

# A-CHOICES

Issue Number .12 **AUGUST 2021**

The African Lifestyle Magazine



**BEST  
ACTOR**



**Adewale Akinnuoye Agbaje**

Farming | Femi



# CONTENTS

01	Cover page	Kanye West & Irina Shayk romance is already over	38
03	About us	Rapper Biz Markie dies at age 57	40
04	Meet the Team	Corey Gamble Wants Kris Jenner to pay him for.....	42
05	Editor's Letter	Dr. Dre ordered to cough up \$300,000 a month in support of Ex-wife Nicole Young	44
06	EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH <b>ADEWALE AKINNUOYE AGBAJE</b>	South Sudan rapper dies following tragic accident	46
16	Drug dealer jailed	Idris Elba & Sabrina Dhowre Elba to host 2021 GQ Men of the Year Awards	48
26	North london graduate who turned to drugs.....	Why Haitis President was assassinated	50
28	Prince Charles appoints his most senior black aide to....	Tunisian Democracy in turmoil after president sacks government	56
30	Sultan of the music caliphate goes home	Benin Bronzes: Nigerian deligation visits Berlin	58
		Biaafran sepratists leader arrested and will face trial, Nigeria says	68

# ABOUT US

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A-CHOICES -The African Lifestyle Magazine

**A**-CHOICES magazine is an online African lifestyle magazine for ordinary-educated 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 submissions 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](mailto:achoices@a-choicesmagazine.com)***

**[a-choicesmagazine.com](http://a-choicesmagazine.com)**

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# EDITOR'S LETTER



Welcome to the August issue of A-CHOICES Magazine where we celebrate all that we love about Africa and Africans. Since its launch in 2020, A-CHOICES Magazine has always been about celebrating the best of Africa.

Awards are special to people because it takes a lot of dedication and hard work to achieve such a great feat. It is usually a thing of delight for recipients of any kind of award because it proves that their work is recognized and appreciated; so in this edition, we celebrate one of our own, my very good friend and a wonderful brother from way back, Hollywood Actor, writer, and director Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje on his

award as the best actor in the movie "Farming" at the 2021 National Film Awards U.K.

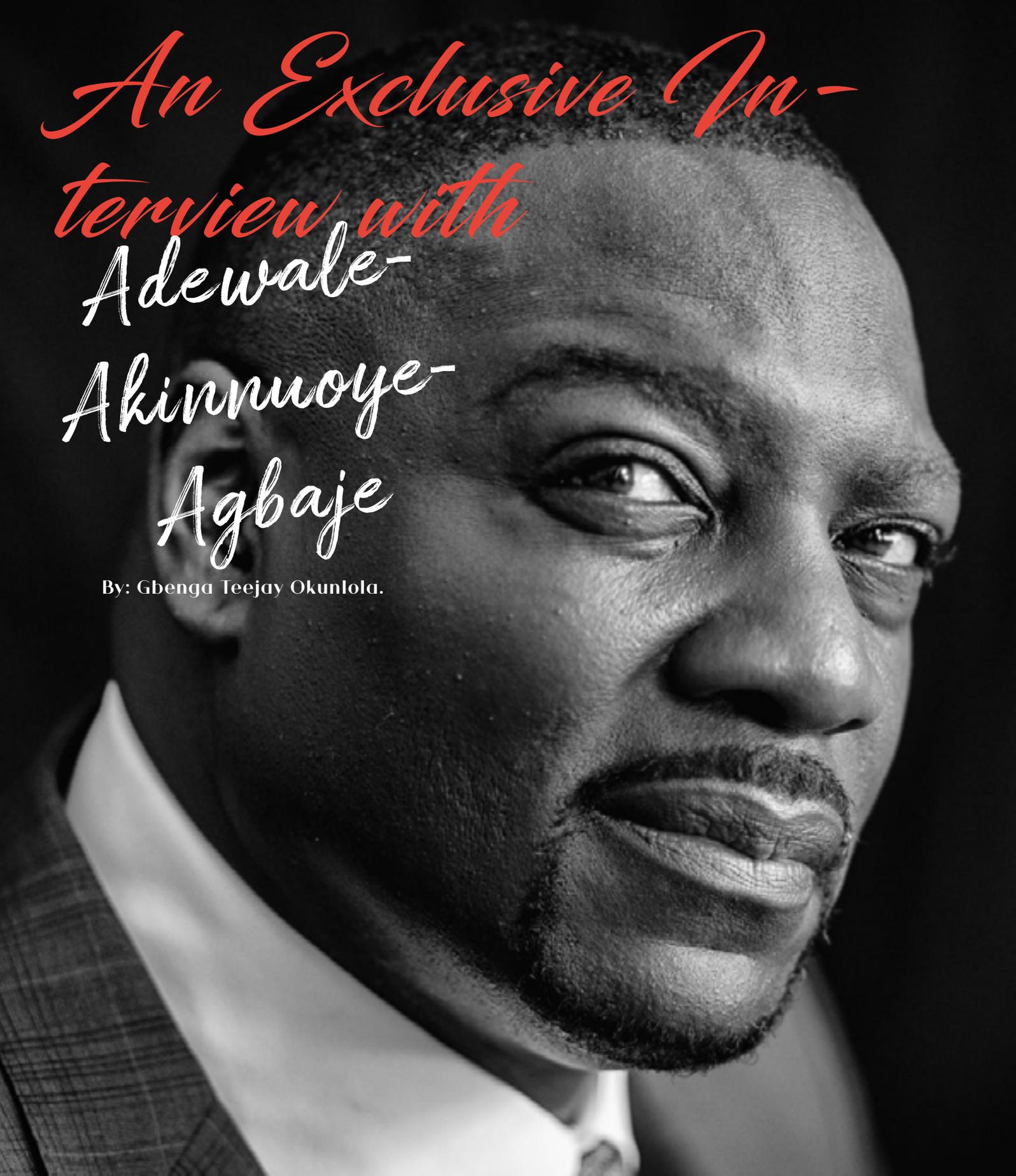
Here is to say congratulations to you Adewale, It is great that your talent has gained you more accolades. I know how much time and hard work you've invested into this project, this award is truly well deserved, part of which your curious attitude, tenacity, and dedication contributed a great deal. I am extremely proud to be part of the project "Farming" and, I am grateful for the opportunity.

This award is an achievement for all of us because we are proud of your journey In Hollywood, and when you mentioned us in your speech that made us extremely overwhelmed by the honor that you gave us. I wish you all the best, and I wish you success in your career. Many congratulations on this award, trust me, many awards are on the way.

In the same light, as we celebrate our 1st anniversary here at A-CHOICES Magazine, we want to say "A Big thank you" to those who have made our first year possible; our advertisers, you're so dear to us, we appreciate every one of you and hope we still have a great working relationship with you in the coming years. To our readers and loyal friends, God bless you all.

Don't forget you can always head to our website to read or request to get a copy sent to your email address, don't also forget you can advertise with us, we promise to deliver. We celebrate people. We celebrate Lifestyle. We celebrate African Achievers.

**Thank you**  
**Gbenga Teejay Okunlola**  
**Editor-in-Chief**  
**<https://a-choicesmagazine.com>**



*An Exclusive In-  
terview with  
Adewale-  
Akinnuoye-  
Agbaje*

By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola.

**A**dewale's incisive new film, *Farming*, is an uncompromising drama that deftly tackles themes of trauma, memories of the 1970s England. Inspired by Adewale's own experience of being "farmed" into the care of white foster parents. He was only six weeks old, in 1967, when his Nigerian parents—studying in London—gave him to a white working-class couple in Tilbury, Essex; then a fiercely racist community.

In this exclusive interview, Director, Adewale Akinuoye Agbaje discusses his directorial debut 'Farming', which is released Oct 11th, 2019—produced by Lionsgate and HanWay Films. The film stars Damson Idris, Kate Beckinsale & John Dagleish.

In June, at the 6th National Film Awards UK 2021 Adewale wins the best Actor awards and Kate Beckinsale takes home the best actress awards (*Farming*).

Adewale has just signed on for a new project, starring opposite talented Actress Emily Watson in the forthcoming movie *Late In Summer*.

***A-CHOICES: Congratulation For Your Best Actor Award at the 6th National Film Awards UK 2021.***

**ADEWALE:** Thank you very much, Teejay. Many thanks for your support over the past years.

***A-CHOICES: What does winning this award mean to you?***

**ADEWALE:** Humbled. Personally it means that it's awesome and it's recognition that I am on the right path; that following my heart does work, that doing what I love what I am passionate about ... works. Thank you to the National Film Awards and voting fans and to my incredible cast, crew and producers.

#farmingmovie can be seen on @primevideouk.

***A-CHOICES: Kate took home the Best Actress gong for her role in the movie 'Farming'***

**ADEWALE:** Congratulations to Kate Beckinsale for winning best actress for her stellar performance in my directorial debut *Farming*. Well deserved.

***A-CHOICES: Please tell us briefly about the incredible story of your upbringing?***

**ADEWALE:** I was born to Nigerian parents in London, who came to study there. When I was six weeks old, my parents gave me up to a white family in Tilbury, Essex. To financially support the family, my foster father earning source was being a lorry driver. At the age of eight/nine, my biological parents whom I was hardly aware of took me to short trip to Nigeria, I couldn't understand the local language. They then decided to send me back to Essex, after which I started facing identity crises. I used to rub my skin to make it whiter.

***A-CHOICES: What are your views regarding handing you over to other family?***

**ADEWALE:** : In my understanding, it is a very old practice in Nigeria to send children to other family for care for this is how children are thought to learn more. In my case, the problem began because it was another country, where white is right. My parents thought they did that for me, but I felt there is a little denial in that belief.



***A-CHOICES: What was the reason that instigated you to attempt the suicide at your teenage?***

**ADEWALE:** I had forged my identity for myself in a local racist skinhead gang after facing cultural identity crisis. This gang was violently racist who once beaten and stripped me in the street. At the age of sixteen, I got expelled from school.

***A-CHOICES: In your interview with Observer, you are believed to misrepresent skinhead culture. Is that true?***

**ADEWALE:** If those people had grown up in Tilbury? During the early 1980s, London became a multi-cultural melting pot. It was quite a different story on the edges, though. I welcome someone with that vision to come to Tilbury and be the only black child in that community. I don't want to say that all skinhead culture was like the way I described, but it was probably that particular party. I was forced by my father to face the bullies, but there was no way getting loved. I was advised to fight or get beaten by him otherwise. In short, be a fighter or be a victim. I most chose to be the victim.

***A-CHOICES: Were your biological parents before their death aware of your ideas about this film?***

**ADEWALE:** They were aware of it, my father told me to just say the truth and that is what I can. They would be quite proud of me after watching this.

***A-CHOICES: How you managed from being skinhead to master's degree?***

**ADEWALE:** The great assistance was a professor who helped to transform the law language into an understanding of the vernacular. I was off to the races once I got that. "I obviously knew very well that I was violating the law. My master's degree was in criminal law.

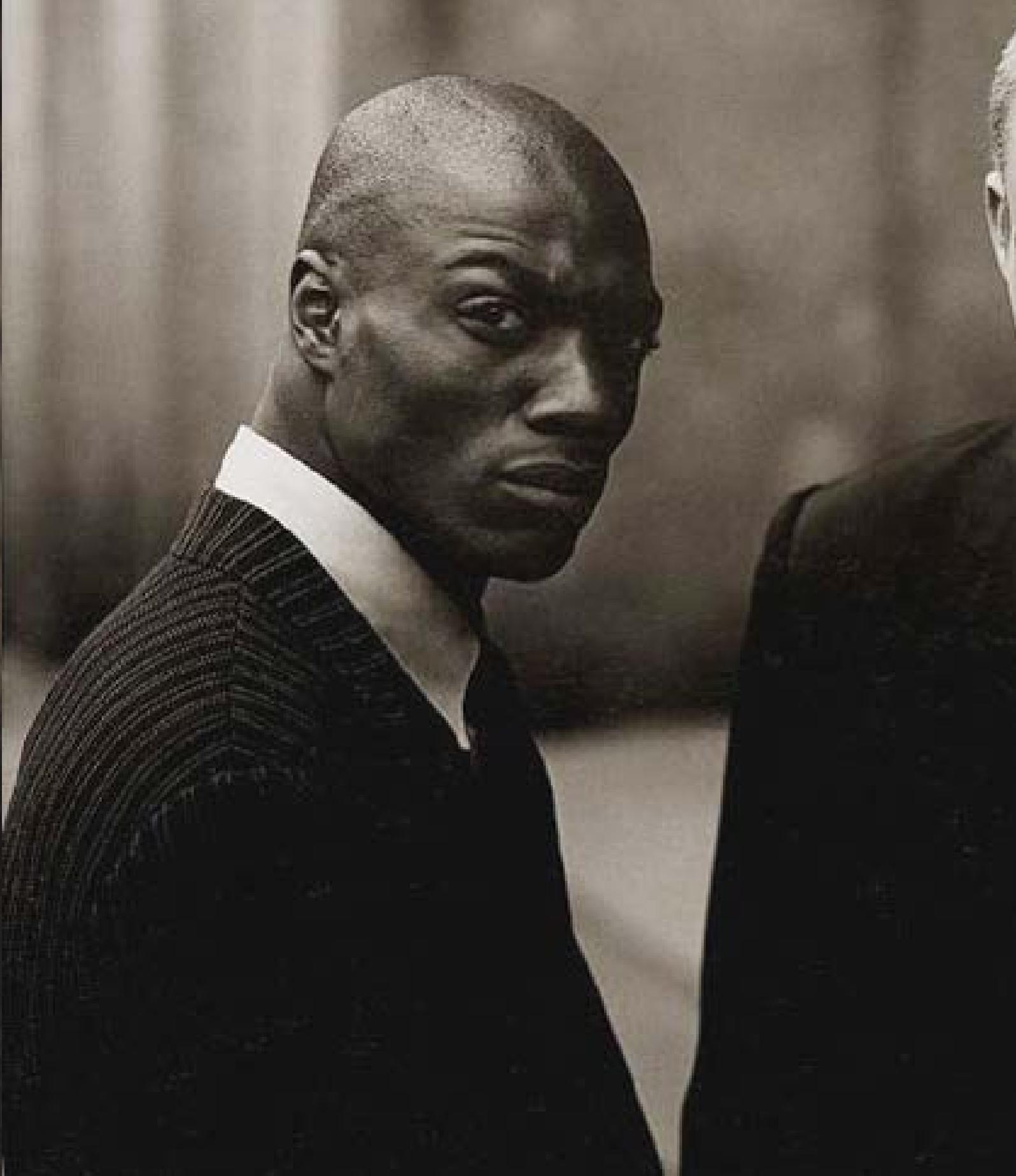
***A-CHOICES: Other than LLB and LLM degrees, you have also been awarded with Honary Doctorate Degree (Kings College University of London) conferred by HRH The Princess Royal. What is education to you and how it changed your life?***

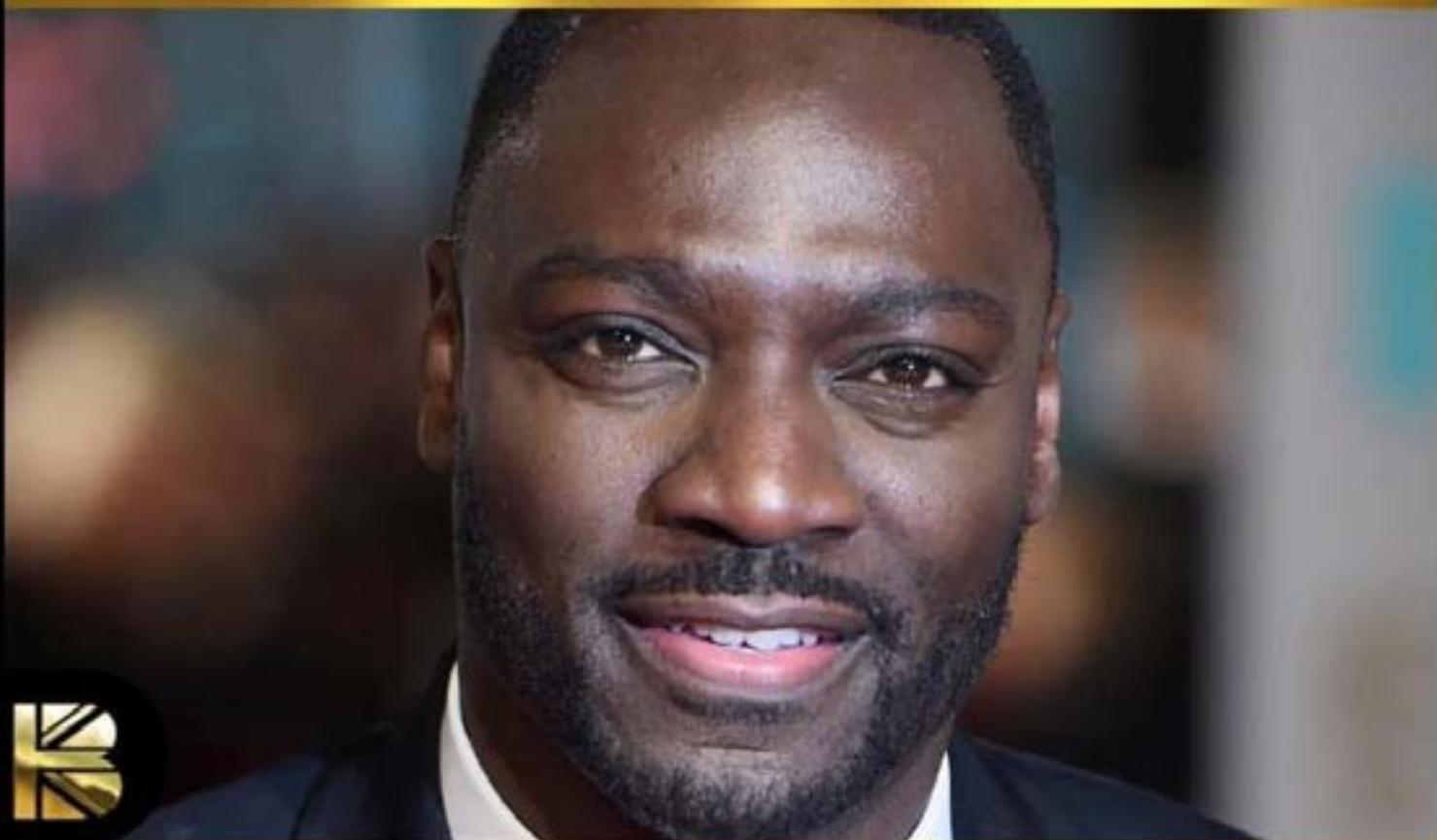
**ADEWALE:** The education, turned out to be the path to internal transformation and personal fulfilment for me. The first day I took my exam was among the best life altering moments. I had always been led to think that I was not intelligent. I was made realised that I was incompetent in my career and wouldn't mean anything. However, I will always remember how I cried after passing the first test. I felt like qualifying with 'A', but it was just a pass. This encouraged me and I was not the object of my situations, but I was the creator of my destiny.

***A-CHOICES: How did you enter into film industry while pursuing law degree?***

**ADEWALE:** I first participated in modelling at college and one friend recommended that I should move to Los Angeles and seek pursuing an acting path. For a 1995 film named Congo, I headed to an audition and got the role.







**BEST ACTOR**

**Adewale Akinnuoye Agbaje**

Farming | Femi

**A-CHOICES:** *Being director, tell us about "Farming", which also got premièred at Toronto Festival, how was the experience filming your own biography?*

**ADEWALE:** In directing the film, I had gone through the trauma of childhood memories and violence. A production designer reconstructed the home which was the birth place of my self-hatred for many years.

**A-CHOICES:** *What is the most incredible thing about your story in the film?*

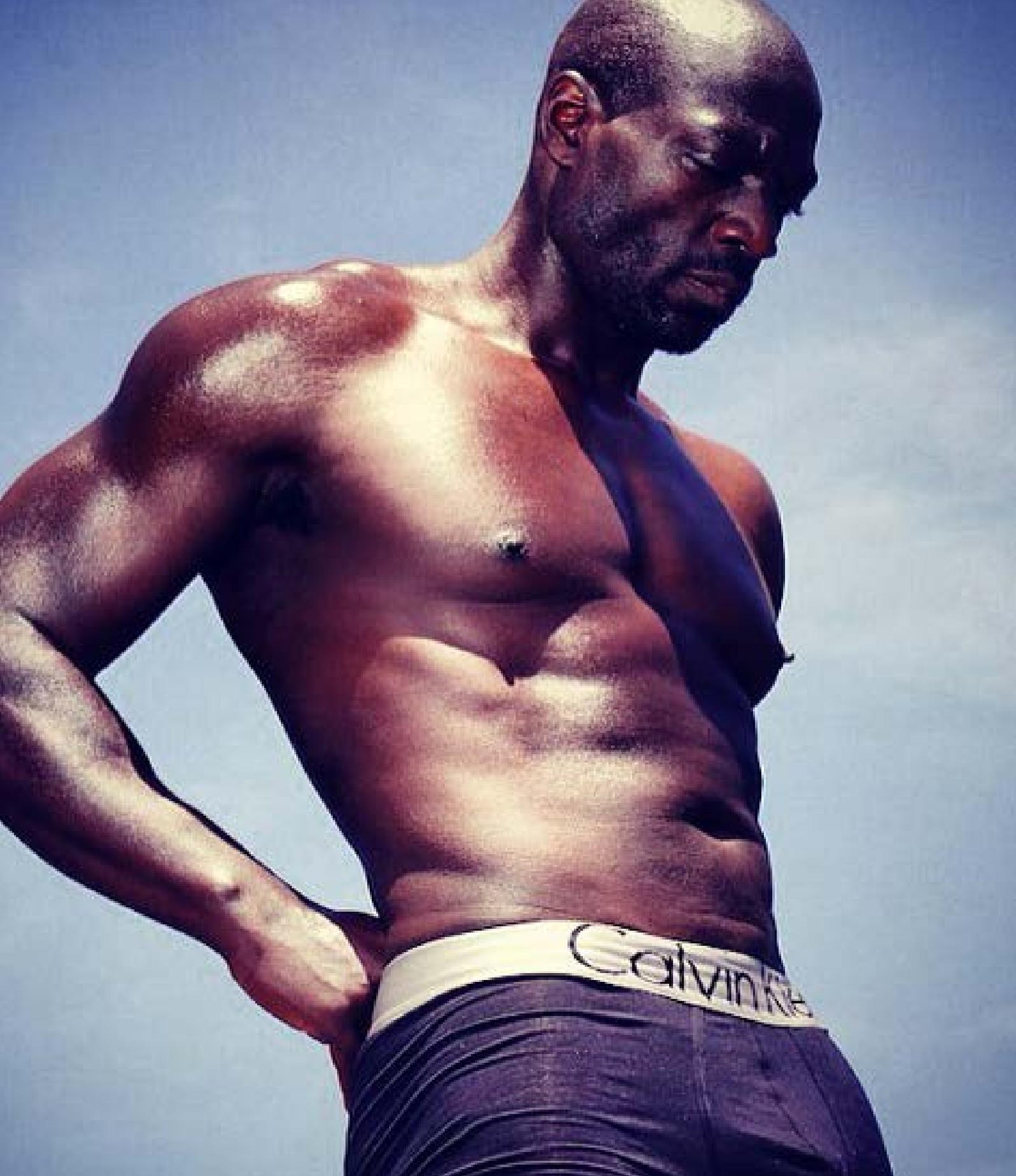
**ADEWALE:** That one thing is, it's not about white and black. My parents used racist slur to us; but same thing would be heard from comedies on TV; it was wallpaper of that time.

## Farming is now on DVD

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Farming-DVD-Damson-Idris/dp/B07YVPT6CF>







# DRUG DEALER JAILED

*Lifestyle: Crime*

By: Linda R. Jones  
London,UK



A drug dealer, who was running a drugs line from Croydon to Colchester, has been jailed.

Officers from Essex Police's Operation Raptor team, which specialises in dismantling county drugs lines, started investigating the Wayne drug line in March. Working with the Metropolitan Police's Op Orochi team, they identified Ronnie Tudilo as being behind the phone line used to make the deals.

A warrant was carried out at his home in Stroud Green Way, Croydon, on 12 May. He was arrested and later charged with being concerned in the offer to supply crack cocaine and heroin.

The 21-year-old admitted the charges at Ipswich Crown Court on 6 June and was jailed for two years and eight months on Thursday (1 July).

Detective Sergeant James Pamment said: "Tudilo is a young man who has lost his freedom because he chose to be involved in drug dealing." "We often see people who think drug dealing is a way to earn easy money and kudos from their peers." "It isn't.

If you aren't watching your back because of rival dealers, or even your own associates, then you're also watching your back for the police." "Every day we are arresting those involved in drugs supply in our county and we won't let these criminals make money off the back of other people's misery."



# 'MOST EVIL MAN IN THE WORLD'



By: Ibukun Babatunde  
Port Hacourt, Nigeria



**A former Liberian rebel commander who was once known to be ‘the most evil man in the world’ for the sacrificing and cannibalisation of children has said he’s changed and vowed to make up for his heinous crimes and diabolical past.**

**Joshua Blahyi was notorious for sacrificing children and eating their hearts has vowed to find redemption by helping ex-child soldiers off drugs. The gruesome killer was dubbed the “most evil man in the world” after he admitted to heinous crimes against thousands of innocent people. He was one of the most violent and feared figures to rise from the West African country’s civil wars.**

**He was popularly known by most as “General Butt Naked” due to fighting battles in the nude – something he believed bestowed him with a “spiritual power” that made him invincible in war.**

**The Liberia civil wars, which raged from 1989 to 1998 and 1999 to 2003, were filled with vile acts of torture, rape and mass killings. Joshua Milton Blahyi went by a different name when he controlled the streets of Liberia’s capital of Monrovia during its 14-year civil war.**

**Going into urban combat wearing nothing but sneakers and a crazed look. Of the 250,000-some Liberians killed in the conflict, Blahyi estimates he is responsible for at least 20,000.**

**The crimes he freely admits to don’t stop there. He recruited children to act as his street enforcers, teaching them that killings and mutilations were all part of a game.**

**And so they would also fight naked in the streets of Monrovia. Blahyi himself was a teenager when the conflict broke out. Anecdotal evidence of the atrocities committed by “General Butt Naked” is numerous and graphic.**









When Taylor was finally ousted in 2003, the man once known as “General Butt Naked” began a new life as a pastor.

These days, when he isn’t preaching, he visits the families of his victims and begs for forgiveness – complete forgiveness. He doesn’t want lip service; he wants the biblical forgiveness that comes from the victim’s heart.

Those victims don’t want any part of it. Only 19 of the 76 families he has visited heard him out. The remainder goes about as well as one might expect.

Blahyi built a mansion where he houses former child soldiers. It’s a place where he says he teaches them skills like farming and bricklaying, he also feeds them.





# NORTH LONDON GRADUATE WHO TURNED TO DRUG DEALING SWALLOWED COCAINE AND HEROIN BEFORE HE WAS BITTEN BY POLICE DOG

By: Andrew Collins  
London,UK

A 25-year-old man from Islington has been sentenced to two years and four months in jail after pleading guilty to possession with intent to supply cocaine and heroin.

Enyinnaya Ozuronye, 25, described as an 'intelligent' graduate turned to drug dealing after he struggled to find work and didn't want an 'entry level job', was bitten by a police dog after swallowing wraps of cocaine and heroin when he'd been caught by police.

He had been pulled over by officers in Moston, Manchester due to the 'manner of his driving' and then tried to run off from the officers and swallowed wraps of drugs containing heroin and cocaine, but was chased and bitten on the arm by the dog.

Ozuronye was bitten by a police dog and taken to hospital when caught, he was found to have £525 in cash and about £650 worth of cocaine and heroin.

The incident was on January 24 last year when he admitted to drug dealing in the Salford area. He was released under investigation by GMP and went on to be jailed for three years for 'similar' offences in Exeter before he was dealt with for the Moston incident. Hitting out at 'extraordinary' delays in the case, a judge said: "It has not



escaped my notice that had you been dealt with promptly and diligently by the authorities in this city, you would not have been at liberty to commit the Exeter offence."

He appeared in court about a year-and-a-half after he was stopped in Moston. "What it was they (GMP) were investigating in that 18 month period remains a mystery to me," the judge added. Manchester Crown Court heard Ozuruonye is a university graduate and was described as having 'considerable

potential."That potential seems to have turned to dust as a consequence of two serious errors of judgement," Judge Patrick Field QC said.

"What led an intelligent young man, well qualified, who was looking forward to a long and successful career as a professional, to become involved in drug dealing?

"Well, I suspect Mr Ozuruonye, you are the only person who knows the answer to that."

Defending, Paul Bryning said Ozuruonye had difficulties finding 'meaningful employment' after graduating from his degree. Mr Bryning said: "He didn't want to accept perhaps an entry-level job, he wanted to start a proper career.

"The court heard Ozuruonye admitted he'd made 'two massive mistakes' which led to the 'worst six months of his life'.



# PRINCE CHARLES APPOINTS HIS MOST SENIOR BLACK AIDE TO LEAD EFFORTS TO IMPROVE DIVERSITY IN ROYAL HOUSEHOLD

*Lifestyle*



By:Gbenga Teejay Okunlola,  
London

**HRH Prince Charles** has promoted his most senior black aide to boost relations between the palace and ethnic minority groups. Eva Omaghomi, 43, who has worked for the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall for 13 years, has been promoted to a newly created role of director of community engagement. As well as working with the households, the job will 'help take forward Their Royal Highnesses' work with minority groups in the UK, Commonwealth and globally, building on a legacy stretching back to the 1970s'.

According to a royal insider: 'Eva is an excellent choice for the new role. She's loyal and discreet and the Prince trusts her judgement. 'Ms Omaghomi, who is of British-Nigerian heritage, is a Christian minister and a trustee of the Big Kid Foundation, a charity working to stamp out youth violence.

She previously held the role of deputy communications secretary at Clarence House and has most recently spent two years on secondment to the Prince's Trust Group where she held the position of senior strategic adviser.

This comes as data released in June shows just one in 12 royal household staff are from ethnic minority backgrounds.

In their televised interview with Oprah Winfrey, Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle made series of allegations of racism against the royal family.

Meghan claimed there had been "concerns and conversations" within the royal household around the colour of Archie's skin when she fell pregnant.





# SULTAN OF THE MUSIC CALIPHATE GOES HOME

*Entertainment*



By: Kangmwa, Gofwen  
Lagos Bureau Chief.



Veteran singer, actor, and songwriter Olanrewaju Fasasi, also known as Sound Sultan, has passed to the great beyond.

Sound Sultan suffered Angioimmunoblastic T-cell Lymphoma, a rare form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

The 44-year-old singer, rapper, songwriter, actor, and comedian died on the 11th of July after a hard-fought battle with AITL family sources says; his demise came two months after reports of him undergoing chemotherapy in the United States of America emerged in the media.

He started his journey into the Nigerian entertainment industry in the 90s, Sultan hosted several shows to raise money for his studio sessions, and in 2000 he released his debut single "Jagbantis." The debut single instantly became a hit song in Nigeria.



In the earlier years of his career, Sound Sultan worked with Wyclef Jean, when he featured alongside Faze and 2face on the "proud to be African" from Wyclef's Welcome to Haiti: Creole 101 album. Sound Sultan was also signed

by Kennis Music after recording a couple of singles by himself. While in Kennis Music, Sound Sultan released four studio albums.

Sound Sultan was one of the pioneers of modern hip hop music in Nigeria, although he sang different genres from afrobeats to R&B, fuji, and soul music, his impact in the industry was far-reaching.

His songs were directed towards addressing social norms like poverty, corruption, and bad governance in society. "Mathematics" was one of his songs that used BODMAS to promote a new approach to governance in Africa, and in 2013, he released "Orobo" featuring Excel, where he promoted body positivity among plussized ladies.

In 2012, Sound Sultan was made a UN ambassador for peace for his exemplary lifestyle and career. He has also received numerous awards in the entertainment industry.

Sound Sultan holds a degree in Geography and regional planning from the Lagos state university, however, his interest in music started during his high school days when he started miming before he ventured into writing his lyrics.

He began to play the guitar while he was in high school and later formed his band in 1999; he attributes his elder brother's course of study (theatre arts) as a major influence on his music career.

Sound Sultan was not just in the entertainment industry but he was a basketball enthusiast to the core. Sound Sultan was a basketball player with the Dodan club.

However, he did not take his love for the sport to a professional level, but when the opportunity came to take ownership of a basketball club, he spared no effort to invest; and in September 2014 the late Sultan became a co-owner of the Lagos Islander basketball team.

His influence in basketball grew beyond the borders of Nigeria and he was made a facilitator of the African Basketball league.

In addition, he was invited to the first NBA African game as one of the special guests of the occasion.



It is heartbreaking that his demise came shortly after the incredible victory of Nigeria's men basketball team D'Tigers against the USA, a feat we are sure Sultan will celebrate even in his death.

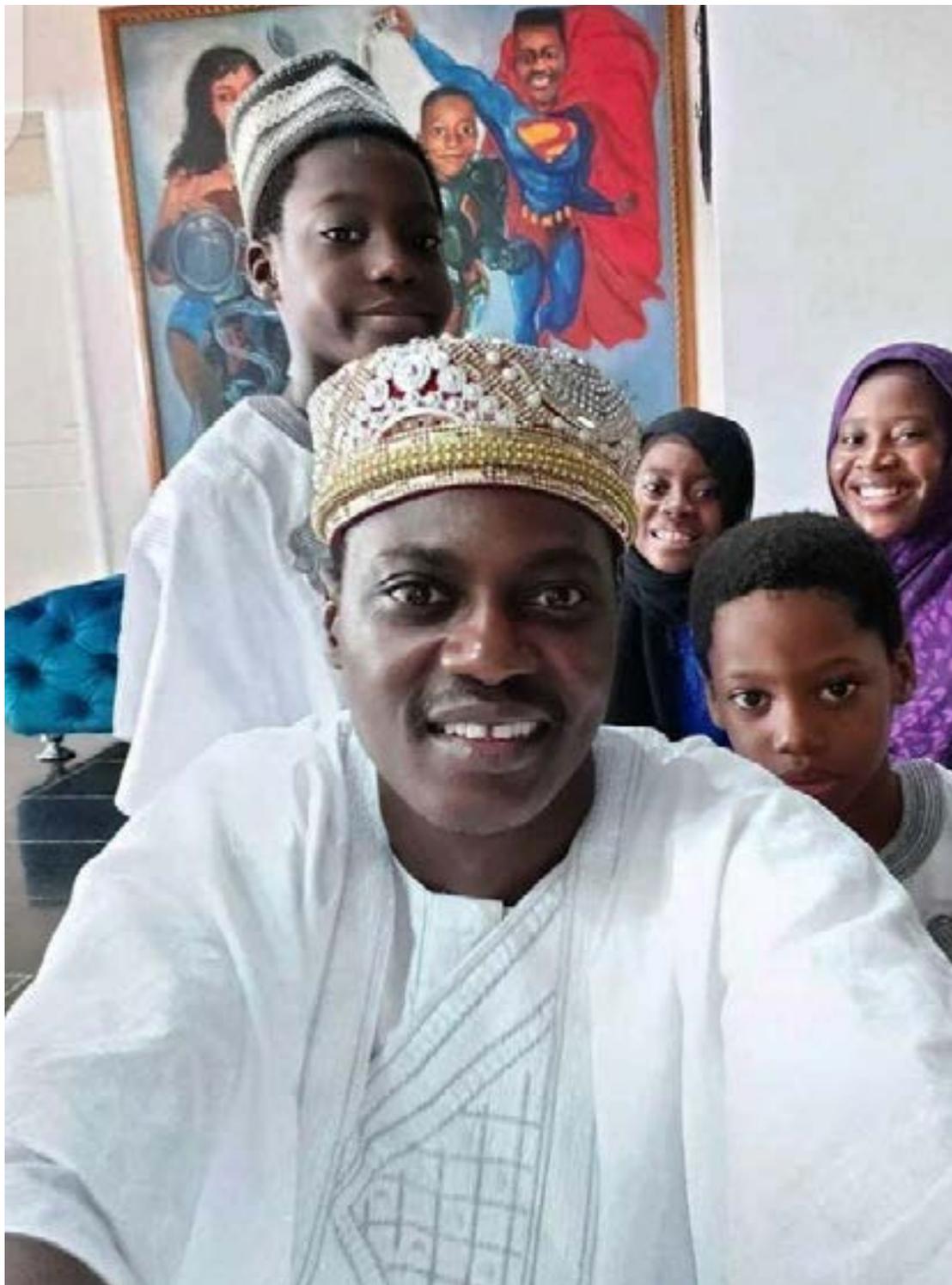






D'tigers paid their last respect to the multi-talented Sultan by showing up in a white t-shirt with his face and name crested on the front and back of their outfit respectively in their game against Australia. Colleagues, fans, and friends took to social media to pay their last respect to the Jagbajantis master.

Sultan left behind his wife, Farida Fasasi, three children, parents, siblings, colleagues, and a huge fan base to mourn him. He has since been buried according to Islamic rights in the Masjid Al Aman cemetery in New Jersey in the United States. May his gentle soul and those of the faithful departed rest in perfect peace.





# KANYE WEST & IRINA SHAYK ROMANCE IS ALREADY OVER!



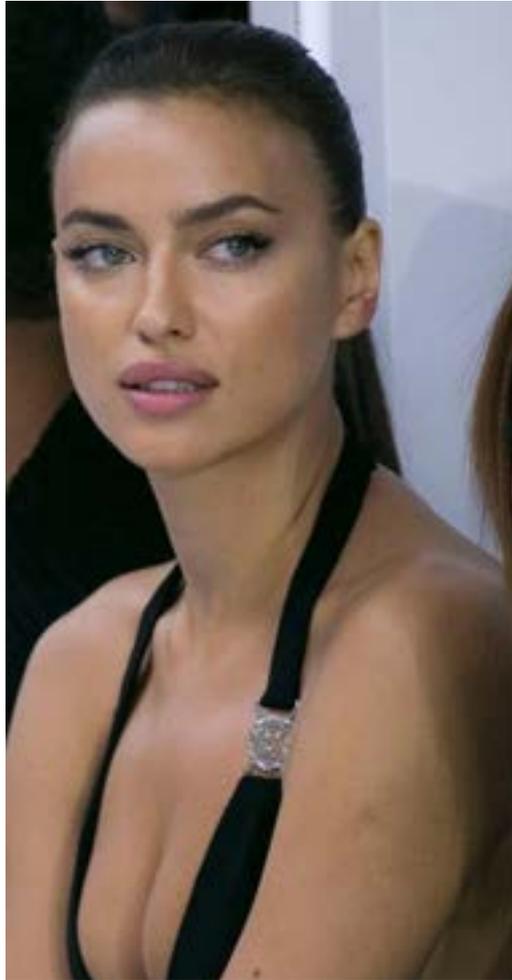
By: Seyi Awoleye  
Los Angeles, CA USA

This year has been full of surprises when it comes to celebrity relationships. Many rumors sparked but nothing has been more surprising than the one of Kanye West and Irina Shayk.

Kim Kardashian's ex-husband Kanye West is 'very much still dating love interest Irina Shayk amid split rumours.

The 44-year-old rapper was first linked to the Russian supermodel back in May when she flew to Paris to celebrate his birthday.

Kanye West went through a divorce from his ex-wife Kim Kardashian. After that, it was reported that he actively pursued Irina. The rumour of the two celebrities dating arose when both of them were spotted together in France for Kanye's birthday bash. However, the secret summer romance ended



when a source informed that Irina attended the birthday party only as a friend and doesn't want a relationship.

According to a publication, the rapper recently invited Irina to attend a couture show in Paris with him, but the supermodel turned him down because she doesn't want a relationship.

The insider revealed: "She likes him as a friend, but doesn't want a relationship with him." She doesn't want the association that they are dating, which is what would have run in the press if she showed up in Paris with him.

The source added, "Kanye West always had a thing for Irina, so she came to mind early on in his divorce from Kim,". "He decided to shoot his shot, and it worked." But it didn't work for long as it was reported that Shayk declined West's invitation to attend a Paris couture show together because she didn't want any reports in the media. "She likes him as a friend but doesn't want a relationship with him."

the source said. "She doesn't want the association that they are dating, which is what would have run in the press if she showed up.

It would have been another month of news saying that they are dating." In her March 2021 Elle profile, Shayk spoke about her desire to keep her love life private after her divorce from her ex-husband Bradley Cooper, with whom she shares a four-year-old daughter



Lea de Seine. She also added that she wants to concentrate on her life, friends and raising her child. The source also said, "She doesn't want to be linked with anyone right now. She is happy being single".

# RAPPER BIZ MARKIE, DIES AT AGE 57



By: Bunmi Johnson  
Bureau-Chief, New  
York

American Rapper Biz Markie, known for his hit "Just a Friend," has died. He was 57.

The musician, born Marcel Theo Hall, died with his wife Tara by his side, in July. His cause of death was not revealed. "It is with profound sadness that we announce, this evening, with his wife Tara by his side, Hip Hop pioneer Biz Markie peacefully passed away. We are grateful for the many calls and prayers of support that we have received during this difficult time," the rep said in a statement.

"Biz created a legacy of artistry that will forever be celebrated by his industry peers and his beloved fans whose lives he was able to touch through music, spanning over 35 years. He leaves behind a wife, many family members and close friends who will miss his vibrant personality, constant jokes and frequent banter. We respectfully request privacy for his family as they mourn their loved one."

The insider also claimed that Gamble has asked Jenner for an increase multiple times. But the momager refuses to hear him out. And when he couldn't get an increase, Gamble, allegedly, asked Jenner and her entire family to give him respect, but they also refused.

The insider also claimed that Gamble has asked Jenner for an increase multiple times.

The New York City rap icon was previously believed to have died earlier this month after rumors circulated on social media about his apparent death.



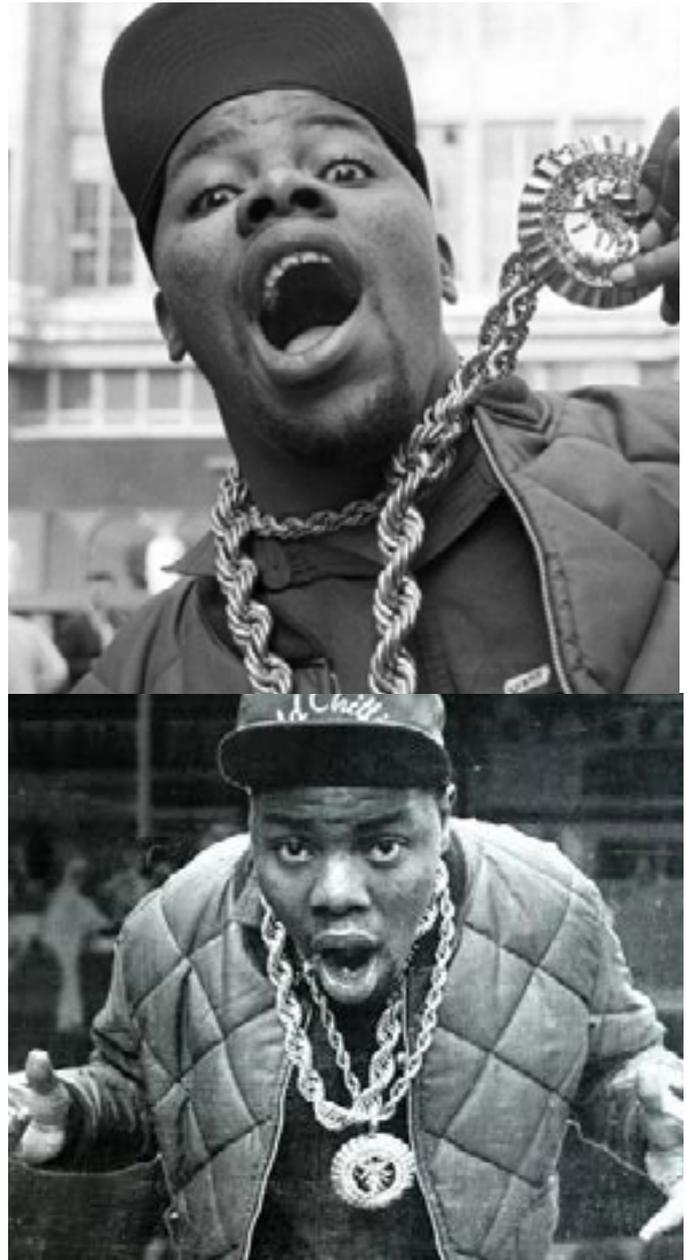
"The news of Biz Markie's passing is not true," manager Jenni Izumi said in a statement at the time. "Biz is still under medical care, surrounded by professionals who are working hard to provide the best health care possible."

"Biz's wife and family are touched by the outpouring of love and admiration from his friends, peers and fans alike," Izumi continued. "At this time, we ask for your continued thoughts and prayers during this difficult time."

No other information on Markie's condition or what prompted him to seek medical care was released at the time by his manager. The rapper was reportedly previously hospitalized last year for complications related to Type 2 diabetes.

Born on April 8, 1964, in the New York City neighborhood of Harlem, Markie went on to perform at colleges in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania, where he gained recognition for his work. He released his first album, *Goin' Off*, in 1988.

A year later in October 1989, Markie's second studio album, *The Biz Never Sleeps*, was released, which featured his hit track, "Just A Friend." The song became the artist's most successful single, reaching No. 9 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. The track samples the 1968 song "You Got What I Need" by Freddie Scott, providing the setup for the song's chorus.



The rapper later went on to release three more studio albums – 1991's *I Need a Haircut*, 1993's *All Samples Cleared!* and 2003's *Weekend Warrior*—throughout the years. He also dabbled in acting a bit, starring on projects such as *Sharknado 2: The Second One*, *Yo Gabba Gabba*, *Empire*, *Black-ish* and *Spongebob SquarePants*.

# COREY GAMBLE WANTS KRIS JENNER TO PAY HIM MORE FOR BEING AROUND HER ALL THE TIME: RUMOUR

By: Linda R. Jones  
London, UK

Corey Gamble is, allegedly, demanding Kris Jenner to give her a bigger pay check.

According to National Enquirer, Gamble is tired of the measly salary that he has been getting from Kris Jenner. And he also doesn't like how his girlfriend treats him like he is her assistant.

"The poor guy is paid peanuts like a few grand a month that barely covers his expenses. And it's starting to get on his nerves.

Even though he does live rent-free and Kris supplies the groceries and pays the domestic bills, he's still on the hook for his own phone bill, which is enormous. And she doesn't pitch in for his personal purchases. It's wearing thin on Corey, who's given up his whole life to be Kris' fulltime lackey," the source said.

The insider also claimed that Gamble has asked Jenner for an increase multiple times. But the momager refuses to hear him out. And when he couldn't get an increase, Gamble, allegedly, asked Jenner and her entire family to give him respect, but they also refused.

The insider also claimed that Gamble has asked Jenner for an increase multiple times.



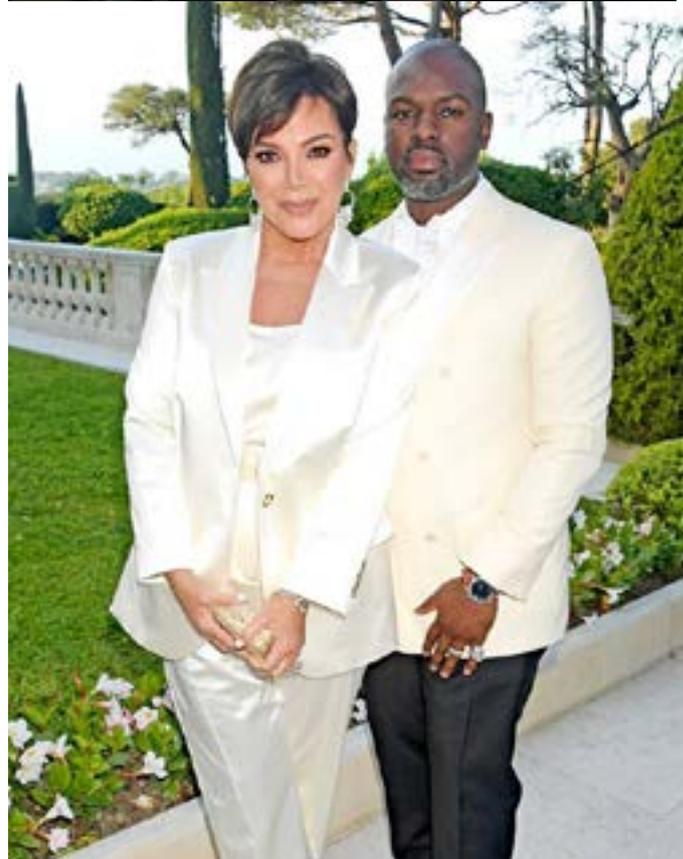
But the momager refuses to hear him out. And when he couldn't get an increase, Gamble, allegedly, asked Jenner and her entire family to give him respect, but they also refused.

"What he wants is respect, and he feels she can only show him that by boosting his salary by a couple of zeros. It's not like she doesn't have the money," the source said. Meanwhile, the source claimed that Kris Jenner hasn't been giving Gamble a raise because she's planning to go all-out on their wedding.

The couple was recently spotted vacationing in France, and the tabloid immediately assumed that they were scouting for a wedding venue.

"She would love to have the wedding at a French vineyard and thinks it would be so romantic. Guests would be flown in on her dime, of course, and the ones who couldn't fit in the mansion and guesthouses would be supplied with accommodations at the nearest hotels," the source said.

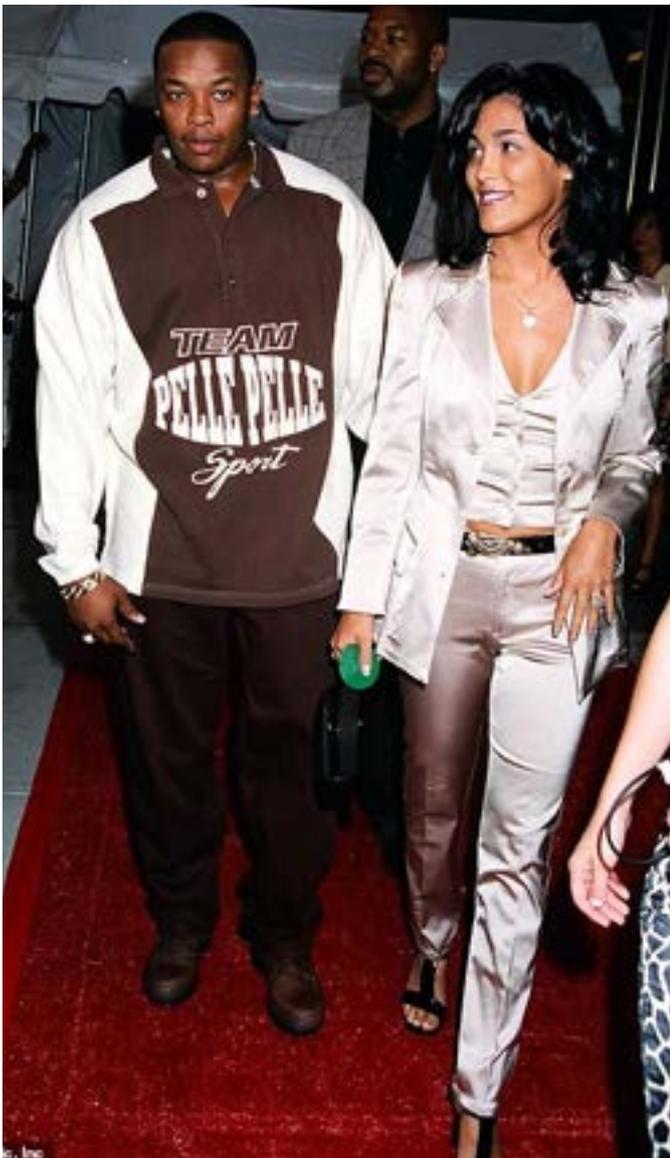
However, one should take the tabloid's claims with a grain of salt. Gamble isn't demanding Jenner for a pay raise. And Kris Jenner isn't also planning to go all-out on her wedding to Gamble because the latter hasn't even proposed.



# DR. DRE ORDERED TO COUGH UP \$300,000 A MONTH IN SUPPORT OF EX- WIFE NICOLE YOUNG



By: Seyi Awoleye-Beckley  
Los Angeles, CA USA



Los Angeles Superior Court judge Michael R. Powell has ordered the hip hop superstar Dr. Dre to pay his estranged wife, Nicole Young, almost \$300,000 in spousal support per month for the foreseeable future, potentially for life. Young, who filed for divorce from the Aftermath Entertainment founder last summer after 24 years of marriage, and began fighting for a bigger share of Dre's estate after claiming she had been forced to sign a prenuptial agreement prior to their 1996 wedding.

She also accused Dre of domestic abuse, which the hip-hop icon has vehemently denied.

Amid the ongoing legal battle, both Young and Dr. Dre, real name Andre Young, attended a court hearing in July to learn what had been decided in terms of temporary spousal support.

Dre, 56, must now pay his wife of 24 years monthly spousal support in the exact amount of \$293,306 starting August 1.

Last September, Nicole originally asked the court to order Dre to pay her monthly spousal fees in the amount of \$1.9 million.)

According to a report of the proceedings issued from the estranged couple's hearing on July 20, these payments are to "continue in a like manner until the party receiving support remarries or enters into a new domestic partnership, death of either party, or until further order of the court." Dre was also ordered to continue to pay expenses on their Malibu and Pacific Palisades homes and to pay for Nicole's health insurance.

Nicole in June last year filed for divorce from Dre on the grounds of irreconcilable differences; she and Dre were married on May 25, 1996, and share two adult children.

According to court papers, she alleged that on April 2, 2020, the couple had a bitter fight and she was forced to leave her family home after "a night of Andre's alcohol-induced, brutal rage, which included, but was not limited to, his screaming at her to 'get the fuck out.'" She described their marriage as difficult and "earmarked by all types of abuse" and said finally she had had enough. According to a declaration Nicole submitted to the court in December, she alleged that Dre had held a gun to her head on two occasions and also punched her in the head and face on two occasions. She said his long-term abuse verbally and emotionally "decimated my personhood to the extent that I currently suffer from posttraumatic stress syndrome." Dre has denied these allegations; the divorce is ongoing, with the next hearing set for October 6.



# SOUTH SUDAN RAPPER DIES FOLLOWING TRAGIC ACCIDENT



By: Okunlola Kayode F.  
Lagos, Nigeria



South Sudanese rapper and music producer, Mantani of the Hardlife Avenue Stars has succumbed to head injuries he sustained in an automobile accident.

Mantani whose full names are Murye Alex lost the battle Saturday 24 July morning in Kampala.

“We regret to inform you that, our brother Mantani of Hardlyfe, the best boy is gone to the angels after trying his best to fight the battle,” a statement by the music industry in South Sudan said.

The funeral rites for the late are said to be underway at his house in Gudele neighborhood in the capital Juba.

Mantani was involved in a gruesome accident in which he suffered injuries to his head and legs in Moyo District of the West Nile Region in Uganda, on July 22. The deceased was later transferred to Lacor Hospital in Gulu City, northern Uganda from where he was referred to Kampala on Friday evening.

Mantani whose age has not been disclosed, co-founded the South Sudanese Afro-pop and dance music band Hardlife Avenue alongside vocalist Siliman Musa also known as Nicki Prince decade ago before they were later joined by the third member Ochwo Junior known as Linus in 2016.

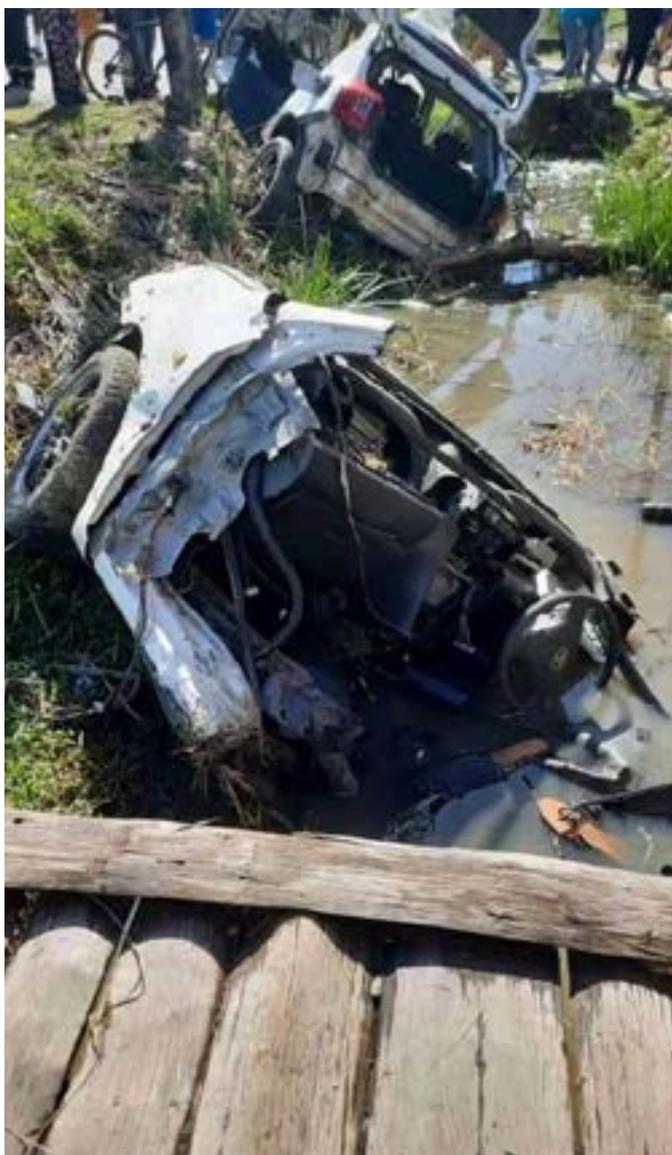
Upon his passing on, tributes have been pouring in from fans and other South Sudanese online community since the announcement of his death.

Wani Michael, Juba-based civil activist, said “personally, I had a huge faith that you’ll make it brother.”

“We tried all we had in our own human capacity to rescue and join you in the battle. We have accepted defeat and God who love you so much have called you,” he said.

“We will live to cherish your love and care for everybody. You lived a life that have touched everybody who knew you. Rest in Power bro Mantani, until we meet again. This is still unbelievable but we have to accept it,” he said.

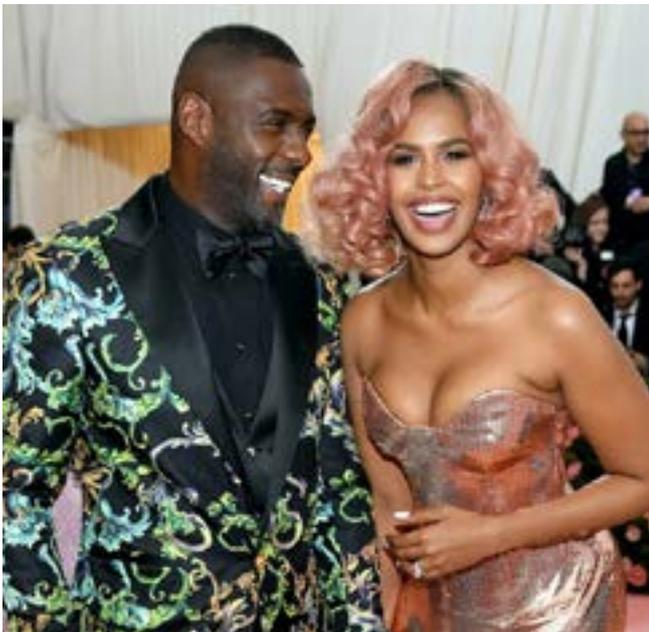
The Hardlife Avenue Stars with their social advocacy style of music have released several successful hit songs since 2012, making them a household name in the country.



# IDRIS ELBA AND SABRINA DHOWRE ELBA TO HOST 2021 GQ MEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS



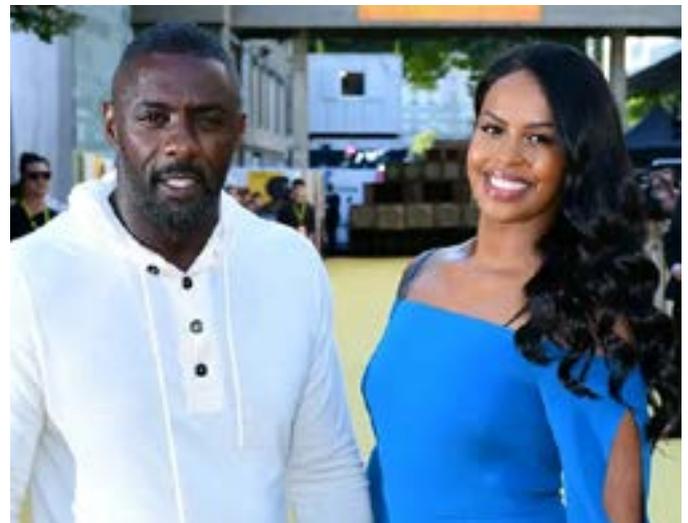
By:Gbenga Teejay  
Okunlola  
London,UK



The 24th edition of the GQ Men Of The Year Awards, in association with Hugo Boss, will take place in September, and Idris Elba and Sabrina Dhowre Elba will host the hugely anticipated event. After the success of last year's virtual Men Of The Year Awards, GQ's flagship celebration of icons, superstars and tastemakers will return in person for its 24th edition, hosted by husband-and-wife team Idris and Sabrina Elba.

On 1 September, at a Central London location visionary talent from around the world will assemble to recognise the individuals who have shaped the last year, as well as those who have left an imprint on culture, politics and style over the course of their careers.

Last year's spectacular event saw winners ranging from Marcus Rashford, Paul Mescal and Captain Sir Tom Moore to Michaela Coel, Ozzy Osborne and Lewis Hamilton, all of whom were honoured in an online ceremony hosted by Jack Whitehall; this year, actor and entrepreneur Idris Elba and model Sabrina Dhowre Elba will take up the reins for the first time, along with the usual guest presenters for each award, to be announced in the coming weeks.



Elba the street-smart drug dealer Stringer Bell in *The Wire* an HBO series that ran for five seasons. and Sabrina said in a statement: "We are excited to host this year's GQ Men of the Year Awards 2021 in London. "In their various ways, the GQ Men of the Year Award winners have kept all of our spirits up throughout one of the most difficult years and we are very much looking forward to celebrating with them – and hosting a great party."

The awards feature categories including the lifetime achievement gong, best band and the game changer prize. Nick Sargent, publishing director of British GQ, said:

*"After the unprecedented year we've had, I'm thrilled to announce the return of the GQ Men of the Year Awards for 2021 as a live event.*

*"Even though our virtual event last year was a huge success, it's exciting to be able to come together again in person to celebrate the incredible talent who best represent GQ and continue to push the boundaries on the world's cultural stage."It will be a night to remember."*

This year's awards categories will include Band, Designer, Game Changer, Male Solo Artist, Hero, Television Actor and Writer Of The Year, as well as accolades for GQ's chosen Icon, Inspiration, Legend, Standout Performance and Outstanding Contribution.

The Lifetime Achievement Award, previously won by Iggy Pop and HRH The Prince Of Wales, will return, as will the Hugo Boss Breakthrough Actor, Maddox Gallery Artist Of The Year and Peroni Nastro Azzurro Breakthrough Designer awards. There will also be Deezer Breakthrough Music Artist and Honor Magic International Man categories.



# WHY HAITI'S PRESIDENT WAS ASSASSINATED

*Politics*



By: Seyi Awoloye  
Los Angeles, CA



Questions have been raised over Haiti's official narrative for the assassination of its president, Jovenel Moïse, who was gunned down at his mansion in Port-au-Prince during the night of Wednesday 7, July. Haitian police and the politicians who stepped into the political vacuum created by Moïse's killing have claimed he was shot at about 1am by members of a predominantly Colombian hit squad who had stormed the president's hillside residence.

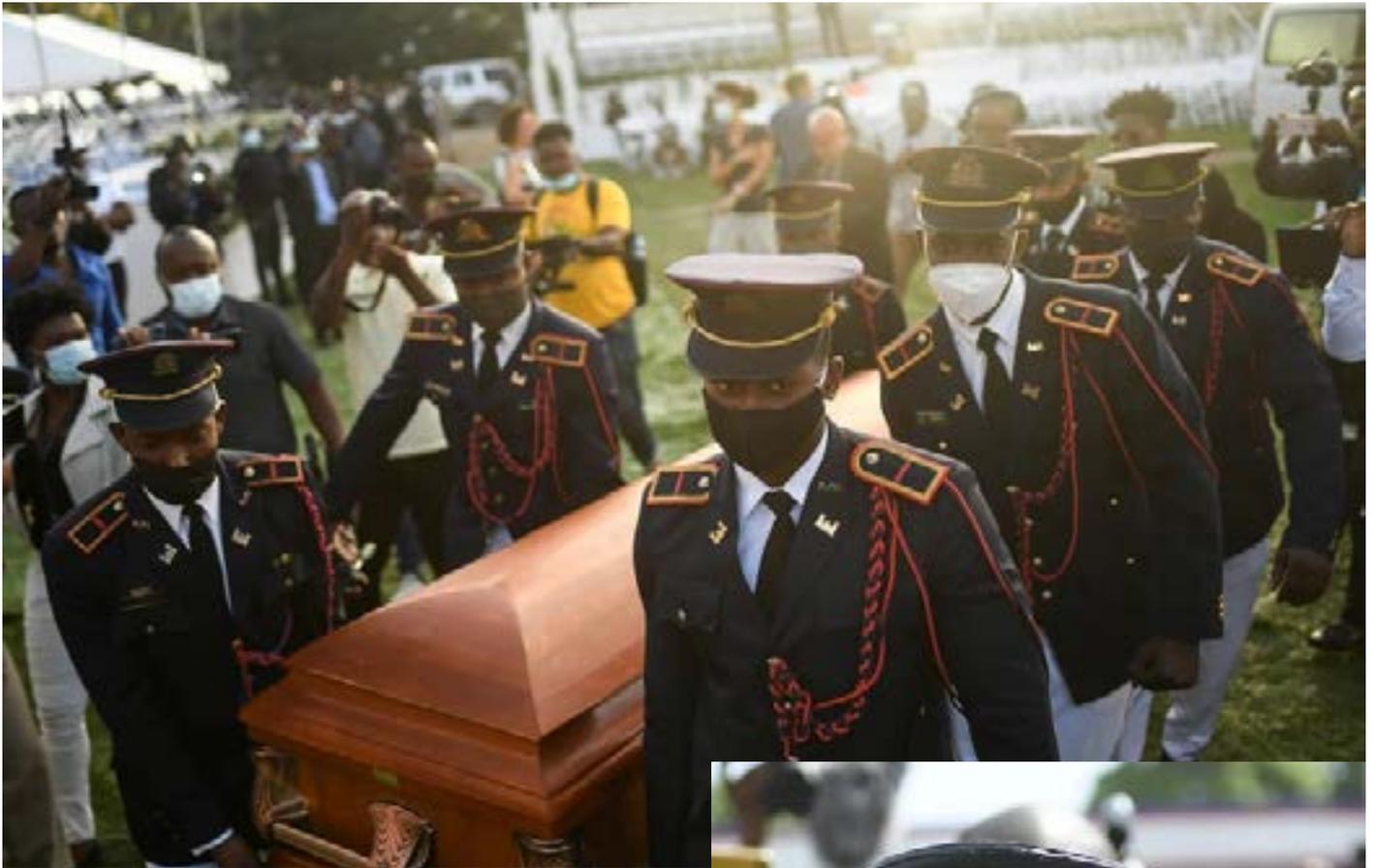
"Foreigners came to our country to kill the president," police chief Léon Charles alleged after the shooting.

However, opposition politicians and media reports in Haiti and Colombia are now casting doubt on that version, as

uncertainty grips the Caribbean country and the streets of the capital remain eerily quiet amid fears Haiti is lurching into a new phase of political and social upheaval.

There was a time when Haiti was at the centre of the New World. It was one of the richest islands on the globe, producing cane sugar for the sweet tooth of Europe. It cultivated coffee, cotton and rice, and it produced rum. The Pearl of the Antilles, the island stood at the gateway to all the resources of South and Central America. Mexico, with all its gold, lay just beyond Haiti's northernmost cape. Great powers of the era – France, Britain, Germany, and the United States vied for political and military control.

Now Haiti is failed state. Failed by the West after centuries of violence and resource extraction and failed by its own leaders who have also enriched themselves off the backs of their compatriots. Last week, the country's president Jovenel Moïse was assassinated.



A group of gunmen stormed his home in the capital Port-au-Prince. He was shot at least 12 times. Moïse will not be missed. But Haitians will see unsettling parallels with the removal of their first democratically elected president. Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted not once but twice in military coups greenlighted by France and the US. Aristide had preached a heady programme of popular liberation theology, of decent poverty rather than starvation, illiteracy, and unemployment. Needless to say, that programme has not yet been realised.



*'The beneficiaries of the death of Moïse are, if history is any guide, everyone except the fallen president. His assassination will provoke a feast'*

*Aristide's ideas threatened the stranglehold that eleven families, collectively known as Haiti's 'business mafia', have on the economy. These families were the power players during the post-earthquake electoral fiddling (monitored by the US and the Organization of America States) that brought Haitians first Michel Martelly and then Moïse himself, neither one elected in anything resembling free and fair elections. While the world has watched as Haiti is tormented by one crisis after another, for the eleven families, not much has changed. They were in charge before and during Moïse's reign and they are still in charge now. At least for the moment.*



The Haitian police, who never managed to arrest or try a suspect in all the murders that took place under Moïse's rule, have now swiftly gathered up a squad of hapless Colombian security guards as prime suspects.

But there are other theories about whodunit, or as the French and Haitians like to say *les auteurs intellectuels du meurtre*.

Among them, the most plausible: in recent months, Jovenel Moïse, who had already destroyed the institutions of Haitian governance (legislature, judicial system, municipal civic structures), was ruling by decree and was trying to rewrite the Haitian constitution to give himself more powers. He had cancelled some of the most lucrative government contracts

and customs franchises of the eleven families of the business mafia.

Moïse said recently that he planned to reveal evidence of their extreme corruption. This cannot have sat well with them. They saw a future dictator taking them down and with them their financial fiefdoms. Voilà, some credible auteurs, with a motive and both the guts and the means to make things happen.



Every day the plot continues to thicken: the Colombian hit squad; an anti-terrorist security firm that hired the Colombians; a quiet but scheming Haitian doctor in Miami; a luncheon where the assassination was planned; a cellphone call by one of the Colombians that ended when he was killed

in a hail of gunfire by the Haitian police; whispered, inconclusive testimony on Twitter from the hospital bed of Moïse's injured widow; and finally the suggestion that several of the Colombians were one time informers for the US Drug Enforcement Agency.

No doubt a tall dark man in a top hat, wearing a cloak and a handlebar moustache, will soon be added to the story line. Sometimes

you begin to think there must be a roomful of Haitian television writers somewhere concocting this thing.

Meanwhile, three unlikely interim presidential hopefuls have emerged, each more unpalatable than

the last, and none of them with the legal standing to take on the presidency and calm the country in the wake of Moïse's killing. Officials from the US Department of Homeland Security, the State Department, and the National Security Council went down to Port-au-Prince on Sunday for a lightning visit during in which they

spoke to all three of these comedians, as Graham Greene would call them. As an American intelligence expert told the Chilean newspaper La Tercera:

*'The beneficiaries of the death of Moïse are, if history is any guide, everyone except the fallen president.'*

*'His assassination will provoke a feast.'*



In a statement that offers a tiny ray of hope that the US won't be providing the catering, White House spokesman Jen Psaki said: 'there is a lack of clarity about the future of political leadership'.

She added that the Biden administration remains in contact with 'a range of leaders in Haiti about how we can assist'. These may be stock phrases, but it's still notable that the US didn't immediately rush to the side of one of the three figures.

There are plenty of distinguished, thoughtful, democratic Haitians who were already trying, months before the assassination, to put together an interim consensus government that could work to establish a decent rule for the people

of Haiti – a government that would include the people in decision-making, like a real democracy.

The new interim government would have to disarm the gangs first and would need expertise to do this, much of which could be Haitian but some of which might need to come from abroad. Certainly it would be better if the international community could support this kind of interim government – supporting but not controlling, she writes, dreamily.

The country needs to be taken on a road of Haitians' choosing: toward a new country that works rather than following Moïse's counterparts down the miserable alleyway they have chosen.



# TUNISIAN DEMOCRACY IN TURMOIL AFTER PRESIDENT SACKS GOVERNMENT



By:Dr. Funmilayo Awoleye-Beckley  
Lagos, Nigeria



Tunisia is facing its worst crisis in a decade of democracy on Monday 26th of July after President Kais Saied ousted the government and suspended parliament with help from the army, a move critics described as a coup.

Kais Saied, an independent without a party behind him, announced he was invoking an emergency article of Tunisia's constitution after a day of violent protests against the country's biggest party, the moderate Islamist Ennahda movement. The capital, Tunis, was flooded with jubilant crowds waving flags, letting off fireworks and honking car horns after Saied's declaration in scenes reminiscent of the 2011 protests which toppled the country's longtime autocratic ruler, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Saied also removed the defence minister and acting justice minister from their posts, while Al Jazeera reported that its bureau in Tunis had been raided by security forces. Its journalists were expelled from the premises and phones, computers and other equipment confiscated.

Saied's action followed months of deadlock and disputes pitting him against Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi and a fragmented parliament, as Tunisia descended into an economic crisis exacerbated by one of Africa's worst COVID-19 outbreaks.

After the parliament speaker called for protests against the ousting, Saied extended existing COVID-19 restrictions on movement and vowed any violent opposition will be met with force. He has rejected accusations of a coup.

Tunisia's mishandling of the pandemic has served as a lightning rod for longstanding popular discontent with parliamentary politics: thousands of people defied Covid-19 restrictions and scorching summer temperatures in demonstrations which sparked clashes with security forces in several cities, ahead of Saied's announcement. More than 18,000 people in the country of 12 million have died of coronavirus since the pandemic began, overwhelming crumbling public health services and crippling the vital tourism industry.

The president also urged people not to go into the streets. "I call on the Tunisian people to stay calm and not respond to provocations," he said. The White House said it had not yet determined whether Saied's actions constituted a coup. However, the U.S. State Department warned Tunisia not to "squander its democratic gains."

# BENIN BRONZES: NIGERIAN DELEGATION VISITS BERLIN

*The* Humboldt Forum museum in Berlin might still be able to show the Benin bronzes when it opens, as Nigeria is open to a gradual restitution of the artifacts.

Preparations for the building of the Edo Museum of West African Art (EMOWAA) in Benin City, Nigeria are in full swing. The museum will show works of art from the former Kingdom of Benin, located in present-day Nigeria, which are currently still being held in international collections. The museum will also explore the eventful history surrounding these artifacts upon their return to Nigeria and highlight their journeys around the globe.

But for Nigerians, the EMOWAA will do much more than just mount an exhibition of returned looted art from around the globe: The opening of the museum will mark the end of more than 100 years of struggle for the return of these historical artworks.



© Xander He

It will also symbolize the reclamation of Nigeria's cultural identity, says Abba Isa Tijani, director of the Nigerian Commission for Museums and Monuments (NCMM): "Many Nigerians and particularly the people of Edo, who are close to these objects, have never seen them in their lifetime. You know, for them to have access to these objects physically, to see them – it's really a great achievement in their lifetime."

### *A century of campaigning*

Tijani is part of the Nigerian delegation that came to Berlin this week to discuss the details of the return of Nigerian art treasures from various German collections. The delegation, which in addition to Tijani also included Nigerian Minister of Culture Lai Mohammed, met in Berlin with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, Andreas G $\ddot{o}$ rgen of the German Foreign Office, Minister of State for Culture Monika Gr $\ddot{u}$ tters and Hermann Parzinger, Director of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, among others.

The talks were centered on the prospect of the return of the so-called Benin bronzes. These are world-famous bronze and brass sculptures which were taken from the palace in Benin City during a punitive expedition of the British Empire in 1897.

They then reached Germany at the beginning of the 20th century by way of various auctions held in London. Germany thereby inadvertently secured the world's second largest collection of these bronzes.

The turning point In addition to the fact that the artifacts were taken by force, there is also no doubt that European colonial powers also have blood on their hands as part of the colonial





© Francis Oghuma





context of injustice. And in Germany, no one disputes this anymore; even museum experts and politicians agree that the objects must be returned to their country of origin.

But it was a long process until that consensus could be reached. Already at the beginning of the 20th century, the former kingdom of Benin had made official requests for restitution – without any success. African intellectuals took up the fight again in the 1970s, but their demands fell on deaf ears in Europe.

French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to Burkina Faso in 2018 marked a turning point, as he announced that France would return its colonial art treasures. This sent shockwaves also through Germany, where criticism of Berlin's Humboldt Forum grew louder as the museum had originally planned to display some of the Benin bronzes at its exhibition opening.

### *Transparent procedures*

As a result, "the topic of the colonial past with its consequences for today has gained incredible momentum and is now making itself felt among the general population," Minister of State for Culture Monika Grütters told DW. "For a long time, this was a blind spot in our culture of remembrance."

And in order to ensure future transparency in this process, the German federal government

has launched an online platform in June 2021, on which all objects from Germany's collections will gradually be digitized. This is seen as an important step allowing proper restitution to take place, since requests for return must be made by verbal note.

The location and exhibit must be clearly named in these documents. However, since the majority of the more than 1,000 exhibits have never been publicly shown, this has been an almost impossible task for Nigerian cultural institutions today.

### *Global Objects*

In Berlin, the delegation agreed that the bronzes should be restituted piece by piece starting next year.

The Nigerian representatives meanwhile displayed a great deal of understanding for the procedure that will be involved in the return of the artifacts: "We want to develop a kind of partnership between German and Nigerian Museums. So we want that any movement of artifacts will not affect the communities, the people in Germany, who have also developed love and aspirations and also some attachments to these objects," said Director Tijani of the National Museum Commission. "So, by the time you get away all these objects at one time, you are leaving a vacuum. And we do not want this."



© SPK/photothek.net/Florian Gärtner



NATIONAL  
BENIN



MUSEUM

CITY



“The Benin bronzes have become global objects and a lot of people have a lot of attachment to them,” Tijani added. That is why a strong partnership is being sought so that Germany “will not be left behind without any access to these artifacts,” said the Nigerian director.

### *From Berlin to Benin city*

The eastern wing of the Humboldt Forum, where the Benin bronzes were planned to be shown, is not expected to open until spring of 2022. “That gives us a little more time,” said Hermann Parzinger, director of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, which has the largest collection of bronzes in Germany.

However, regardless of that timeline, all parties have agreed to stick to the plan to begin the restitution of the objects next year.

Meanwhile, the EMOWAA museum in Benin City, designed by British-Ghanaian architect David Adjaye, will not quite be completed by then. But it is expected that by the autumn of 2022, a large pavilion will have been built, which will serve as a repository. Thanks to its glass structure, it will also offer visitors a glimpse of the pieces that will have been returned by then.

The new buildings are designed to blend in with traditional African architectural styles and will invite people to interact with the artifacts,

explains Abba Isa Tijani of the Nigerian Museum Commission: “It will have ...an educational center where families can come in and interact with the objects, touch the objects and feel them and learn about the history, have some kind of identity attached to the objects.”

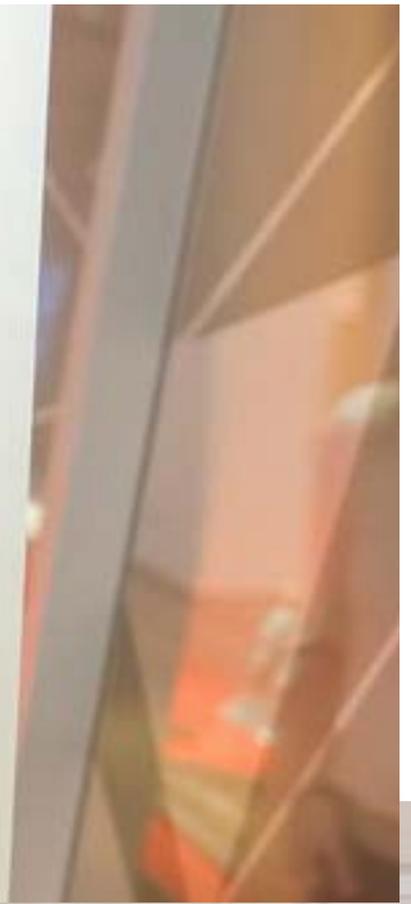
The German government is contributing €4.5 million (\$5.34 million) to the construction of the innovative project and hopes that it will serve purposes beyond restitution and also animate further exploration: In addition to the museum, the construction project will also be linked to an archaeological excavation project at the site.

#### Changing the image of Benin City

And to make the historic significance of its location, the museum and pavilion will be built on the ruins of the original royal palace in Benin City. Tijani meanwhile hopes that the museum will attract tourists to the region.

For now, Benin City remains somewhat of a dangerous place in Nigeria, known for a different kind of looting and pillaging: The capital of Edo State is considered to be a major hub for human trafficking in the 21st century.

This article has been translated from German.



# BIAFRAN SEPARATIST LEADER ARRESTED AND WILL FACE TRIAL, NIGERIA SAYS



By: Ibukun Babatunde  
Port Harcourt, Nigeria



Nigerian separatist leader, Nnamdi Kanu, was located and brought back to Nigeria to face trial for terrorism, Nigeria's Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, said.

Kanu went missing when he failed to appear in court in 2015 and his whereabouts prior to the arrest was unknown. Officials did not disclose where he was apprehended. "He has been brought back to Nigeria in order to continue facing trial after disappearing while on bail regarding 11 count charge against him," Malami said. Kanu was apprehended on Sunday June 27th, 2021.

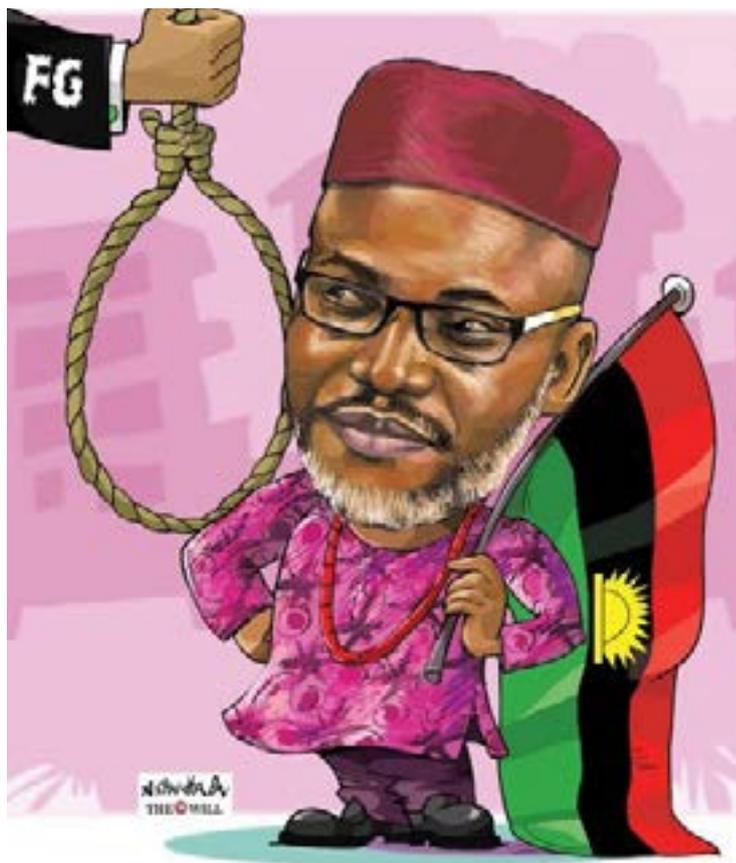
Nnamdi Kanu appeared in court and his case was adjourned until July 27, a spokesman said. "Kanu has been intercepted through the collaborative efforts of the Nigerian intelligence and security services," Malami said. Kanu leads the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), which the Nigerian military has labelled a terrorist organisation.

An IPOB spokesman said it could not confirm the arrest. IPOB leaders have called for the secession of the southeastern region which tried to secede from Nigeria in 1967 under the name of Republic of Biafra, triggering a three-year civil war in which more than a million people died, mostly from starvation.

Kanu spent two years in jail fighting charges of criminal conspiracy and belonging

Kanu spent two years in jail fighting charges of criminal conspiracy and belonging to an illegal organisation, but disappeared after he was released on bail in April 2017. Since then, Kanu's whereabouts have been unclear, but the government has blamed his social media posts for rising violence and a spate of attacks across southeastern Nigeria.

He is accused of engaging in subversive activities that include inciting violence through television, radio and online broadcasts against Nigeria and Nigerian State and institutions. Information Minister Lai Mohammed cited Kanu's posts as a factor in the government's decision to



# LAMIN BARROW APPOINTED DG OF AFDB IN NIGERIA



Dr. Funmi Awoleye-Beckley  
Lagos, Nigeria



**T**he African Development Bank (AfDB) Group has appointed Lamin Barrow, as the new director-general of its Nigeria country office. The regional bank made the announcement in a recent statement. The appointment of Barrow, a Gambian national who joined the bank in 2000, took effect from July 1. Prior to his appointment, Barrow served as the acting senior director, Nigeria Country Office, in the regional development, integration and business development vice presidency. Speaking on his appointment, Lamin said, "I am grateful to President Adesina for this appointment, which provides a great opportunity to further contribute to his bold vision to position the Bank as a partner of choice and deliver on the High-5 strategic priorities in this important Regional Member Country, which is key to realizing Africa's development aspirations."

Reacting to the development, Akinwumi Adesina, AfDB president, described Barrow as a seasoned professional "with a proven track-record in strategic management, country dialogue, portfolio management, negotiations and building partnerships".

"The Nigeria Country Office is strategic for the bank, as it manages a large country portfolio and operates with State governments and the private sector," he said.

"Lamin's extensive managerial experience, knowledge in operations, and excellent diplomatic skills in government relations at the highest levels, will help to deepen our operations and engagements with the government and partners in Nigeria."

Barrow holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Ibadan and a masters in economic policy degree from Boston University, USA.

He is also an alumnus of Executive Programs in Finance at The Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania, USA, and Investment and Risk Analysis from Queens University, Canada. Prior to his career at the bank, Barrow had worked at the Gambia National Investment Board as head of the project development unit, investment promotion division, and division manager, export promotion and development.

He also served as principal economist from 1991 to 1992, policy analysis unit in the office of the president, before joining the Company for Habitat and Housing in Africa (Shelter-Afrique), where he held various positions between 1994 and 2000.

# LAMIN BARROW APPOINTED DG OF AFDB IN NIGERIA



By:Kangmwa, Gofwen  
Lagos Beareau Chief





**T**he premise on which the Buhari-led government came to being is to fight corruption and terrorism; it has been six years since its emergence into office but achieving the core of his campaign promise is far-fetched.

In the past six years, atrocities by Boko Haram, bandits, and Fulani herdsmen have increased to a very significant height. Over one thousand school children have been kidnapped in the past couple of months, a trend that has turned into a lucrative business for the perpetrators.

Unfortunately, children have become targets for this barbaric trend exposing them to grave psychological, physical and, emotional abuse. Currently, over one hundred school children abducted from Bethel Baptist High School in Kaduna are still with their abductors, and parents are left to their fate and have resorted to only praying and hoping that their children return to them alive because the government is not showing any efforts towards the rescue of the school children.

It is appalling that these criminals launch attacks for long hours and move in large groups, yet they go unhindered by security; this brings you to agree that the government is complicit in the attacks on innocent citizens.

Somewhere in the northeast, Boko Haram has hoisted their flag and has gone as far as conducting an election naming their first governor since the terror group emerged.

It is embarrassing that the government that prides itself as better than the previous in terms of fighting insurgency is running a parallel government with a group they claim to have defeated.

In the middle belt, particularly Benue, Plateau and, southern Kaduna; poor farmers wake daily to their fully cultivated farmland and properties worth billions destroyed by herdsmen; Governor Ortom of Benue state has repeatedly called on the federal government to tackle the excesses of these herders yet the federal government has been playing deaf to the very vocal governor.

The federal government is very proactive in responding to criticism from any group or person, clamping down on the fundamental rights of citizens.

According to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human rights, article 19 and 20 state that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association

and no one may be compelled to belong to an association." The Buhari-led government has in many ways violated the rights of citizens.

On June 5th, the Nigerian government put an indefinite ban on Twitter after the micro-blogging site deleted a tweet by President Buhari for going against its policies.

It is disheartening that a democratic government cannot stand any form of criticism from citizens that voted them into office. The ban on Twitter has crippled thousands of businesses of mostly young Nigerians seeking to make a living after the same government has failed to provide jobs for graduates and has also made policies not favorable for the private sector to thrive.

Yet when citizens protest the incompetence of the government, armed security men are unleashed on them.

The Fulani herdsmen have been described as the fourth most deadly terror group by the Global Terrorism Index, yet, the government of Nigeria has vehemently turned a blind eye to the atrocities committed by the dreaded militia group.

On June 12th, Nigerian youths took to the streets to demonstrate the incompetence and incessant killings happening in Nigeria by various terror groups, and also demanded a better standard of living for the common man; but typical of the Buhari-led



government, peaceful protesters were tear-gassed by the Nigerian police in Lagos and Abuja however, protesters in Jos said in a long while, that was the peaceful protest they have ever witness under the current government.

According to Femi Fani-Kayode, "Fulani militants are spread all over the country,

they are in camps in the forest in the South-west, are in camps in the South-east killing members of local populations; are in camps in every state in the middle belt and, are in camps in every state in the North including the north-east; so they are by far the most dangerous, the most potent, and, the most well organized in my view and most probably the most funded" he said in an interview granted to the Rural Watch News.

These revelations by Fani-Kayode explain the extreme danger Nigeria is in right now, yet, the government fully aware has deliberately turned a blind eye to the daring situation at hand for obvious reasons.

Ethno-religious tensions have heightened in every part of the country, and the government that once promised to belong to everybody, and nobody now belongs to his kinsmen, the Fulani herders; the selective blindness and one-sided government of President Buhari are driving Nigeria to its ruin.

The likes of Sunday Igboho and Nnamdi Kanu, agitators of the Oduduwa and the Biafran nation respectively are springing, unfortunately, they are heavily hunted, this situation has put Nigeria on the brink of a civil war. Unfortunately, the international communities have turned a blind eye to the happenings in Nigeria. The United Nations have also turned blind to the mass atrocities committed by this government.

Currently, the federal government is at loggerheads with the southern governors on the ban on open grazing in their states. The federal government should be concerned by the worsening state of insecurity and the menace caused by these criminal elements, but on the contrary, they are worried about grazing routes for cattle against the safety of citizens; it is clear that the present government is incompetent, biased, tribalistic, nepotistic, and is not ready to provide good governance to citizens.

The big questions are, what exactly is the agenda of the Buhari-led government? Why is the federal government keen on defending the killer herders against the oath they took to protect the lives and properties of citizens? What is the life of a Nigerian worth?





# WHAT CAUSES CONSTIPATION?

By: Linda R. Jones  
London,UK



Constipation most commonly occurs when waste or stool moves too slowly through the digestive tract or cannot be eliminated effectively from the rectum, which may cause the stool to become hard and dry. It is a common problem where you can't manage to go to the toilet enough. But what causes it and are there certain foods and drinks to avoid?

Constipation affects people of all ages and different times of life and it's normally caused by something you can fix. One of the best ways to treat constipation is to change your diet.

***Constipation is really uncomfortable and can cause stomach aches, bloating and sickness.***

If any of the following is true, it's likely that you're constipated: you have not had a poo at least three times during the last week, the poo is often large and dry, hard or lumpy, you are straining or in pain when you have a poo.

## ***What causes constipation?***

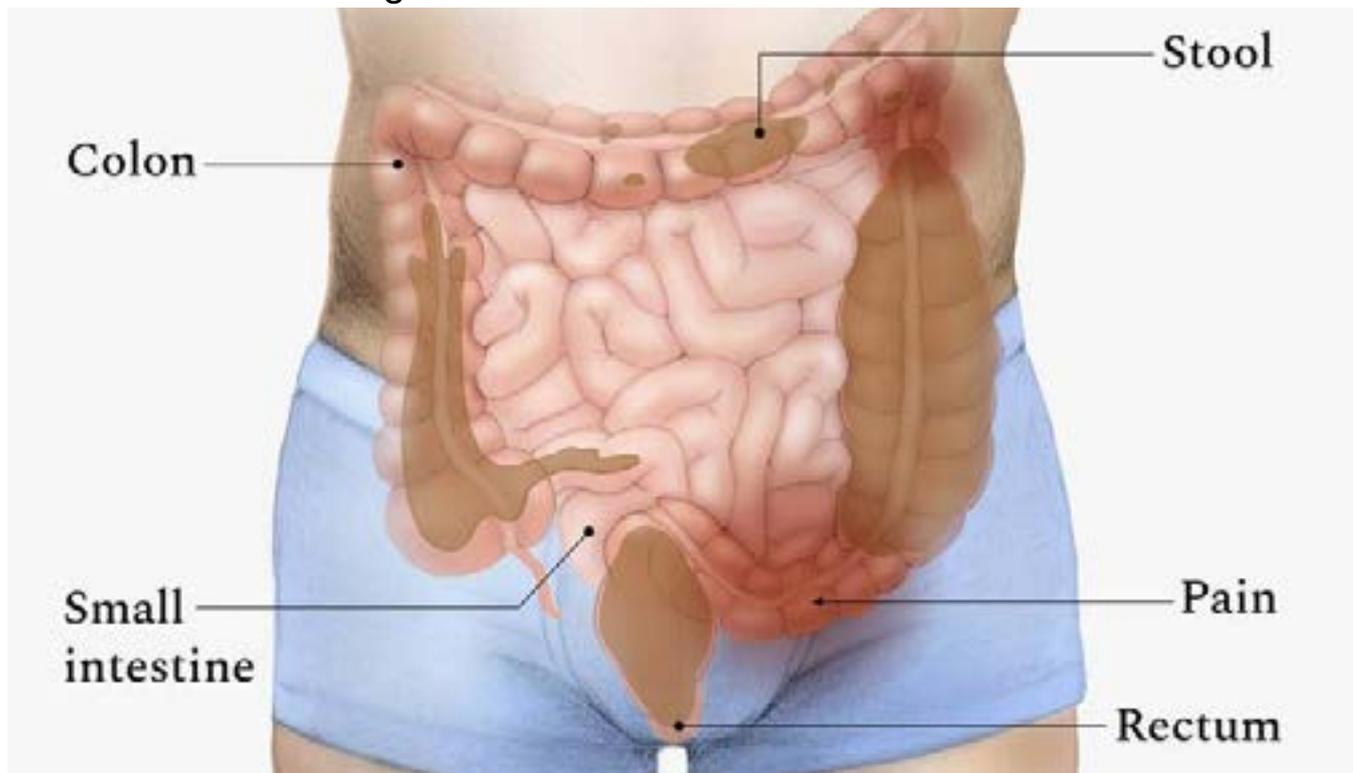
Constipation has lots of different possible causes, but sometimes there is no obvious reason why you're constipated. Normally, constipation isn't caused by a medical condition but it can be sometimes. According to The NHS the most common causes of constipation include not eating enough fibre such as fruit, vegetables and cereals, and not drinking enough fluids. Constipation can also be caused by being too sedentary, not moving enough and spending too

long sitting down or lying down in bed. If you need to go to the toilet and frequently ignore the urge, that can cause constipation.

Sometimes a change in diet or your daily routine including when you eat your meals and your sleeping pattern can be responsible for constipation.

Constipation can even be a side effect of medicine or mental health issues such as stress, anxiety or depression. If you're pregnant or have recently given birth, constipation is a possibility but normal bowel movements should resume soon. Changing how you eat and what you eat can treat constipation, according to an expert. Make sure you don't stress eat, otherwise you will continue to be constipated. The one reliable way of ensuring constipation is moving your bowel after each meal which would require you to eat in a relaxed state at a table without your phone or computer so you are burning up cortisol (the stress hormone). You should also avoid eating in the car or walking and be sure to chew your food until it turns into a liquid.

Remember a stressed state equals constipation! The very act of eating food creates peristalsis along the tract- a series of wave-like muscle contractions that move food to different processing stations in the digestive tract. This will stimulate defecation. The process of removing feces from your bowels. For this movement to occur, the gastrocolic reflex should be unconscious. The gastrocolic reflex is a physiological reflex that controls the movement of the gastrointestinal tract after a meal.





## *The two drinks to avoid*

The nutritionist said constipation is not a symptom of a poor diet, it's a sign that the entire digestive system is sub-optimal. Making sure you are hydrated and have adequate fibre in your diet, **which would mean having vegetables at every meal, is an absolute requirement for a healthy bowel.**

However, an expert strongly advises **against smoking and drinking any kind of alcohol or coffee in excessive amounts.**

Instead, fill yourself with the following foods to help you go to the toilet with ease: **Grated Carrots: Grated carrots add fibre, water and vitamin A. They are an allrounder for digestive system health. Magnesium: Magnesium creates movement in the bowel.** If you take supplements, be careful not to overdose, though, or you will get the opposite effect.

**Water:** A lot of people are dehydrated and coffee and alcohol add to this state. Dehydration will leave you constipated, so try to drink six to eight glasses of fluid a day.

**Apples:** An apple a day keeps constipation away! Apples contain pectin which helps with digestion in the small intestines but also has a laxative effect.

**Rhubarb:** Rhubarb is not only delicious when in season, but it is also great for aiding bowel movement as it contains a compound called sennoside A, which has a laxative effect on the body.

**Prunes:** Prunes contain Sorbitol, which is a type of sugar alcohol that is poorly digested in the body. It helps alleviate constipation by drawing water into the intestines, spurring a bowel movement.





It's another year of God's Faithfulness in our Mother's life as we celebrate the 80th Birthday of Mrs. Adenike Abike Awoleye.

Thank you for being good to us and to everyone else in the family. Thank you very much for being good to everyone who has crossed your path. You are a jewel of inestimable value. A remarkable, kindhearted mother to all. Your 80th birthday is a milestone that makes us realize that our love and respect for you grow stronger each day.

There are thousands of reasons to celebrate today but your birthday is one! We do wish that this day of yours would be as fantastic as ever to you just like the ones before. We pray for good health, more service to God and Humanity. May Almighty God grant you the grace to enjoy the fruits of your labour. We bless God for the Grace money cannot buy. You are an awesome Mother, grandmother, and lots more... There is something so special about you Mummy A that makes everyone fall in love with you! We hope you have the best day ever, enjoy it well too! To the most special lady in our hearts, for all the love you gave everyone; here we say happy 80th birthday to the best Mom ever!

*Pastor Olufemi Awoleye*

*For the family*

*London, UK*

# LEBRON JAMES BECOMES FIRST ACTIVE NBA PLAYER TO REACH BILLIONAIRE STATUS

*Sports*

By: Andrew Collins  
London, UK



LeBron James is now the NBA's first billionaire athlete, Sportico reported. "James is the first player in a U.S. team sport to hit the three-comma club," Sportico's Kurt Badenhausen reported. According to the outlet, the Lakers star has accumulated \$330 million in playing salary and \$700 million from off-court endorsements and business deals. Not only is LeBron the first active NBA player to become a billionaire, but he's also the first player in a United States team sport to reach that milestone.

This puts him in conversation with Tiger Woods, Floyd Mayweather, Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi, and Roger Federer as active athletes to have become billionaires. And it won't be long before another NBA star crosses this threshold. Kevin Durant—who is currently at \$580 million in career earnings—is expected to earn \$1 billion during his playing career thanks to his 10 year deal with Nike and impressive investments through his Thirty-Five Ventures. LeBron 36, current endorsement partners include AT&T, Beats, Blaze Pizza, GMC, Nike, PepsiCo, Rimowa and Walmart,

which increases the star's annual earnings by \$100 million. The latest addition to his portfolio is Epic Games, where Fortnite players will have access to a pair of James-themed outfits or "skins." James is now the first NBA player in history to reach the billionaire mark while still playing in the league. Michael Jordan was on track to seven-figures during his career, but was unable to before he retired. His total earnings, however, are over \$2 billion.



# ITALY'S MARCELL JACOBS CROWNED MEN'S OLYMPIC 100M CHAMPION



Lamont Marcell Jacobs of Italy won the men's 100 metres gold at the Tokyo Olympics on Sunday 1st August. Fred Kerley of United States won the silver while Andre de Grasse of Canada took the bronze. Jacobs raced to Olympic glory in the men's 100m becoming the fastest man in the world in the blue-riband event at Tokyo 2020. Italy's Marcell Jacobs produced the performance of a lifetime to win the Tokyo 2020 men's 100m final. The Italian was the surprise champion racing from lane three dipping at the line in a time of 9.80 seconds in a new national record at the Tokyo Olympic Stadium.

He beat a quality field including the USA's Fred Kerley and Canadian ace Andre de Grasse that picked up the silver and bronze medals. Kerley followed in second place in a time of 9.84 with De Grasse winning his second straight 100m bronze clocking 9.89. It is the first time since Athens 2004 that a new men's 100m Olympic champion is crowned following the retirement of Jamaican legend Usain Bolt. He came into the race as the surprise package with no experience racing in finals in major championships.

*Jacobs flew under the radar coming into the final after earning his place on the start line in his maiden Olympic 100m final as one of two 'fastest losers' in the semis. The long jumper turned sprinter finished third in his semi-final where he clocked a European record time of 9.84. Proving the time was no fluke, Jacobs chopped 0.4 off the time from the semis to claim Italy's first Olympic medal in the men's 100m and his country's first in an athletics sprint event since Moscow 1980, when Pietro Mennea won the men's 200m.*





Lamont Marcell Jacobs was born on 26 September 1994 in El Paso, Texas to an Italian mother and American father. His mother Viviana told Corriere Della Sera, "I met Marcell's father in Vicenza. He was a soldier in the US Army. I was 16 and he was 18. We got married and moved to Texas.

"After about three years, Marcell was born. But 20 days later, his father was transferred to South Korea. It was impossible to follow him, so I decided to go back to Italy. Marcell wasn't even a month old."

Jacobs has spoken about going to the United States to meet his father, but admits his English is not very good. Young Marcell tried a number of sports before he eventually settled on athletics. His mother continued, "Coming from a family of motorcyclists, I always advised against that choice. For the rest he tried everything, from swimming to basketball: I wanted him to discover his passion. Plus I had to make him tired, because he did not stand still even while he slept!" Jacobs recalled words of his school coach, "Since I wasn't particularly skilled at football, but I was fast he told me: 'Why don't you try another sport like athletics?' The young Jacobs made his first impression in athletics at national level in the long jump.

At the 2016 Italian Championships, he took victory with a distance of 7.89m, with his personal best 7.95m although he also jumped 8.48m with a +2.8m/s following wind that year. But he made real strides on the track in 2018, claiming his first national 100m title and going close to the magic 10-second barrier. During the Covid lockdown of 2020, he trained at a house close to Lake Garda with a mini-athletics arena including a 90m track and long jump pit. At the 2016 Italian Championships, he took victory with a distance of 7.89m, with his personal best 7.95m although he also jumped 8.48m with a +2.8m/s following wind that year. But he made real strides on the track in 2018, claiming his first national 100m title and going close to the magic 10-second barrier. During the Covid lockdown of 2020, he trained at a house close to Lake Garda with a mini athletics arena including a 90m track and long jump pit. Those sessions paid off as he made an impact right at the start of the 2021 season.

MISS ECO UK 2021  
GRAND FINALISTS



# Hello Everyone, My name is Akosua Darko I'm a Miss Eco UK finalist.

Eco Pageants UK was "established in July 2020, Eco Pageants UK aims to provide a national competition with integrity and a strong advocacy. We will uphold the values of education and empowerment for all of our contestants and queens.

Our director, Molly-Marie Buckley, has been motivated by her own experiences in the UK pageant industry to bring a competition to the UK pageant family that fights for our planet whilst being 100% glamorous! Our aim is to inspire the next generation of Eco Queens and to join our candidates on a learning journey, we are looking for queens who care! "The winner will go on to represent UK at the Miss Eco International finals, " WHAT IS MISS ECO INTERNATIONAL ? International beauty pageant founded by LTCP-UN project. Miss Eco International is an International Beauty competition that brings together representatives of different cultures and traditions from all over the world Its main objective is to promote the importance of saving our planet environmentally in addition to marketing tourism across the world. This competition focuses on the wellness of the mind, body and spirit of all the candidates that represent all the countries from all over the world."

I entered the contest to promote sustainability, saving the planet and show how the natural world is the best provider of beauty products, medicines, body health and an oasis for mental well-being. Sheer Butter and Aloe Vera have done wonders for my eczema, skin, natural hair, and walks in nature really soothe my anxiety disorder, having being diagnosed with PCOS I had to look at healthier less processed food options and can testify healthy eating makes my body healthier and makes me feel more energised.

These are just examples of how nature has blessed me. I think it's important to educate on the benefits saving our planet through sustainable fashion and the beauty has for us. Also Africa has some fantastic ingenuity when it comes to natural beauty it's the home of Sheer Butter, Aloe Vera, glass beads and some very natural forms of make up and weaving of clothes.

I managed to raise 145 pounds last year, each 50 p went to planting a tree. I'm looking for paid sponsorship for my Miss Eco UK campaign, the exclusive sponsorship is 250 pounds for a whole year of advertisement using my Miss Eco finalist brand. The medium package is 100 pounds and basic 50 pounds please email me at [\*\*cosiakosua@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:cosiakosua@gmail.com).

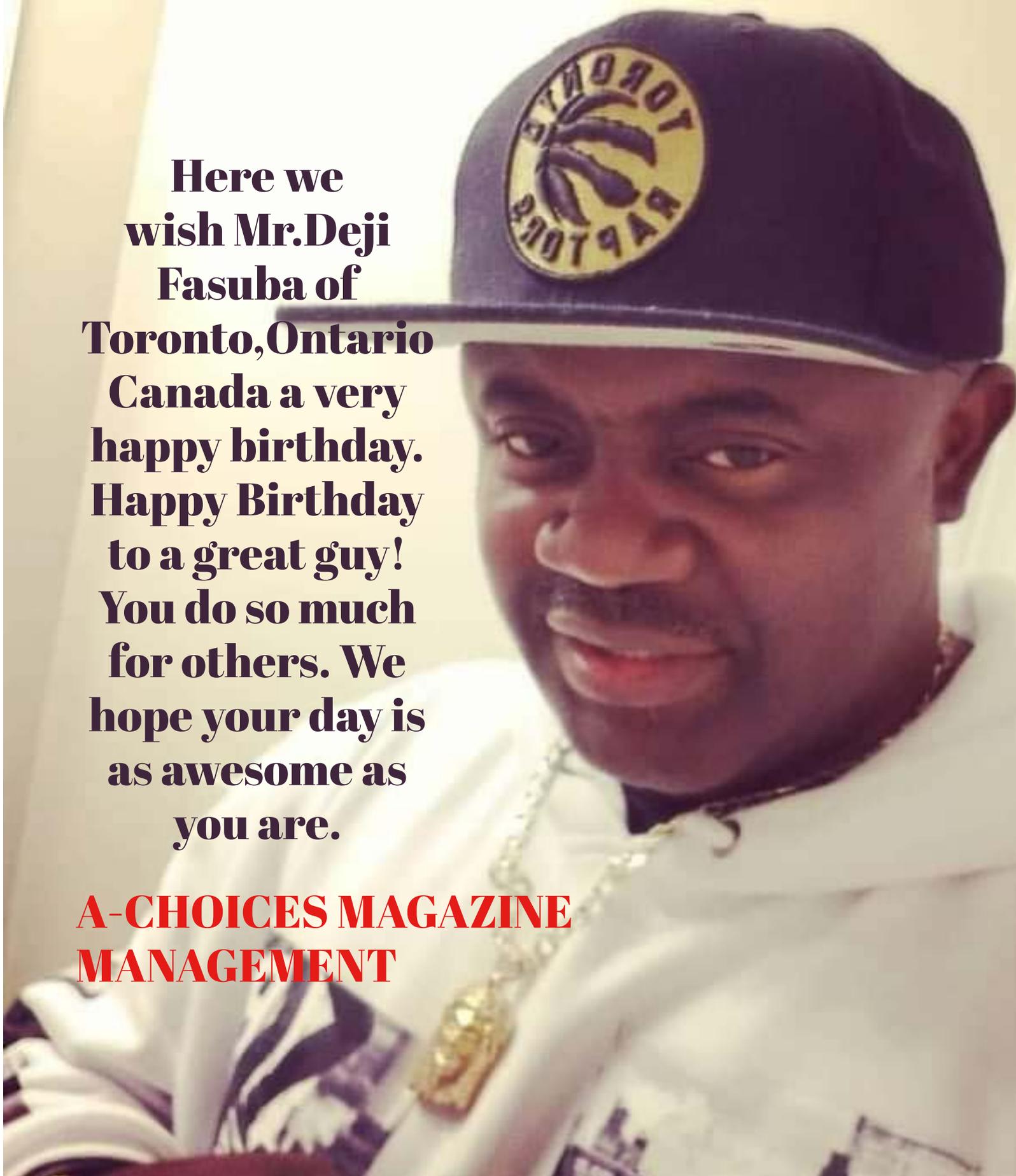
I am also looking for hair and make up as well as sustainable clothing sponsors to offer to do my hair and make up and supply me clothes at the pageant. I will advertise them on my platforms and the pageant platforms as well.

I'm also looking for donations to my campaign and I am raising money for The Wildlife Trusts: "We are a grass roots movement that believes we need nature and it needs us. More than 850,000 members and 35,000 volunteers work together with their Wildlife Trust to make their local area wilder and make nature part of life, for everyone. Every Wildlife Trust is an independent charity. We'd love you to join"

Below is the link to my donations and fundraising page:

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-me-try-to-heal-our-planet?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=product&utm\\_campaign=p\\_email%2B7500-amplify\\_campaign](https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-me-try-to-heal-our-planet?utm_medium=email&utm_source=product&utm_campaign=p_email%2B7500-amplify_campaign)

The final is on the 7/8/ 2021, so please email me as soon as possible if you're interested. Many thanks.



**Here we  
wish Mr.Deji  
Fasuba of  
Toronto,Ontario  
Canada a very  
happy birthday.  
Happy Birthday  
to a great guy!  
You do so much  
for others. We  
hope your day is  
as awesome as  
you are.**

**A-CHOICES MAGAZINE  
MANAGEMENT**



**Happy  
Birthday**











*Here we wish Mr. Temitope  
and Mrs Mihaela  
Ajetomobi a very happy  
married life. Wishing you  
a lifetime of love and  
happiness. May the  
with lasting joy. Best  
lives together.*

*years ahead be filled  
wishes on this wonderful journey, as you build your new*

*A-CHOICES Management*





**Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Kpoleba and Ibukun Mene for their newborn baby girl.**

**That's going to be one lucky baby. May your baby be blessed with good health, love and laughter...Now is the time to enjoy your baby's little feet and baby smell as you are now a proud new parents! We are really excited that your baby has arrived safe and sound!.**

**Best wishes...**

*A-CHOICES MAGAZINE MANAGEMENT*

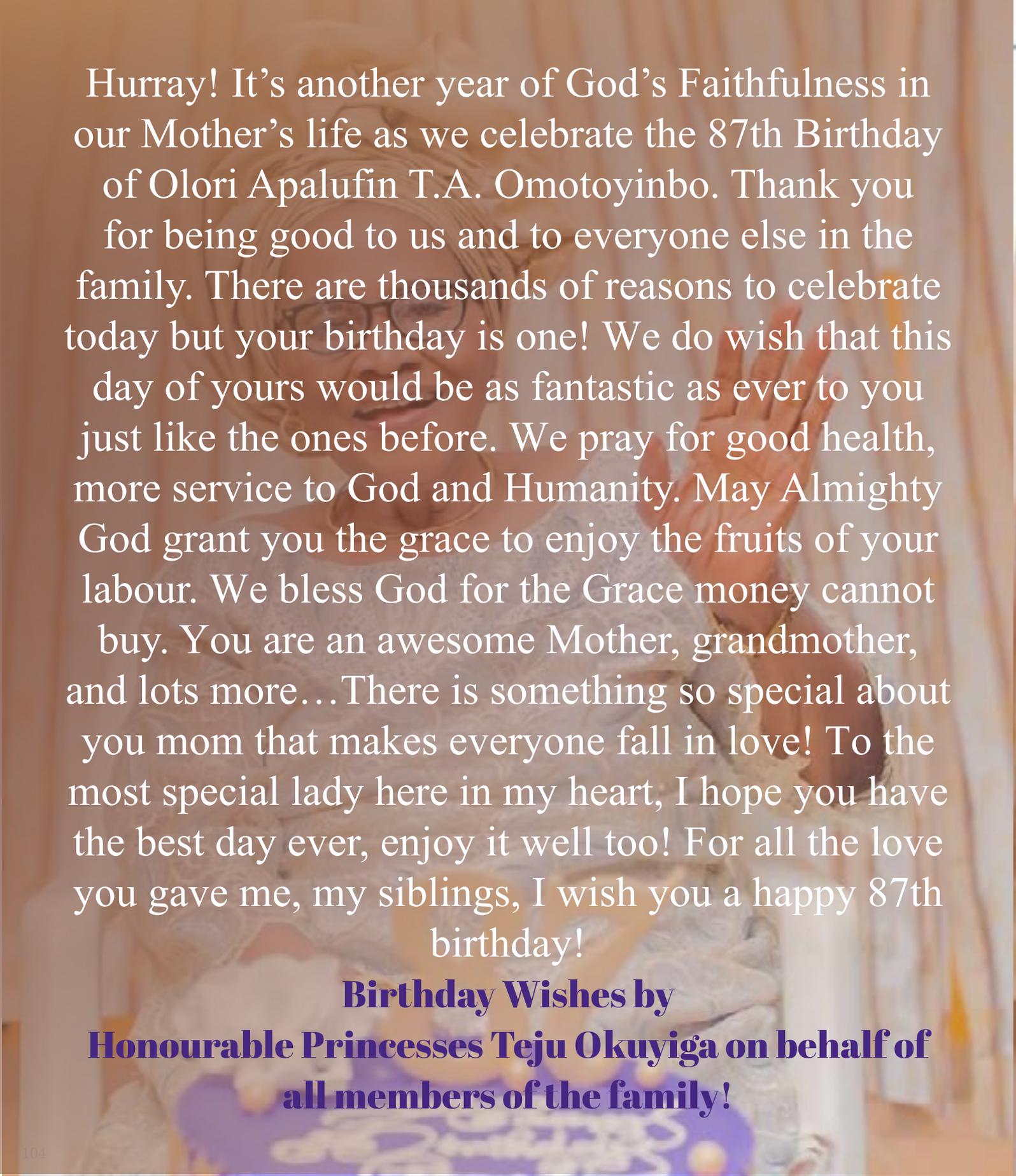












Hurray! It's another year of God's Faithfulness in our Mother's life as we celebrate the 87th Birthday of Olori Apalufin T.A. Omotoyinbo. Thank you for being good to us and to everyone else in the family. There are thousands of reasons to celebrate today but your birthday is one! We do wish that this day of yours would be as fantastic as ever to you just like the ones before. We pray for good health, more service to God and Humanity. May Almighty God grant you the grace to enjoy the fruits of your labour. We bless God for the Grace money cannot buy. You are an awesome Mother, grandmother, and lots more... There is something so special about you mom that makes everyone fall in love! To the most special lady here in my heart, I hope you have the best day ever, enjoy it well too! For all the love you gave me, my siblings, I wish you a happy 87th birthday!

**Birthday Wishes by  
Honourable Princesses Teju Okuyiga on behalf of  
all members of the family!**















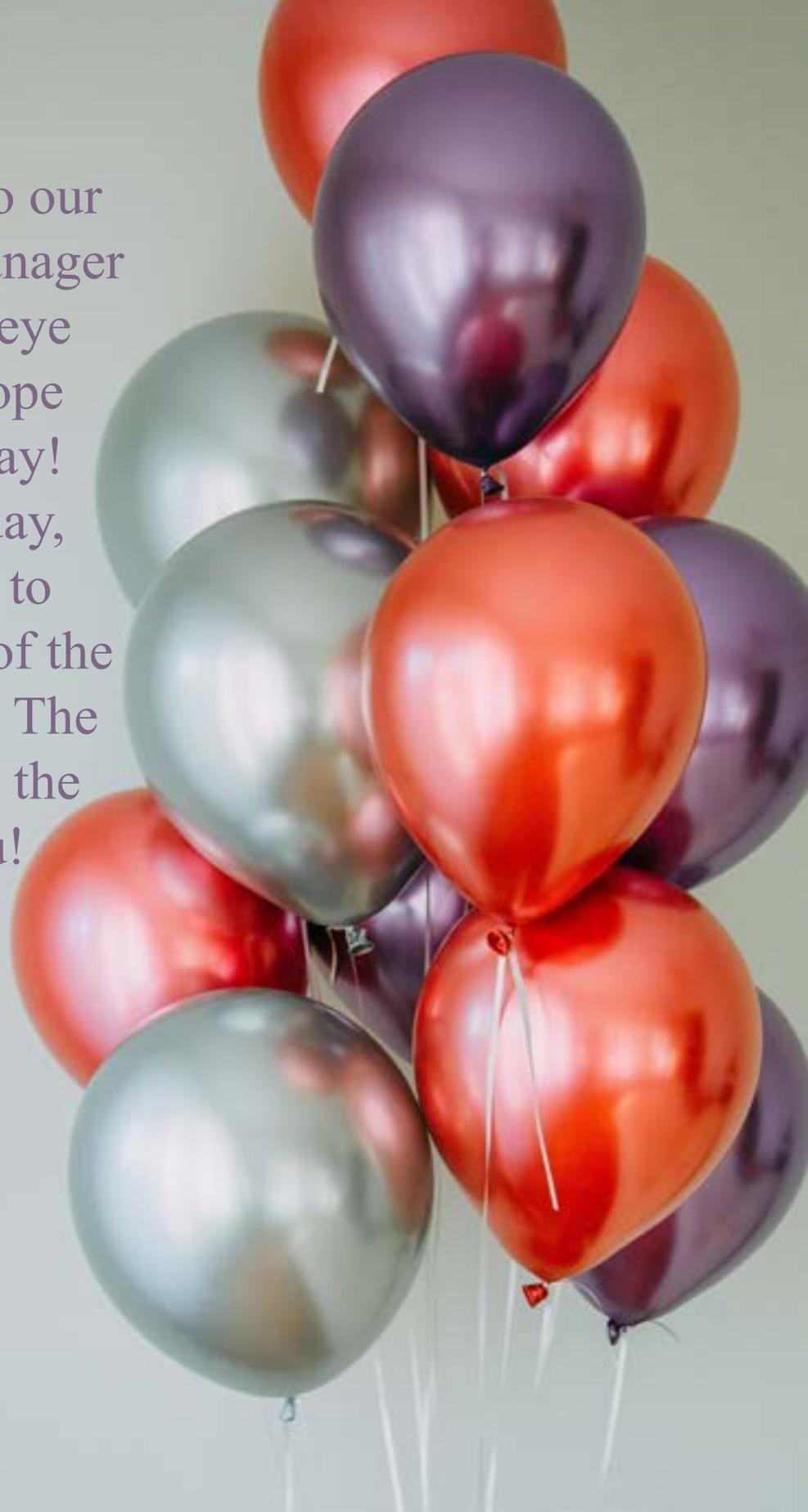
Happy  
Birthdays  
Anniversary



Happy Birthday to our  
Special Project Manager  
Dr. Funmi Awolaye  
-Beckley! We hope  
you had a great day!  
On your special day,  
we hope you get to  
celebrate with all of the  
Cake you can eat. The  
team wouldn't be the  
same without you!

Best wishes

**A-CHOICES**  
**Management**





MODEL : CY-13131  
L2000MM W1800MM H850MM



MODEL : YS-021006  
L2000MM W1200MM H300MM



MODEL : CY-13484  
L2000MM W1200MM H700MM



MODEL : DS-16154  
L430MM W410MM H435MM



MODEL : CY-13631-HK  
L3120MM W1360MM H800MM



MODEL : CY-13574  
L2800MM W500MM H2000MM



MODEL : DS-16079  
L250MM W000MM H170MM



MODEL : DS-16091  
L180MM W100MM H270MM



MODEL : BZ-00011  
L450MM W450MM



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My Mother is one in a million and I say it with all sense of gratitude to God. You are amazing, a woman of faith, a prayer warrior, caregiver with a knack of giving to people who never can pay back and vulnerable ones; ever opening her home, her arms, her heart, and her barn! You raised the bar by all means and your shoes are definitely too big to fill, you are my role model worthy of emulation.

You have enjoyed grace, and no doubt have seen the Lord's goodness. He has been your help, light, guide, and kept you from wrong counsels, has made you stand tall, He indeed has been your great reward. All over and around you, all I see is God's abundant blessings and grace.

Happy 80th birthday to Maami Owon! You're not only my mother, but you're my best friend, prayer warrior, and my gold. There is no one in the world that could ever take your place, and you mean more to me than you will ever know. What joy it is to let you know today, that I love you with all of my heart and cherish you.

By Kemi Fagbenro



## **Dear Mum,**

You are such a great achiever. You don't just go through the motions of parenthood; you go above and way beyond. Thank you for always loving, supporting, and caring for us.

Thank you for being a good example to everyone. Your love, light, sacrifice and faith has continuously guided us towards happiness. Beyond words, I'm grateful to God for the gift of you.

Happy 80th birthday (17/07/2021)

to you ma. I pray you enjoy many more years in joy, peace and sound health.

*Dr. Funmi  
Awoleye-  
Beckley*





**A very Happy Birthday to a wonderful Mother. May your 80th birthday fill you with great memories and happiness. Love and respect you so much. Your presence in this world makes the world an amazing place for many of us. Continue to be a blessing to everybody that comes your way. Thank you for sharing the amazing moments of your life with us. Happy 80th birthday to the loveliest and most amazing woman on earth.**

**Mommy A, you would never know how much of a blessing you have been to me. You may be weak in your bones at 80 but you are strong in the heart and mind. God bless you, mom.**

**If your wisdom, love, and kindness were to be given a price tag, no one could ever afford it. May the light of God never stop shining on your life.**

**Lots of love from my family and siblings. Thank you.**

*Gbenga Teejay Okunlola*



































# 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



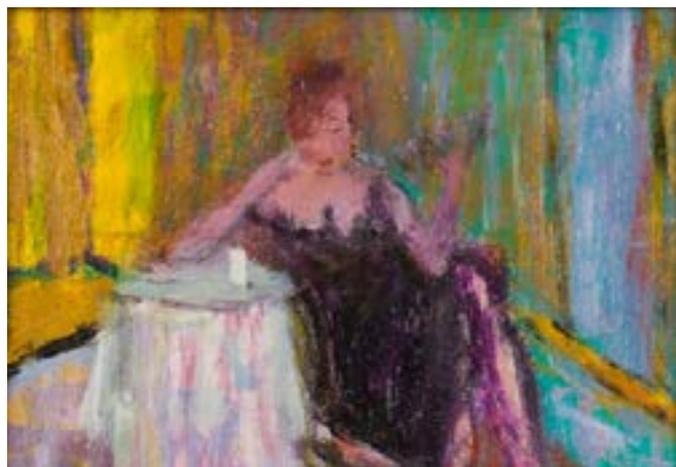
IRussev-Turquoise



IRussev-Turquoise



LDimanov\_The\_Butterfly



LKyuchukova\_Rendez\_vous



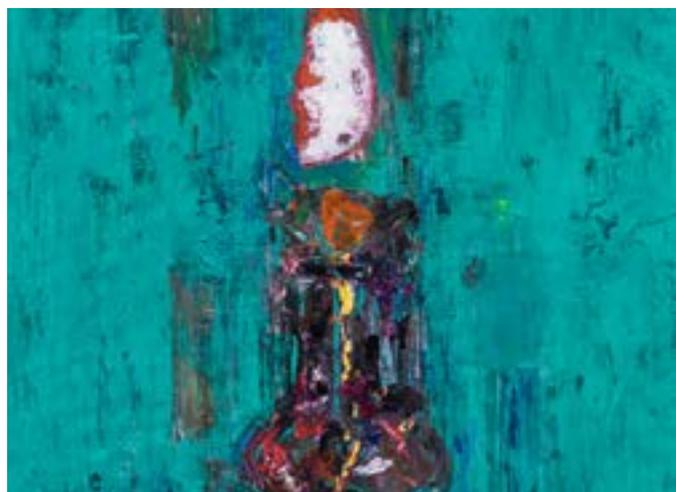
danzas sensuales



NYanakiev\_Expectation



el ensayo



NYanakiev\_The\_Little\_Princess



NManev\_Golden\_Fairy



LDimanov\_Peasant\_Boy



NYanakiev\_Venetian\_Mask



DMincheva\_The\_Blue\_Lady

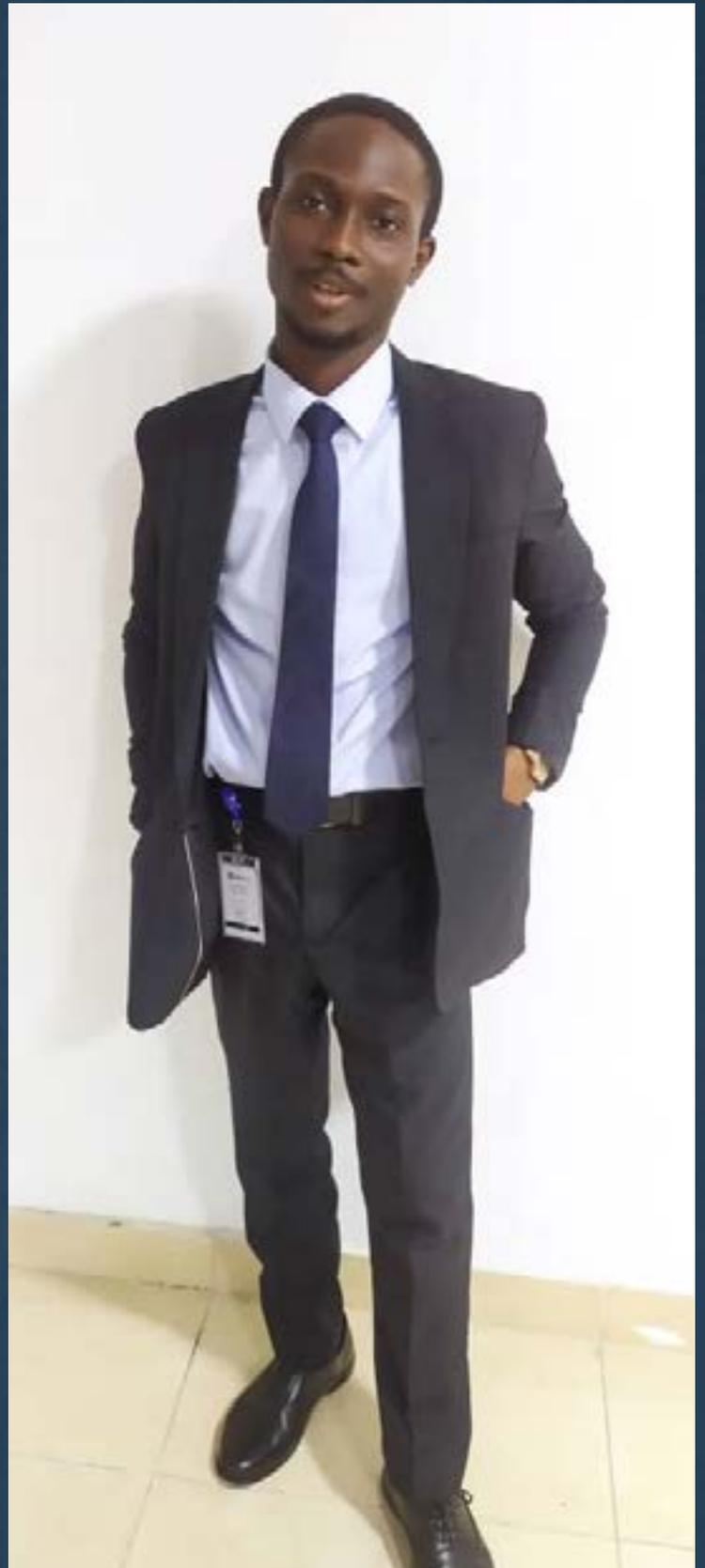
### Services list

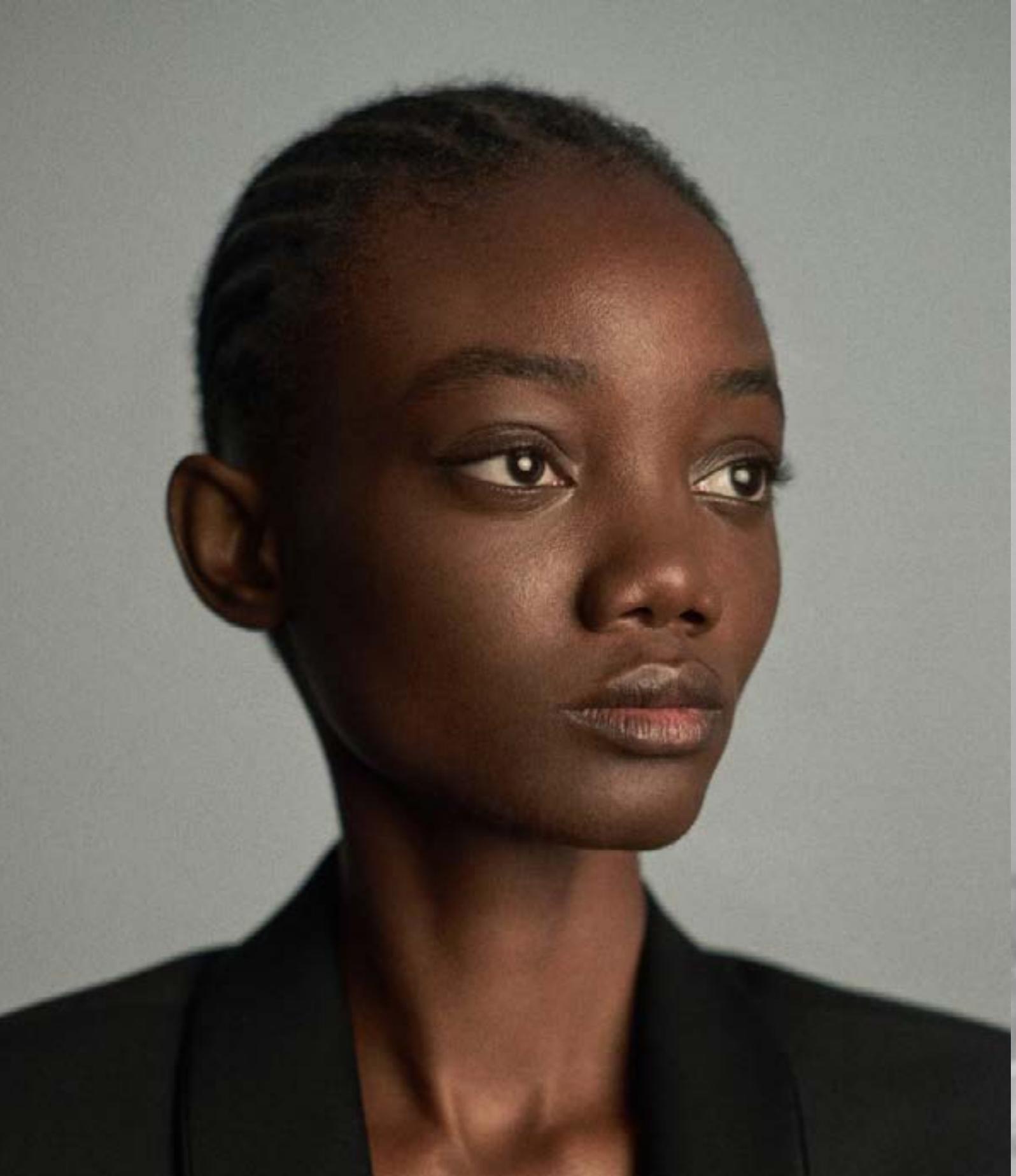
1. Digital art space for exhibitions. The service comprises rent of a virtual exhibition art space. It can be used by artists, collectors, and galleries who can exhibit and sell the artworks through the Platform.
2. Representation of an Artist, Gallery, or Collector. The service comprises a full scale 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.

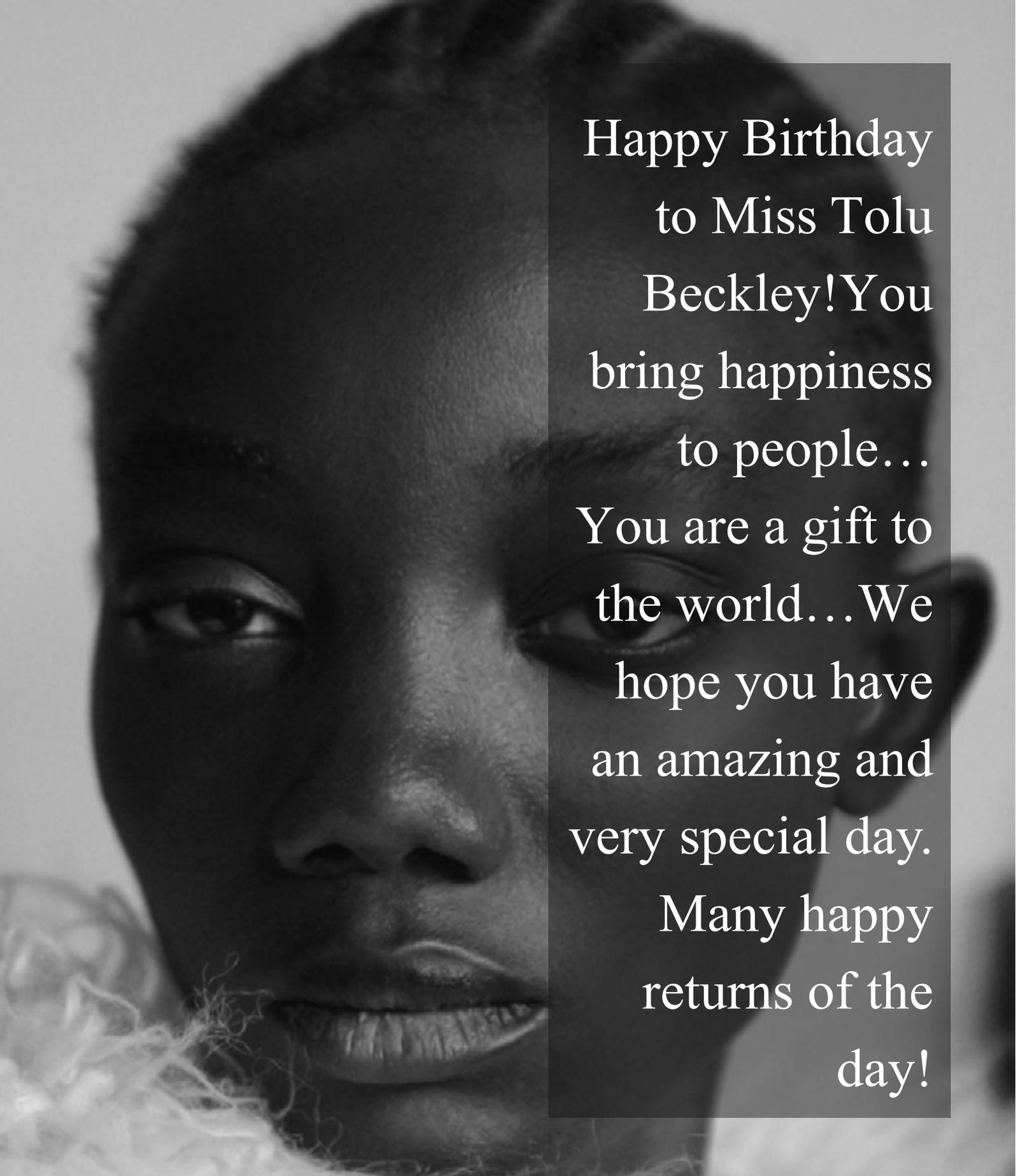


Happy Birthday  
to our hardest-  
working stylish  
graphic designer  
Mr. Oluwaseun  
Ogunkayode! We  
hope you had a  
great day! On your  
special day, we  
hope you get to  
celebrate with all  
of the Cake you  
can eat. The team  
wouldn't be the  
same without your  
dedication and  
loyalty!

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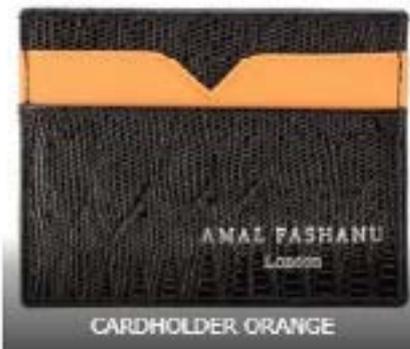
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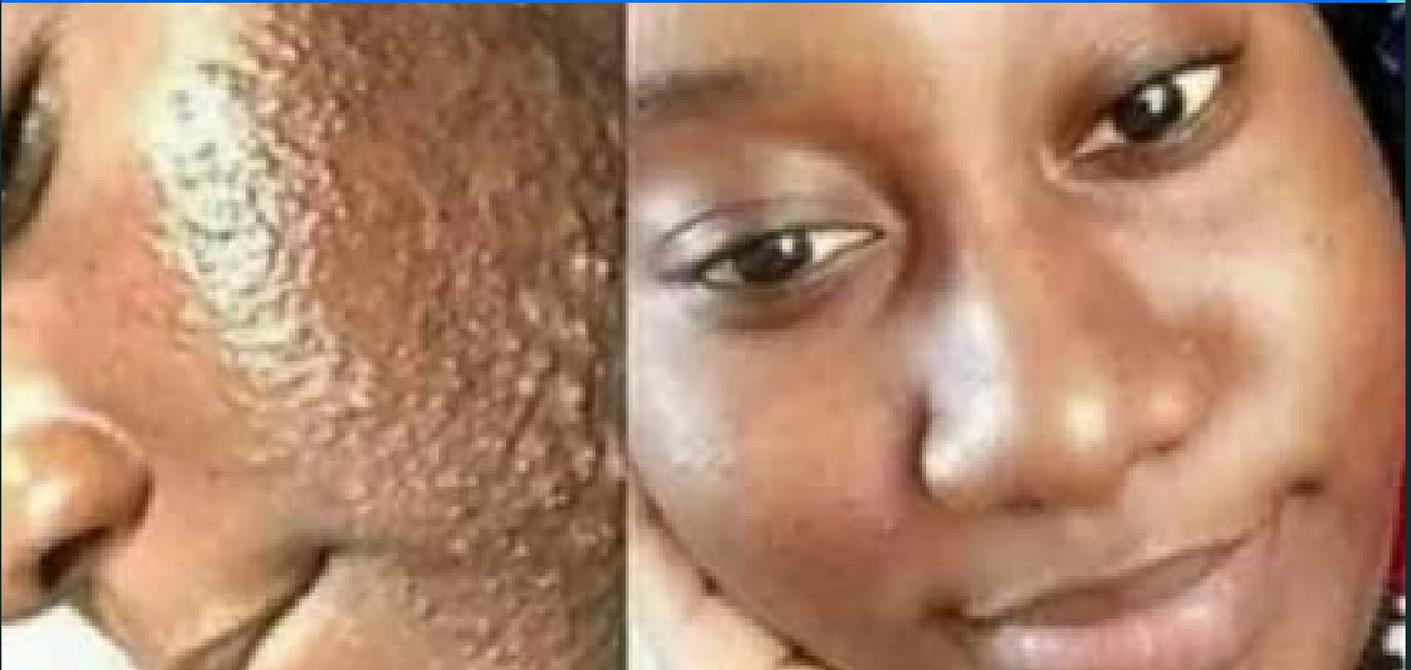
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# HOW TO BECOME A BULGARIAN PERMANENT RESIDENT OR CITIZEN BY WAY OF PURCHASING PROPERTY

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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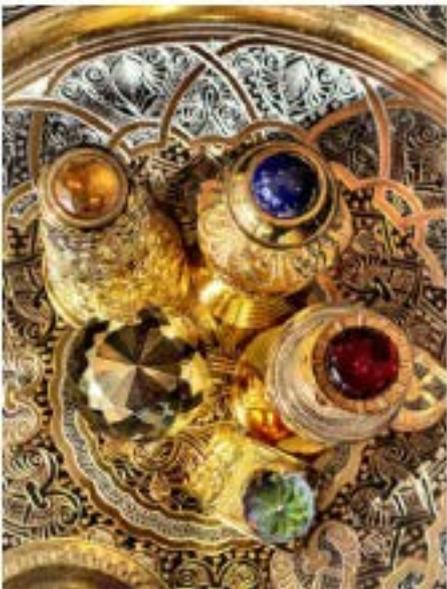


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