn't wiser than the wisdom of the wise. If you don't know God and are sceptical of his existence. Dare him to show himself to you. Seek him with all your heart and you'll find him.

The hypocrisy of Christianity

I grew up in church. In my early childhood I loved church. I loved reading the bible, I loved God and I loved most people. I loved praying, praise and worship and God was so beautiful to me. I was young so I didn't really understand the dynamics in church and Jesus said whoever wants to enter heaven must be like a child. I guess it's because most children are sweet and accepting. Then I turned nine. I moved to England. I went through a couple of churches and I found a second family in what is my church now. I always loved my pastor and some senior members of the church. Then something happened I went to school with some so called Christians. I went through a period of a lot of pain where I questioned if God was real. I loved to read so I researched into Atheism, agnosticism, rastafarianism and as I got older into traditional religions. I

I'm a Christian because I want to be and I've seen God is the best. That's not the point of this article. The point is how the church can be so judgemental it pushes people away.

The church is meant for sinners, not just the self righteous sinners, but all types of sinners. I hear it all the time, people say they're sinners and the church is a place for healing so they can be as rude, ungraceful, judgemental and self righteous as they want to be. Yet woe to you if you are LGBT+, smoke, drink, wear revealing clothes or hang out with 'sinners'.

All sinners are equal but some sinners are more equal than others. The church has become a hub to judge people by appearances. Growing up some Christians labelled me as a bit of a misfit. They tried to assimilate me into what their view of a Christian was. As far as I was concerned they were mean and ignorant.

A lot of people found my friends to be unique and different. I love the arts and I like to read



By: Akosua Darko
Senior Writer
London, UK

so naturally I'm drawn towards quirky people and they're welcoming of people's identities and don't try to put them into pigeon holes. They allow people to be themselves.

That's why God says come exactly as you are and I will change you by my spirit. Not your might or power. From being bullied a lot I despise bullies. Now people may have this perception that somehow those they're rejecting on their basis of skewed Christianity somehow are upset by their rejection or will endeavor to be accepted. The opposite is actually the case they become despised, not because they're pointing out wrong and being honest. It's because they're not doing it with grace or love but to put others down.

It got to a point I hated the church and the people in it. It's only a few individuals that were Christ-like I enjoyed. I know why Jesus liked hanging out with the 'sinners' (the fact is we are all sinners) because they accepted him when the so called righteous (also sinners) called him a carpenter's son and a heretic. They also said John the Baptist was a demon.

I liked hanging out with people outside the church because they gave me love. I had no interest in going to some churches because when I was honest about my shortcomings they tried to make it seem like I was the biggest of sinners. Only because I didn't go around masquerading or portraying an image to be liked or respected by them. I came for God. That's why I kept coming. Other people don't have that strength and will just protect themselves and shut the door to church.

It took me a long time to fully realise the goodness of God. I'm happy it did though because I learned to love people outside of church. I learned not to judge them. I learned they were people with feelings. I knew how hard it is to struggle with sin, unforgiveness,

life and identity, to have questions about if there is a God, which God was the right God, how can a good God let bad things happen, how can a good God make me feel so alone and insignificant.

I've mingled with some misfits, Christians, LGBT + people, witches, atheists, agnostics, basically people from different walks of life.

Being bullied as a child allowed me to feel for people. It's easy to point fingers but remember, I know most don't care because they think other people deserve their harsh criticisms because they call it 'truth telling' yet can't tell their friends in church to stop when they bully others.

There's a person's soul you're destroying at the end of it. Being happy people may be out of touch with God or are going to hell is not christ-like. I thought the job was to spread the good news not gossip or condemn. Most people pointing fingers should be more worried about going to hell themselves. I'm slowly learning about this real God.

This kind God. This loving out of this world generous God. He's not the God of doom and thunder when you do something wrong.

He is not mean. He's the God of the broken hearted, the rejected, the prostitute, the broken in spirit, the outcast. The one struggling with sin and faith.

He is the God of the pagan roman General, samaritan and the jew.

He is God of all. He welcomes all to his salvation. Including the judgemental self righteous ones too.

The 2 commandments God gave are harder than any unnecessary and useless man made ideas about what constitutes as a Christian.

To love God and love our neighbours as ourselves. The hardest thing to do is love. It rips you of yourself. You have to die to your flesh to love. Love is not easy. I struggle with love everyday. I don't even like people.

It's funny I'm nice to those I feel are rejected. I'm very mean to bullies. We all have things to work on. It's better we focus on that and preaching the good news.

A poor girl called Akuapem Poloo had a naked video shoot with her son. She's been sentenced to 3 months in prison and the charlatans are jubilating in the name of Jesus. It's more important to be righteous than right.

I seem to recall that Jesus went after the corrupt money makers in the temple with a cane. It will be great if we bring those false thief pastors, mallams, politicians and ordinary corrupt Ghanaians to justice.

I also seem to recall Jesus leaving his harshest criticisms to the pharisees. Don't get too excited when you think what you think is wrong is being punished. This girl has done nothing to some people. They're just that their happy she took her clothes of and got punished .

Some Christians actively enjoy talking about people going to hell like it will be a grand party.

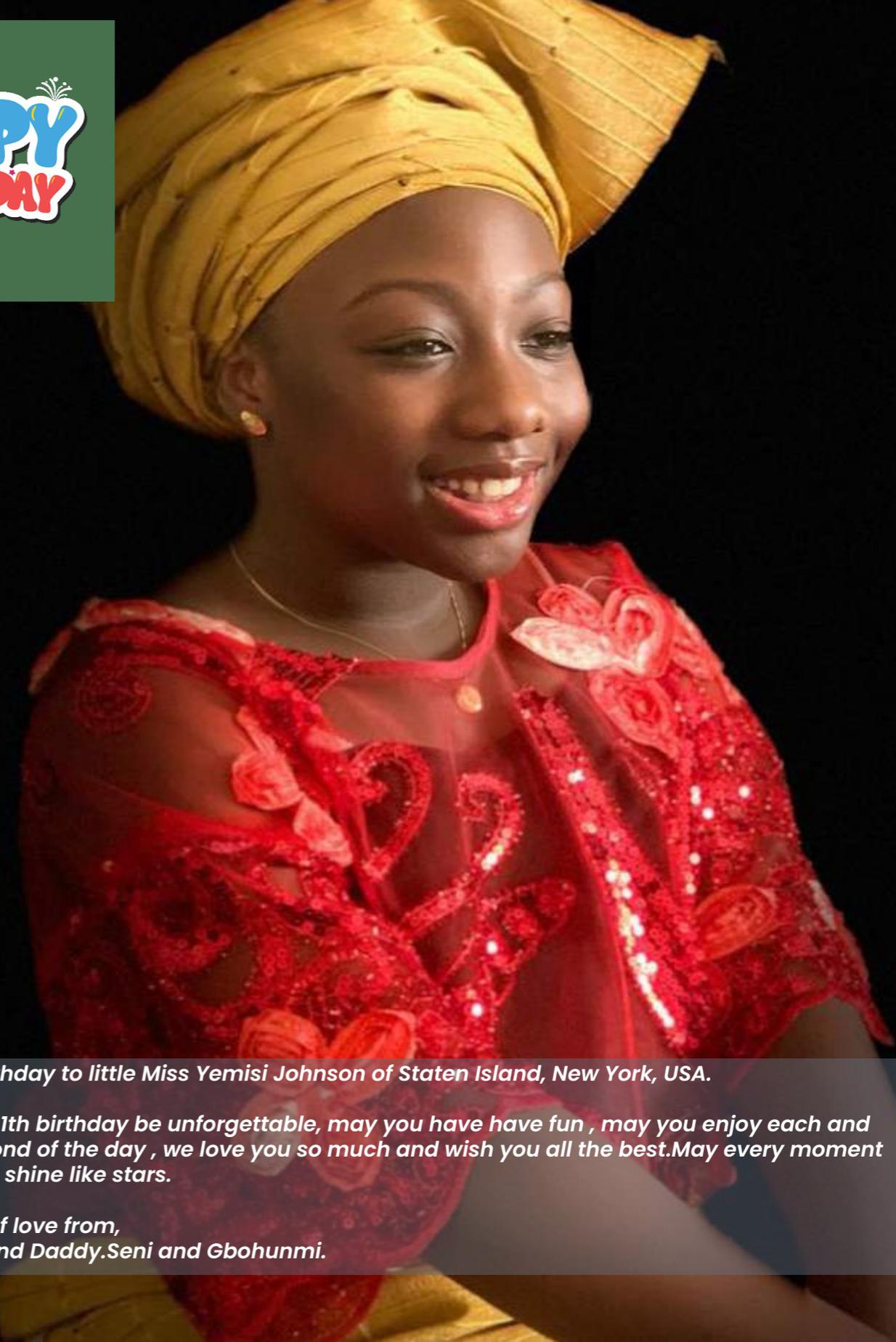
The problem with the Lords and lady flies of our Lord is that they don't think they need to repent. All their friends praising them won't get them to heaven. You can't lie to God.

He knows you 100 percent. Jesus is the only way truth and light. I would work out my salvation with fear and trembling. Even Paul with all he did for the gospel to the point of going to jail (how many in the name of Jesus I condemn people will go to jail for God) didn't even think it was certain he was going to heaven. He wasn't complacent. Yet some, who are nowhere near Paul, have the key, the door and are God's mouthpiece.

Even Moses almost didn't make it. Heaven is not cheap to enter.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy birthday to little Miss Yemisi Johnson of Staten Island, New York, USA.

May your 11th birthday be unforgettable, may you have have fun , may you enjoy each and every second of the day , we love you so much and wish you all the best.May every moment of your life shine like stars.

*With lots of love from,
Mommy and Daddy.Seni and Gbohunmi.*

'Luther': BBC diversity chief says Idris Elba's character **"lacks authenticity"**

Film
By:Linda Jones
London,UK



So the BBC wants Luther to be more of instantly recognisable stereotype? Not sure that's a step in the right direction. So it is a requirement of being a black individual that they MUST eat jerk chicken, wear dreadlocks, and like Bob Marley? The BBC's diversity chief has claimed Idris Elba's TV detective Luther 'isn't black enough to be real' because 'he doesn't have any black friends and doesn't eat any Caribbean food'. Miranda Wayland said the hit crime drama, which won plaudits for having a strong, black lead character, was only superficially diverse and that corporation bosses are now looking to portray minority groups in a more convincing and rounded way.

Elba, who first made his name across the Atlantic starring as Stringer Bell in *The Wire*, cemented his status as a worldwide star by picking up a Golden Globe, among other gongs, for his depiction of the obsessive John Luther between 2010 and 2019. Wayland addressed the diversity on the BBC show in a recent MIPTV conference. "When it first came out everybody loved the fact that Idris Elba was in there – a really strong, Black character lead," Wayland began. "We all fell in love with him. Who didn't, right? But after you got into about the second series, you got kind of like, OK, he doesn't have any Black friends, he doesn't eat any Caribbean food, this doesn't feel authentic."

Luther, which began in 2010, sees the titular detective chief become romantically involved with murderer Alice Morgan, played by Ruth Wilson. Series five cast Wunmi Mosaku (*His House*) in the role of DS Catherine Halliday, but few other central characters alongside Luther are played by Black actors. Discussing what can be done, Wayland added: "It's about making sure that everything around them – their environment, their culture, the set – is absolutely reflective." A BBC spokesperson responded in a statement saying that: "Luther is a multi-award winning crime drama series and the iconic role of DCI John Luther has become one of TV's most powerful detective characters of which we are tremendously proud. The key question is that, when I watch a programme, any programme, the last thing I think about is their race and food they should be eating. I would say that this is ridiculous. We live in a diverse world with a diverse cultures and food. We can eat what we like or not! Meanwhile, Idris Elba and Caleb McLaughlin star in *Concrete Cowboy* an American Western drama, which



follows the story of young boy who goes to live with his estranged father in Philadelphia and becomes involved in the world of urban horseback riding. Based on the novel *Ghetto Cowboy* by Greg Neri, it debuted at the Toronto International Film Festival last September and is out on Netflix on 2 April.

Ex-Burkina Faso president **Compaore charged in Thomas Sankara murder**

Politics

By: Dr. Funmi Beckley
Lagos, Nigeria



A military court in Burkina Faso's capital has indicted former President Blaise Compaore in connection to the 1987 murder of his charismatic predecessor, Thomas Sankara. A statement issued by the court last month cited "complicity in assassination" and an "attack on state security" by Compaore, who ruled the country until 2014, when he was forced to resign in the face of mass demonstrations against an attempt to extend his 27-year rule.

Thirteen others - including Gilbert Diendere, Compaore's right hand man, and Hyacinthe Kafando, his security chief - were also indicted on charges ranging from "assassination" to "concealment of corpses". Benewende Stanislas Sankara, a lawyer representing the relatives of the slain former president, described the indictment as "a victory and a step in the right direction".

The circumstances behind Sankara's death, who was killed during the coup, have been shrouded in secrecy.

Sankara took power in 1983, but he was killed aged 37 along with 12 other government officials during a coup led by Blaise Compaore on October 15, 1987. Many Burkinabes regard Sankara as a national hero. A prominent pan-Africanist, he is sometimes also referred to as the continent's "Che Guevara", in reference to the Argentinian Marxist revolutionary who led a number of armed struggles, including in Cuba.

Thomas Sankara, who became an iconic revolutionary West African leader, took



Exiled Former President Compaore



Man of the people, Sankara

power in 1983 at age 33 after he and Compaore launched a leftist revolution to overthrow a moderate military faction.

In 1987, Compaore turned on his former friend, staging the coup and ruling with



Exiled Former President Compaore

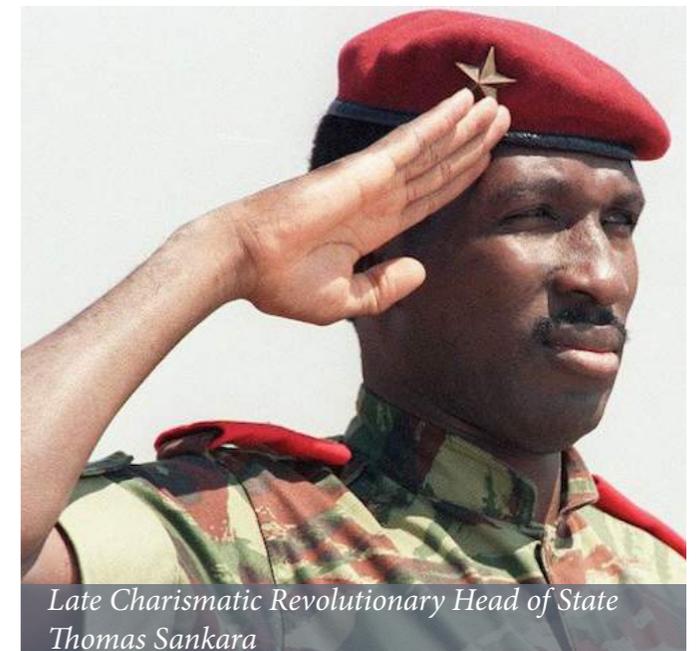
an iron fist for more than 27 years before being ousted in a popular uprising in 2014. He now lives in exile in neighboring Ivory Coast.

Blaise Compaore is unlikely to face extradition from Ivory Coast. In 2015, Burkina Faso issued a warrant for his arrest but Ivory Coast has refused to extradite him.

The charges come as the impoverished nation has been battling a jihadist insurgency that has killed thousands, displaced more than 1 million people and divided communities. After winning re-election in November, President Roch Marc Christian Kabore pledged to make reconciliation a priority.



Late Thomas Sankara



Late Charismatic Revolutionary Head of State Thomas Sankara

Medical Tourism



By: Kangmwa Gofwen,
Bureau Chief,
Lagos-Nigeria



The healthcare system of every society plays a crucial role in its smooth running.

The government must pay adequate attention to ensure that it is fully functional. However, it is pathetic that the ministry is among the neglected ministries in Nigeria.

In recent times the number of healthcare workers that have migrated to the UK, USA, and other countries has increased significantly, according to research by the Nigerian Polling Agency in partnership with the Nigerian Health Watch says 88 percent of doctors are considering taking opportunities abroad.

Data from the World Health Organization reveals that the ratio of physicians to patients in Nigeria is at four doctors to ten

thousand patients 4/10,000 the gap between the standard ratio of a doctor to six hundred patients 1/600 and the current realities is far apart.

The 2021 budget has only 7.1 percent allocated to the ministry of health this is beyond the 'Abuja Declaration' pledge of 15 percent budgetary allocation to the healthcare system.

In 2001, the African Union countries pledged to allocate at least 15 percent of their annual budget to improve the healthcare system of their countries. It is 20 years since that meeting in Abuja and only a few member countries have implemented the agreement sadly, Nigeria is not one of them.



Year in year out medical practitioners have embarked on industrial actions to demand better funding and better working conditions for their members.

Recently, the National Association of Resident Doctors took nationwide industrial action to protest the lack of payment, lack of insurance cover, insufficient hazard allowance, and other reasons.

This action has crippled activities in public hospitals across the nation leaving patients stranded and unattended; the striking doctors insist their demands must be met before they return to work.

The federal government has been less concerned with the sorry state of health institutions across the country because they travel to get standard healthcare outside the country.

Experts say Nigeria loses N576 billion (\$1.2 billion) annually to medical tourism. Reports suggest that almost 5000 people leave the country monthly for different treatment abroad however, the number has

reduced drastically due to the Covid-19 pandemic according to investigations by the Guardian Newspaper.

Muhammadu Buhari has traveled abroad over ten times for medical purposes since he assumed office as President in 2015. President Buhari departed the Nnamdi Azikiwe international airport on Tuesday, March 30th, 2021 for the 12th medical visit to London. In a statement issued by the presidential media aide, Femi Adesina said President Buhari will return in the second week of April.

The President's visit came in the wake of the industrial action by residents doctors, angry Nigerians in London who took to the streets to protest the insensitivity of the President's medical trip demanded the President return to Nigeria for his medical check-up.

Reno Omokri former media aide to President Goodluck Jonathan and Convener of the #HarassBuhariOutofLondon protest said in a statement released to PREMIUM TIMES that he believes President Buhari is not running a government rather a criminal enterprise, he also added that the President has budgeted over N10 billion (\$29 million) in the last five years for the state house clinic, he said that amount is enough to build a hospital and train doctors to treat him back home.

However, that was not my main reason for initiating the protest' he added, 'I did it really as a way of seeking closure for victims of the #EndSARS protest because General Buhari's spin doctors are going around town misrepresenting the US State Department's human rights report as a vindication that the Lekki Massacre did not happen.' Protesters stormed the Abuja House in London carrying placards with different inscriptions insisting that the president returns to Nigeria for his medical routine check.

Meanwhile, Laretta Onochie social media aide to President Buhari reacted to the protest and uproar by Nigerians in a tweet justifying the presidential trip. She said 'President Buhari won't dump his doctors of about 40 years so that wailers can be happy.' She said if he chooses he'd go on medical trips in 2022 and 2023 as it is his choice.

It is insensitive that government is nonchalant about the healthcare system of the country. several patients have died for lack of proper medical care this can only be attributed to the poor function, management, and, inadequate medical facilities.

President Buhari during his campaign in 2015, promised to ban medical tourism by politicians and increase the quality of all federal government-owned hospitals to world-class standard by 2019, increase the national health expenditure per person to about N50 thousand per annum from less than N10 thousand amongst other promises; It is almost 7 years into the President Buhari-led government and non of his campaign promises regarding the healthcare system has been met.

After much back and forth with a government representative, minister of Labour and Employment Sen. Chris Ngige, and other government officials the striking doctors agreed to return to work. Dr. Uyilawa Okhuaihesuyi President of the National Association of Resident Doctors NARD said the association is satisfied with the negotiation and urged all parties to fulfill their part of the deal. The doctors said they will not hesitate to go on strike if the government does not meet up their agreed demands after four weeks.



PRESIDENT OF CHAD **KILLED ON BATTLEFIELD** AFTER THREE DECADES IN POWER.



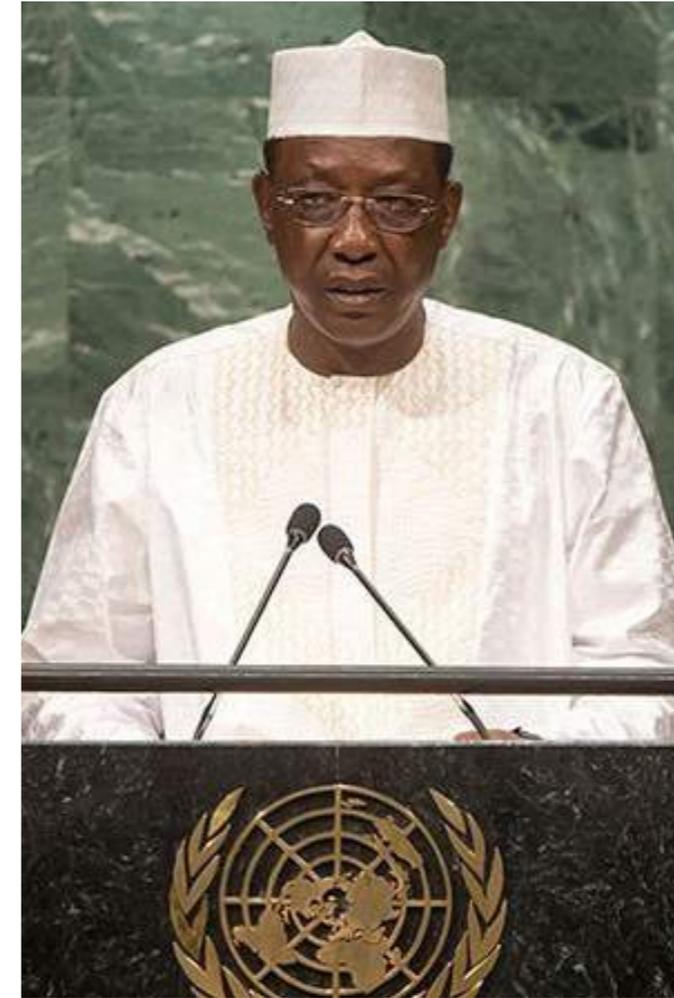
By: Ibukun Babatunde
Lagos, Nigeria



Chad's President Idriss Deby, who ruled his country for more than 30 years and was an important Western ally in the fight against Islamist militants in Africa, died Tuesday 20th April of wounds suffered on the battlefield during a fight against rebels, the military announced on national television and radio.

Deby's son, Mahamat Kaka, was immediately named interim president by a transitional council of military officers, spokesman Azem Bermendao Agouna said in a broadcast on state television.

He had led a brigade against rebels in the North of the country.



His death is coming after he won his re-election for a 6th term. Deby, 68, won a sixth term in provisional election results but postponed his victory speech and went to visit Chadian soldiers in the war front.

"In the face of this worrying situation, the people of Chad must show their attachment to peace, to stability and to national cohesion," Gen. Azem Bermendao Agouna said.

The circumstances of Deby's death could not immediately be independently confirmed because of the remote location. It was not known why the president would have visited the area or participated in ongoing clashes with the rebels who opposed his rule.

The military said Deby had taken "the heroic lead in combat operations against terrorists who had come from Libya." After being wounded in battle, he was taken to the capital, N'Djamena, the general announced.

The shocking announcement came just a few hours after the electoral commission had declared Idriss Deby the winner of the April 11 presidential election, giving him the opportunity to rule for another six years.

Idriss has been the supreme military commander and ruler of the Central African country since 1990. He took power by organising a rebellion against President Hisse Habre in December 1990, who was later convicted of human rights abuses at an international tribunal in Senegal.

Before now, he has survived various rebellions and coup attempts against his own leadership.

Peter Okoye releases Album years after breakout from PSQUARE

Entertainment



By: Kangmwa Gofwen,
Bureau Chief,
Lagos-Nigeria



Four years after the two brothers went solo Peter Okoye also known as MR P releases an album.

The popular artiste returned to the dance floor after a long break with a bang; his solo album titled 'The Prodigal' featured artiste such as Tamar Braxton, Teni, Mohombi, Tiwa Savage, Simi, Wande Coal amongst others. The 16-track album was released 2nd of April 2021.

The brothers officially broke up in 2017 after over ten years of singing together.

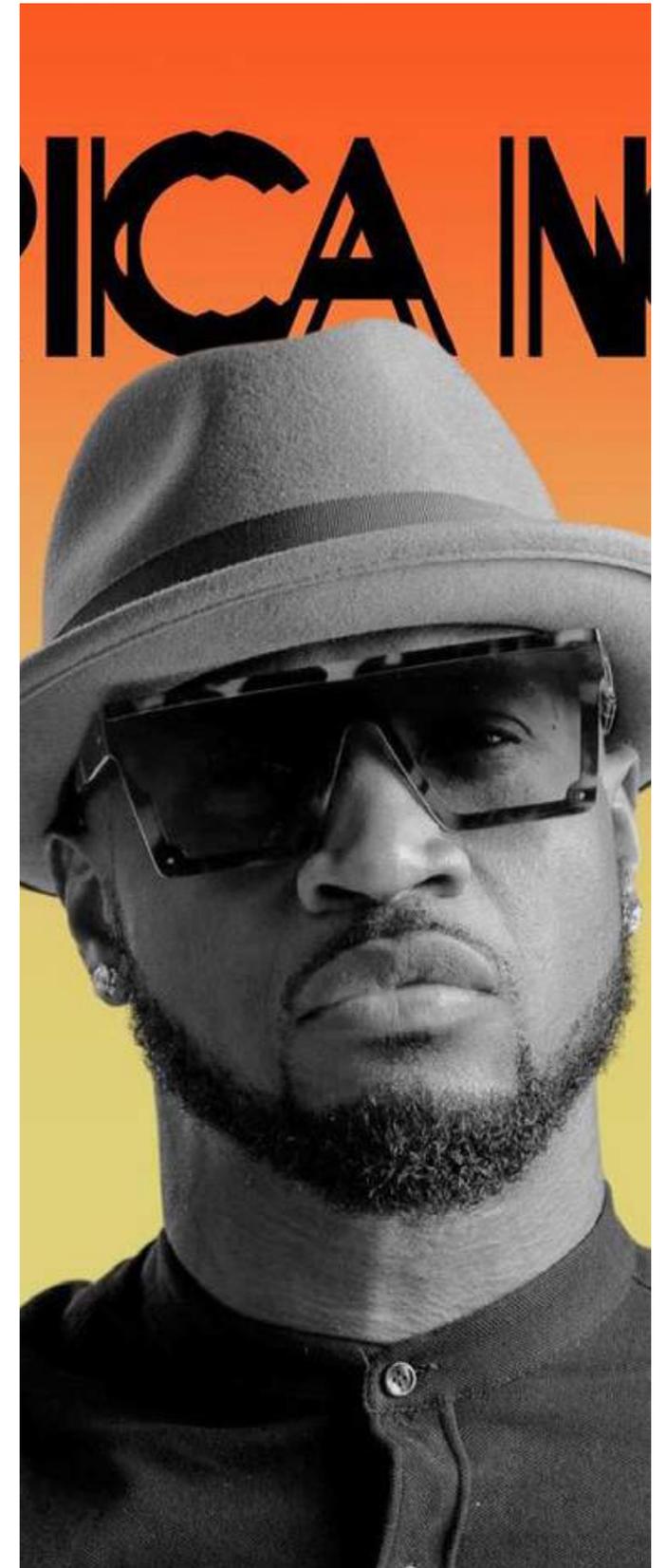
The two brothers came to the limelight in 2001 after they won the 'Grab Da Mic' competition, that victory earned them sponsorship from Benson and Hedges to release their first-ever debut album titled 'Last Nite'; The album was released under the Timbuk2 music label.

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In 2019 Mr. P released a single titled 'Karma', Karma was produced by Goldswarm, mixed and mastered by Monsta. Karma came few months after his first single 'One more night' was released, the single featured the Queen of Afro- House Niniola; the music video has over 15million views on youtube and several streams from other music streaming platforms.

Mr. P is also a family man, he revealed in an interview with the Guardian in 2017 that family is everything, 'my wife and kids first, everything is extra for me' he said. He also added in that interview that if anyone





is feeling sad that he is standing by his immediate family shouldn't buy his music, such person shouldn't even bother to listen to his songs; 'there was family before PSquare. PSquare will go, but the Okoye's will remain.'

In June last year, Mr. P also revealed how his family went through hell when he and other family members contracted the Corona Virus. He disclosed in an Instagram video after he had recovered that his wife, daughter, and two of his domestic staff tested positive for Covid-19 earlier that month. 'I am happy to announce that my wife, myself, our daughter, and



two of our domestic staff all of us are now negative' he concluded.

Mr. P is a successful businessman, he is a multi-talented award-winning musician, and he has won several awards and endorsements, Mr. P won his first award as a solo artiste in 2018. He was awarded the Best International Male Artiste at the International Achievement Recognition Awards (IARA).

Mr. P terminated his contract with the singing group PSquare in September 2017, he alleged that their manager and older brother Jude Okoye has been a poor manager and prefers and supports his twin Paul. He also claimed that his brothers threatened his family's well-being hence his decision to leave the group and start a career by himself.

It's been four years since the award-winning singing brothers went solo however, the brothers have fared well in their career with various singles, albums, and endorsements by brands.

DMX's Funeral



By: Seyi Awolaye
Los Angeles, CA
USA



The life and legacy of rapper DMX was immortalized on Saturday in a star-studded memorial service in Brooklyn, two weeks after the 50-year-old hip-hop icon died of a heart attack.

Fellow rap stars Kanye West, Busta Rhymes, and Eve were among the big names who attended the two-hour ceremony at the Barclays Center where DMX's shiny red casket was displayed following a funeral procession from Yonkers - where the rapper grew up.

The service at the arena was closed to the public and restricted to close friends and family due to coronavirus restrictions, but was livestreamed on DMX's YouTube channel. The speakers included friends Swizz Beatz and Nas, as well as DMX's daughter, who rapped in honor of her father.

West's Sunday Service Choir kicked off the ceremony with a gospel performance. The hoodie sweatshirt-wearing ensemble performed a few songs, including their arrangement of 'Excellent' and Soul II Soul's 'Keep On Movin'.



The choir took the stage during other moments of the ceremony, performing 'Ultralight Beam' and Whitney Houston's assisted vocals on the hymn 'Jesus Loves Me.'

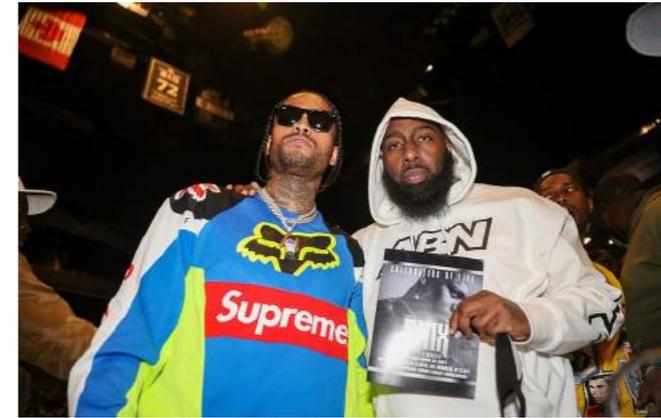
In a touching moment, DMX's 15 children gathered on stage to talk - and sometimes rap about the star as a father who taught them such lessons as 'always say thank you,' 'be kind to everyone' and that being afraid can sometimes show a person how to be brave.

Relatives emphasized his love of Jesus and his drive to make his fans happy, giving audiences the best show he could every time.

Nas reminisced about having a conversation with a teary-eyed DMX while filming a scene for 'Belly,' a crime drama. He said DMX became emotional knowing the rapper was about to embark on a journey to become a 'hip-hop icon.'

'It's a sad day as well as a glorious day,' said Nas, who starred with DMX in the 1998 film. 'That was my brother. We did a great movie together. On that movie, he was just rising up as a star. His first album didn't even come out yet, but he knew his journey was starting.'

Eve said she was still having a hard time with DMX's death, remembering him as a 'man, a father, a friend.' She stood on stage with the Ruff Ryders collective, which helped launch the careers of Grammy winners Eve and Swizz Beatz and relaunch The Lox, formerly signed to Bad Boy Records.





Daniel Kaluuya makes **Oscar history** as first **non-white Brit** to win for acting

By: Linda R. Jones

London, UK



Daniel Kaluuya has made history after winning the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor at the 2021 Oscars. The London-born actor is the first non-white Briton to win an acting Oscar in the show's 93-year history. He landed the gong for playing Black Panther chairman Fred Hampton in *Judas and the Black Messiah*. He is only the sixth non-white actor to win the award. Denzel Washington was the first, for the film *Glory* in 1990. Welshborn actor Sir Anthony Hopkins, 83, also set a new record as the oldest Best Actor winner in Oscar history. He won for his performance in *The Father*.

It is Sir Anthony's second Oscar, coming 29 years after he won Best Actor in 1992 for *The Silence of the Lambs*. This is the longest gap between wins by any actor in this category in the history of the Academy Awards. Kaluuya, 32, a British actor who rose to international fame after his starring role in Jordan Peele's *Get Out*, was favourite for the prize, having won in the same category at a slew of preceding awards, including the Golden Globes and the Baftas. Kaluuya has recently been making a name for himself in Hollywood.

His first film role was in the 2006 BBC Films feature drama *Shoot the Messenger*, after which he joined the cast of *Skins* for the first two series and wrote two of the episodes. He made his stage debut at the Royal Court Theatre in *Sucker Punch* in 2010, which won him newcomer prizes, and in 2011 he landed a role in *Black Mirror*, in the Fifteen Million Merits episode,

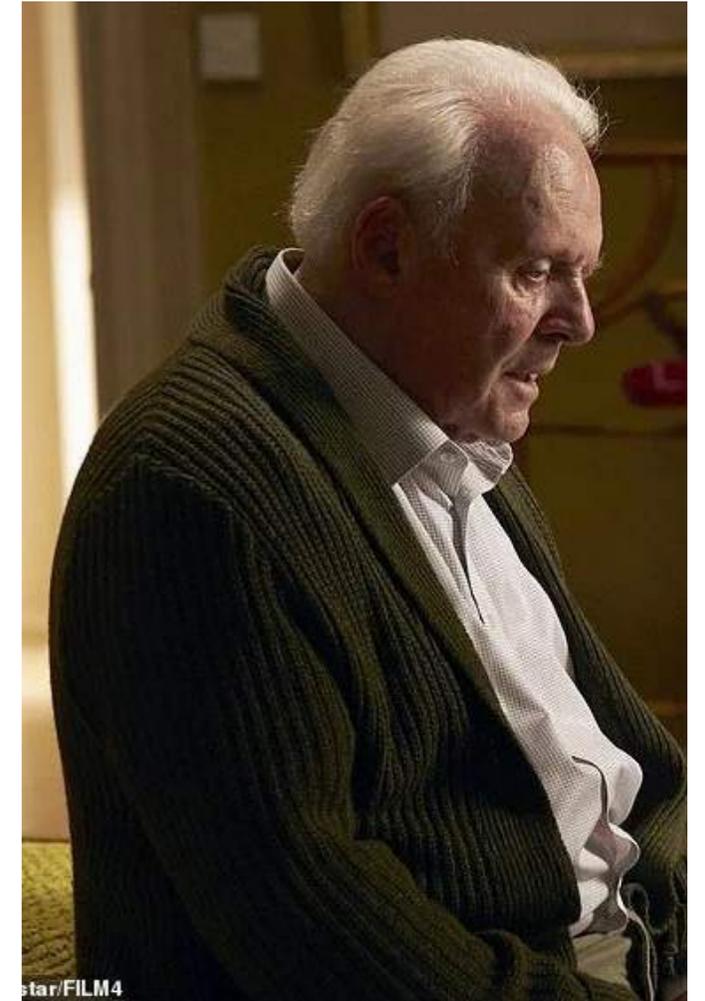


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opposite *Downton Abbey*'s Jessica Brown Findlay.

He went on to appear in *Welcome To The Punch*, *Kick-Ass 2* and *Sicario*. Since then he has become an international star, with roles in Marvel film *Black Panther*, Steve McQueen's heist thriller *Widows* and drama *Queen & Slim*.

In a wide-ranging, effervescent acceptance speech, Kaluuya started off by thanking God "I can't be here without your guidance and protection", before acknowledging his mother ("you gave me your factory settings") and offering his praise for the man he played,



star/FILM4

Fred Hampton: "What a man, how blessed we are that we lived in a lifetime where he existed..."

When they played divide and conquer, we say unite and ascend." He added: "Thank you so much for showing me myself, and there's so much work to do. That's on everyone in this room. This ain't no single man job. I look at every single one of you. We've got work to do." Kaluuya closed up by urging everyone to "celebrate life" before pointing out, to embarrassed laughter from his family: "Mum and dad, they had sex. It's amazing! I'm here!"

Prince Philips Burial







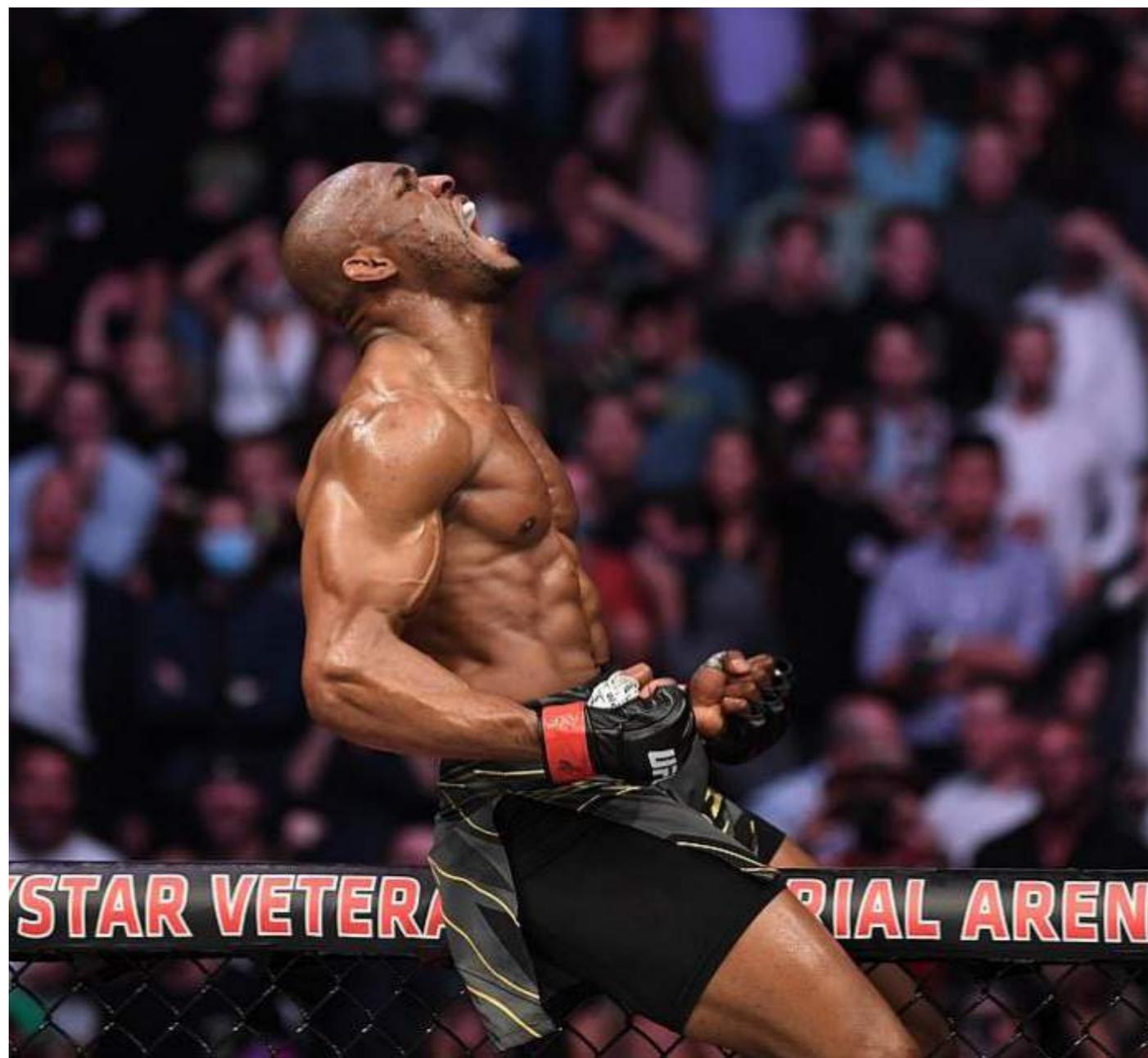






KAMARU *THE BEAST*

Sports
By: Ibukun Babatunde
Lagos, Nigeria

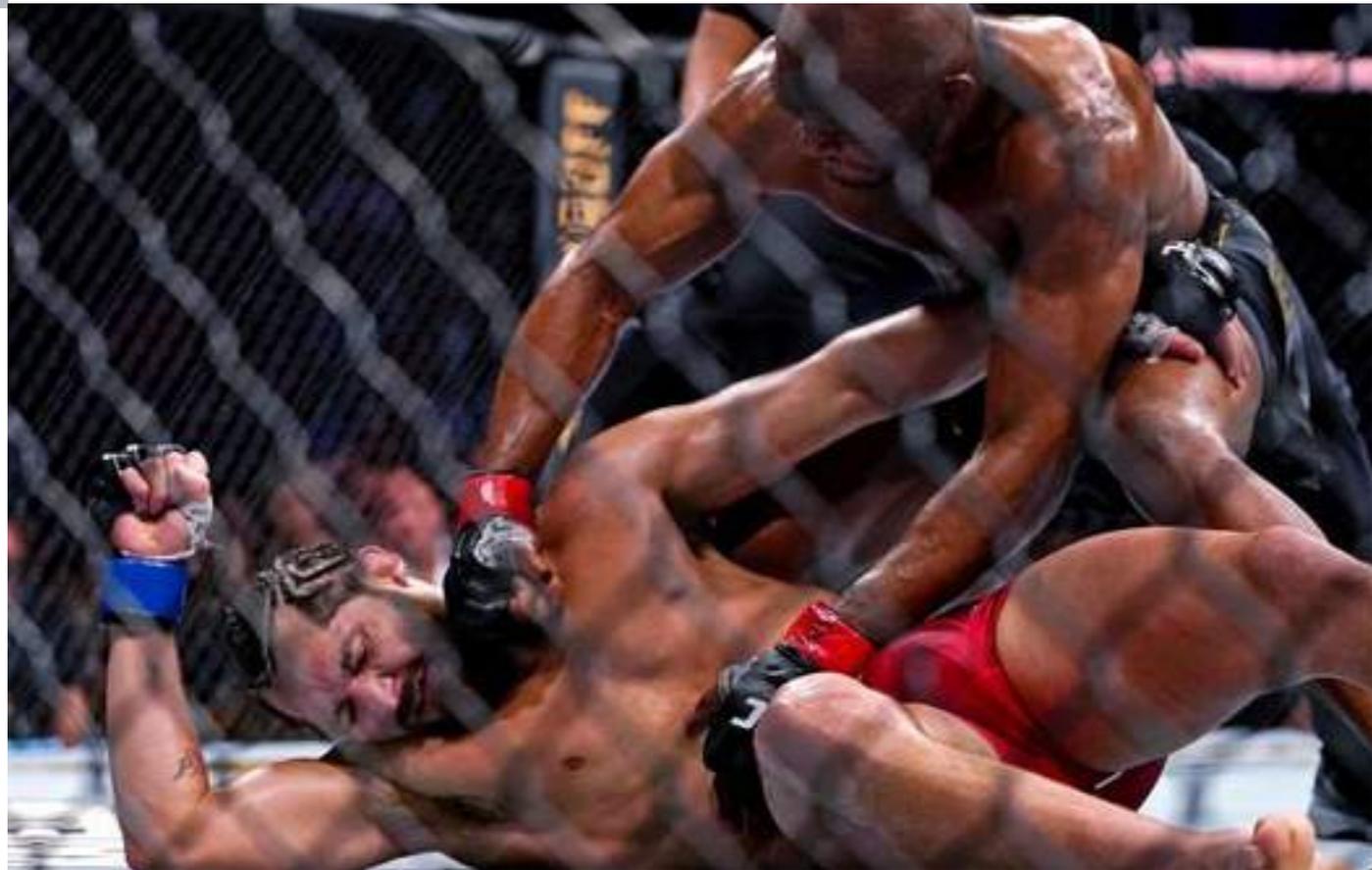


Kamaru Usman knocked Jorge Masvidal out in the second round at UFC 261 to truly stake his claim as an all-time great welterweight champion. Masvidal took the fight on six days' notice at UFC 251 in 2020 and went the distance then, but this time around with both men enjoying full fight camps, Usman devastated Gamebred. Given that the Nigerian Nightmare is renowned for his wrestling, but now he has two sensational

knockouts in a row and he is becoming the complete fighter. Usman opened up the fight with a couple of fantastic right hooks, but Masvidal seemed to enjoy them, almost.

UFC welterweight champion Kamaru dominated Masvidal last year over five rounds. But Usman wasn't satisfied with that performance; he thought he could do better. Usman put a stamp on his rivalry with Masvidal on Saturday 24th of April, dropping Masvidal with a crushing right hand and following up on the ground for a knockout victory at 1 minute, 2 seconds of the second round in the main event of UFC 261 in Jacksonville, Florida. With the victory, Usman defended his 170-pound title. It was the first time the famously durable Masvidal had been finished by KO/TKO since 2008.







“There’s two setups to that right hand that I just envisioned them landing. That was one of them. ... I just had to stay composed and I was going to find it,” Usman said of the knockout blow *“I needed to put a definitive finish on that chapter, and I did that tonight,”* he added. ESPN had Usman ranked No. 2 in the world on its best pound-for-pound MMA fighters list coming in. At welterweight, ESPN has Usman at No. 1 and Masvidal at No. 7. Now, Usman has to be considered one of the best in the world currently, and the questions will begin about where he stands on the all-time list.

IS YOUR SKIN FACING A COVER-UP CONUNDRUM?

Health

By: Dr. Janet Adams
Oxford, UK

With the Covid-19 pandemic, wearing a mask becoming part of our daily routine, but this often brings with it the problem of Maskne. We asked award-winning Dr. Janet Adams to talk us through everything you need to know about Maskne.



What is Maskne? Face mask acne, shortened to Maskne, is a skin condition caused by wearing a mask for prolonged periods of time. It can manifest as acne, breakouts, a flare up of Rosacea or skin redness and irritation, usually affecting the nose, chin and cheeks.

What causes it? The wearing of masks causes friction and a build up of a sweat, oil, bacteria and make-up, leading to blocked pores and inflammation. This is compounded by the trapping of humidity within the masked area and sometimes a sensitivity to the mask material.



How can we prevent Maskne? Change your mask twice a day. It is recommended that you should use your mask for no more than 4 hours at a time. After this time, disposable masks should be thrown away and re-usable masks should be cleaned in a hot wash to remove bacteria and dirt. Cotton masks are preferable to masks made from synthetic materials, and silk masks may be more gentle on the skin and more breathable. Cleanse your face before and after using a mask. If your skin is red and irritated, use a gentle cleanser, but if you are suffering with breakouts and acne choose a cleanser containing **salicylic** acid to remove bacteria and grease from the pores.

Use an antibacterial solution designed to be left on your skin such as Clinisept. Use a moisturiser to ensure your skin is not dehydrated.

Skincare containing sodium hyaluronate and niacinamide will help hydrate and protect the skin barrier. Alumier Ultimate Boost serum is my favourite. If you are prone to breakouts, look out for oil-free non-comedogenic skincare.

Finally, avoid wearing make-up if possible but if you feel you do need to wear make-up ensure it is non-comedogenic so will not block your pores. Reduce your intake of dairy and sugar as this will reduce the inflammation in the skin. Avoid touching the face and transferring bacteria and grime to your skin.



I believe the African culture and traditions have been bastardised and demonised by the western religions. A simple traditional naming is seen as something demonic if done in the African cultural way.

This has to stop. Our culture and tradition is what makes us who we are. It is what gives us the identity our ancestors see when they look at us. A people without their original culture and tradition are totally lost and a fraudster to other people's culture and tradition which he has made his. He is a fraudster because when you take someone else's identity, it's called identity theft and its a criminal offence. That's why most African people are not respected and seen as human.

The Adeleye family on the naming of their newly born son.

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What is ArtWizard?

ArtWizard is a Digital Art Platform for virtual exhibitions. We offer the opportunity to display, offer and buy-sell works by artists and galleries seeking greater access to art connoisseurs across borders, in the EU, and the global world.

The purpose of the platform is to open and make access to world and contemporary art independent of the physical location of the connoisseur/collector and artist or gallery, improving access to the general public, collectors, and art galleries. ArtWizard makes the relationship of artists and galleries around the world easier through the innovative Virtual Art Space, where their works can be represented.

Our team consists of experts in art, curators, marketing, finance, and technology specialists. We work with a wide range of artists and galleries who believe in new technologies, choose the modern approach, and want to expand their presence by offering their works to a wider range of connoisseurs in an innovative way.

ArtWizard offers live updated content of its platform in three different languages – English, French and Russian so that we can reach faster and better different audiences. All our content is presented by professionals in all three languages in real-time.

What is the innovation of the ArtWizard Platform?

The platform provides a virtual 3D art space where collectors, galleries, and the general public may view online exhibitions, talk to authors, and purchase artworks using the digital communication and payment channel of the platform. The art connoisseurs can virtually walk into the art space and see multiple high-quality images of the selected artworks, curated as an exhibition.

We created a unique Virtual Art Space for exhibitions on the ArtWizard Platform, where artworks can be seen in several (more than five) different environments, in proportions and scale, reflecting the direction and angle of the fall of light, and the spectator can see all artworks with a maximum precision that ensures an experience closest to the real experience.

Services offered by ArtWizard

ArtWizard offers a hassle-free digital art space that can be accessed by anyone willing to be part of the digital art society. We digitalize the exchange of information, the art presentation, and purchase of artworks in a customer friendly way.

ArtWizard offers a first-class experience for connoisseurs of fine art. Customers can purchase all artworks directly from the platform by sitting comfortably on the armchair in front of the fireplace or desk in their office, using virtual payment methods and receive their work with express delivery to their door, insured by a leading European company and delivered by a first-class courier company. We partner with the best art houses and platforms to promote our artists, galleries, and works.

As the collection of art is also an alternative investment method, ArtWizard provides virtual access to a live price index in order to see how specific categories of art pieces are traded by the most famous auction houses, local and international, and be aware of the approximate value of the investment in case same or similar category of art is purchased by either a collector or a gallery.



NYanakiev_A_Journey_Through_Time_



nocturno



NYanakiev_Expectation



IRussev-Summer



IRussev-Turquoise



IRussev-Turquoise



LDimanov_The_Butterfly



LKyuchukova_Rendez_vous



NManev_Golden_Fairy



DMincheva_The_Blue_Lady



danzas sensuales



NYanakiev_Expectation



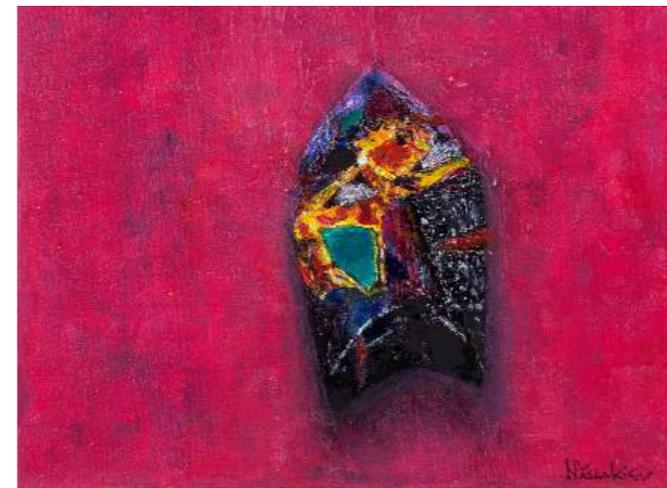
LDimanov_Peasant_Boy



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NYanakiev_The_Little_Princess



NYanakiev_Venetian_Mask

Services list

1. Digital art space for exhibitions. The service comprises rent of a virtual exhibition art space. It can be used by artists, collectors, and galleries who can exhibit and sell the artworks through the Platform.
2. Representation of an Artist, Gallery, or Collector. The service comprises a full scale of artist/gallery representation including the creation of editorial content, advertising, legal representation, and logistics.
3. Art and design consulting of the ArtWizard platform. The service comprises personalized advice on what artworks to buy for an office or home interior. The ArtWizard team helps to find the specific artworks that will be affordable and suitable for any interior.
4. Live price index.* The service is designed to show how different art categories that a collector possesses are willing to buy sell globally. It can be used for management decisions related to art, investment decisions, or for the creation of art collection portfolios.
5. Art Investment Consulting. The service comprises the valuation of specific artworks as an investment asset and providing auction estimates.
6. Legal advice. ArtWizard offers legal services related to the protection of artworks, copyright issues, authenticity claims, review of contracts for management, and representation of artists within the EU.



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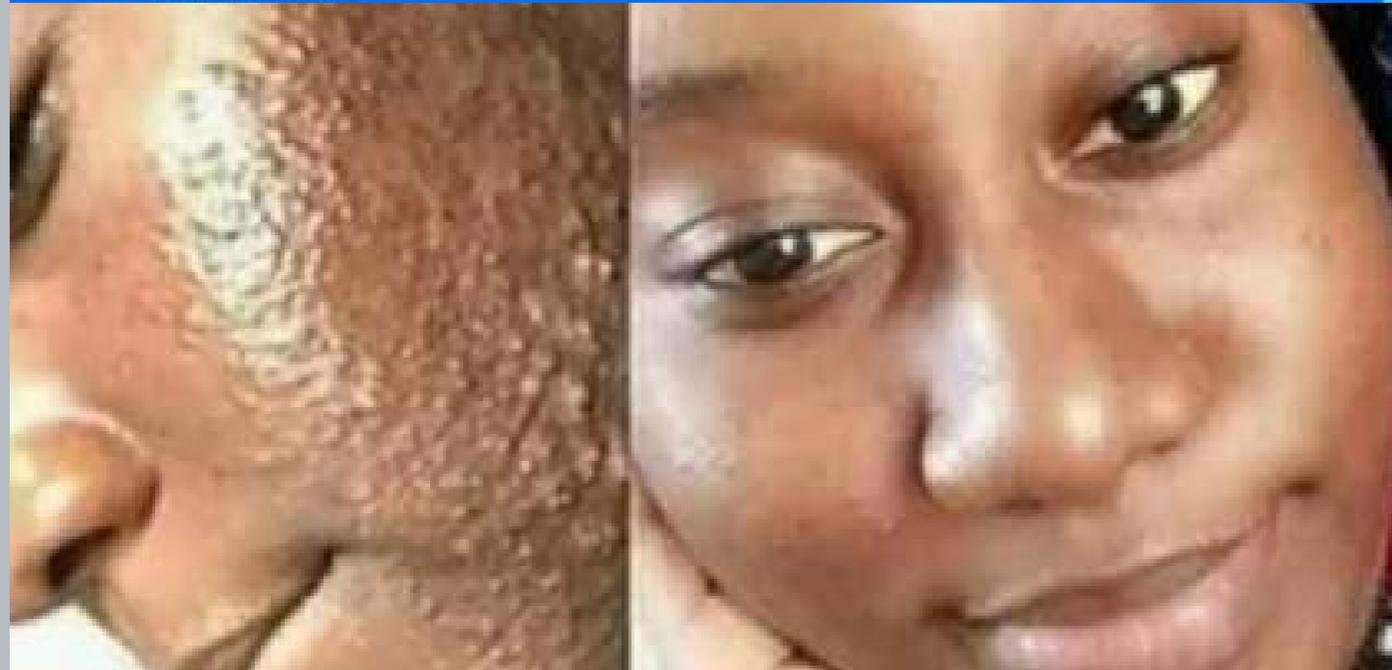

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HOW TO BECOME A BULGARIAN PERMANENT RESIDENT OR CITIZEN BY WAY OF PURCHASING PROPERTY

By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola & Albena Jones

Although EU citizens can travel and work freely throughout the EU member states, there are still some restrictions in place for those who wish to relocate permanently and for those who are from "third countries", meaning non-EEA countries and people who are not Swiss citizens. Did you know that if you bought a Bulgarian property or business you can obtain permanent citizenship? The recommended way, is to hire a specialist law firm to arrange for immigration and deal with work permit requirements before you arrive. In addition to dealing with your permanent residency needs and work permit issues, a law firm based near your future home can also deal with arranging family permits for non-EU national family members who wish to join you. In this issue we would like to introduce you to such an opportunity. A law firm in Sofia that offer full planning services from buying or renting property, both residential and commercial all the way to assisting you with child care and education if needed.

CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT

Since 2013, Bulgaria's government has offered a immigration program that can lead to long- term residency and, where applicable, to full citizenship. Since that year, foreign investors have been spending more than 500,000 Euros or 1,000,000 BGN on amazing residential properties that represent excellent value for money and in due time they have been enjoying the benefits of being EU citizens without limitations.

Recently many have discovered the beneficial ways to obtain residency by investment is to either start or buy a company that is registered in Bulgaria. There are certain advantages doing this, as Bulgaria has one of the lowest flat tax rates in the EU (10% at the time of writing). Once the legal period of actually living in the country has been met, it is possible for

non-EU residents to apply for full citizenship. If you happen to be from a third country, investing in a Bulgarian business or investing in Bulgarian real estate can provide you with EU nationality and visa free travel throughout the whole territory of the EU. One advantage of choosing Bulgaria is that the investment is 100% refundable, if you purchase, for example, Bulgarian shares on the stock exchange or buy government bonds or similar investment vehicles. Doing so means you gain unlimited living and working rights throughout the EU territory.

It is also possible to acquire permanent residency status by investing more than 1,000,000 BGN in a Bulgarian licensed credit institution for a time of no less than 5 years or by investing at least 6,000,000 BGN in the capital of a Bulgarian company, where shares are not traded on a regulated market. Investors who get involved with large-scale development projects, such as infrastructure for example, are also able to obtain long-term residency rights. If you are planning to invest in Bulgaria, be it in a company formation, a trade representative office, a second residency opportunity for you and family or simply to retire, live and work in Bulgaria, one must consult a specialist law firm about residency, inheritance and taxation issues.

A-CHOICES recommend our legal partners DP Law Firm, who are one of the most reputable and leading multilingual law firms in Bulgaria. To familiarize yourselves review the published company profile in this issue. When contacting them quote ref: a-choices magazine.

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