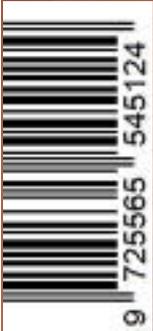


A-CHOICES

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The African Lifestyle Magazine



*“The purpose of pageantry
is to promote community service
and I have always been someone
who enjoys helping others,
and to put others before me”*

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
WITH MISS NAMIBIA 2019
- NADJA BREYTENBACH

Nadja Breytenbach

Miss Namibia 2019

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ABOUT US

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***

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EDITOR'S LETTER



I am indeed delighted to welcome you all to the beginning of the Ember months; 2021 has been tough, but we thank God for giving us the privilege to reach the last quarter of the year. We have enjoyed some good times through the previous quarters; I am certain that this quarter holds lots of amazing things for us.

In this edition, I had the privilege to chat with the elegant Nadja Breytenbach Miss Namibia 2019. Nadja shared her journey in pageantry and also what she loves about the beautiful Namibia; I have no doubts that you will enjoy every piece of my chat with her. I want to also use this medium to commiserate with the Music industry and the immediate family of Late Prof Victor Uwaifo popularly known as the Guitar Boy. We are comforted because he led a successful life and we believe that he is in a far better place, may his soul rest in peace.

Remember that A-CHOICES is everything Africa; we celebrate lifestyle and, we celebrate African achievers.

You can catch up with us at www.a-choicesmagazine.com for exciting articles and lots more.

*Editor-in-Chief/Publisher
Gbenga Teejay Okunlola*



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH MISS NAMIBIA 2019/2020-NADJA BREYTENBACH

Interview



By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola.
London. UK

Nadja Breytenbach is a Namibian model and beauty pageant title holder who was crowned the title of Miss Namibia 2019. She represented Namibia during Miss Universe 2019. Being a beauty queen can be the dream of every lady and Nadja couldn't contain her excitement at being Namibia's beauty queen. In an interview with A-CHOICES Magazine, Nadja spoke positively on her achievements during her reign as Miss Namibia. Born and bred in Windhoek, the beauty queen said: "The purpose of pageantry is to promote community service and I have always been someone who enjoys helping others, and to put others before me". That is why I have always been so fascinated by pageantry since I was a young girl."

In this exclusive interview Nadja, talks about her life in the spotlight.

A-CHOICES: Hi, Nadja can you please tell us a little bit about yourself and educational background?

NADJA: I am a born and bred Windhoeker. I had a very difficult childhood marked by my father's passing when I was only 9 years old. Growing up in a single parent household was not easy but it shaped me into the woman I am today.

I learned from a very young age that we cannot control outside circumstances. However, we can control our mind, the way we think and the way we decide to perceive hardships. I went to Delta Primary School and then moved on to Delta Secondary School Windhoek. I hold a Higher Certificate in Interior Decorating at the BHC School of Design in Cape Town and then went on to follow my passion for psychology, and did my Honours in Psychology at the South African College of Applied Psychology, also situated in Cape Town. I recently finished my internship at a mental health hospital in Windhoek, and I'm now preparing to write my examinations to finally register as a Psychological Counsellor.

A-CHOICES: Previous beauty competitions?

NADJA: I competed at Miss Teen Namibia in 2013, where I placed second runner up.

A-CHOICES: Why did you enter the competition? How does it feel to be crowned Miss Namibia?

NADJA: The purpose of pageantry is to promote community service and I have always been someone who enjoys helping others, and to put others before me.

That is why I have always been so fascinated by pageantry since I was a young girl. Michelle McLean came to my school when I was in grade 1 and her poise, elegance and confidence left me so awe-inspired that since then, I always wanted to enter a pageant.

As much as being a Miss Namibia is an honour, it is also a very big responsibility that lasts beyond my year of reign. Miss Namibia stands for beauty with a charitable cause, and that is exactly what I do and stand for.

A-CHOICES:*What do you think set you apart from the other contestants?*

NADJA: I believe that a big contribution to my success in this beauty pageant was, that I stayed true to myself. I never tried to be someone I am not. I worked extremely hard to prepare myself for the pageant. I started preparing at the beginning of 2018 and intensified my preparation together with a coach beginning of 2019. My preparation helped me to understand what to expect and what would be expected from me.

A-CHOICES: *What qualities do you believe a Miss Namibia should possess?*

NADJA: A Miss Namibia should have confidence in herself, down to earth, she should be humble and have compassion for the people around her, and most importantly, she needs to have a big heart for charitable causes.

A-CHOICES:*Were there any projects that you worked on during your reign, Any community service activities or other business ventures?*

NADJA: Due to the pandemic many of the project I hoped to do, were put on halt. One that I did put into action was before Christmas last year, where I dropped off some food donations at Hope Village together with Michelle McLean Bailey and our lovely Miss Teen Namibia 2019. It was amazing to spend some time with the children and to listen to their dreams and goals for their future.

A-CHOICES:*What has been a challenge you've experienced in life, and how did you overcome it?*

NADJA: I think the biggest challenge I had to face in my life thus far, was my mindset. It all starts with our thoughts (what we think about situations etc., but most importantly how what we think of ourselves). Studying psychology has helped me tremendously to challenge myself. Journaling, reading, and surrounding myself with amazing people has helped me to grow as a person as well.

A-CHOICES:*How did you handle the lock down due to the Covid 19?*

NADJA: I have always been a very positive person, so that is what I am focusing on in difficult times as these. What also helps me a lot is to know that I am not alone. We are all going through this together.

A-CHOICES:*What has this time taught you?*

NADJA: 2020 taught me many lessons. Health is not a given and it should never be taken for granted, and happiness is self-created. "You should never look for happiness outside of yourself, but seek happiness within yourself."

A-CHOICES:*What is the one thing people would be surprised to know about you?*

NADJA: I think many people will be quite surprised to know that I am a very big introvert.

A-CHOICES:*2020 has been a tough year globally. Do you see any positives in 2021?*

NADJA: 2020 has taught us so many lessons that we can implement in this new year, and for me, lessons are one of the greatest gifts we can receive.

A-CHOICES: *What do you love about Namibia? What would like to change about Namibia?*

NADJA: Namibia's landscapes and wildlife are incredible. We are so blessed to live in a country that so many only dream to see one day. One thing that I would like to see a change in is that

A-CHOICES:*What do you do in your spare time?*

NADJA: I enjoy doing any type of exercise, especially Pilates. I also continue educating myself in the psychology profession and otherwise I spend my time with my family, friends and with my dog Benji.







A-CHOICES: What music are you listening to?Your favourite TV shows?Your favourite meal?

NADJA: I do not have a specific genre that I listen to but rather like a variety, it all depends on my mood and situations. As I am half German, I enjoy German pop and rap, but I also love listening to lo-fi, chill trap, alternative pop and rock, and the list continues. My favourite TV show definitely is Downton Abbey and I absolutely love sushi.

A-CHOICES: If you could go back in time,what advice would you give to your younger self?

NADJA: I would tell myself to not take everything so seriously and to let go of things that I cannot control.

A-CHOICES:What do you think is the biggest problem facing young people today?

NADJA: Due to my profession I see how so many young people are battling with their mental health. This is definitely influenced by social media and COVID-19. What we can do as a society is to show our youth that they are being taken seriously and to teach them healthy coping skills. As a country the biggest problem that we are still facing is the stigma related to mental health, which can only be broken once we start speaking about it.

A-CHOICES: Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

NADJA: One thing that winning the Miss Namibia 2019 title has taught me is, that life is unpredictable. So, my plans are not set in stone. I would however, like to have my own psychological practice and work with teenagers and young adults. I would also like to work on starting an interior business as a side hustle,and hopefully have travelled to a few countries by then.

A-CHOICES:For what in your life do you feel most grateful?

NADJA: At the moment, I am most grateful for my health and that my family and friends are healthy.

A-CHOICES: How does domestic violence affect a woman?

NADJA: This question should deserve a couple of paragraphs,but here are just a few pointers. Violence against women can cause long-term physical and mental health problems. Violence and abuse affect not just the women involved but also their children,- families, and communities. These effects include harm to an individual's health, possibly long-term harm to children, and harm to communities such as lost work and homelessness. One important point I need to make is that men can also be victims of domestic violence and should not be forgotten.

A-CHOICES:Final question,is there anything you'd like to see change regarding beauty standards in Namibia?

NADJA: Over the last couple of years, we have seen drastic changes regarding beauty standards in the pageantry world. Miss Germany 2019 for example, is a born Namibian woman, 30 years of age with a child. Another great example Are Zozibini Tunzi (Miss Universe 2019), and Shudufhadzo Musida (Miss South Africa 2020) who have broken the "norms" of pageantry all over the world.







THE PLAYBOY WHO GOT AWAY WITH \$242M – USING ‘BLACK MAGIC’.

Lifestyle



By: Ibukun Babatunde
Lagos, Nigeria



One day in August 1995 a man called Foutanga Babani Sissoko walked into the head office of the Dubai Islamic Bank and asked for a loan to buy a car. The manager agreed, and Sissoko invited him home for dinner. It was the prelude, writes the BBC's Brigitte Scheffer, to one of the most audacious confidence tricks of all time.

Over dinner, Sissoko made a startling claim. He told the bank manager, Mohammed Ayoub, that he had magic powers. With these powers, he could take a sum of money and double it. He invited his Emirati friend to come again, and to bring some cash.

Black magic is condemned by Islam as blasphemous. Even so, there's still a widespread belief in it, and Ayoub was taken in by the colourful and mysterious businessman from a remote village in Mali. When he arrived at Sissoko's house the next time, carrying his money, a man burst out of a room saying a spirit - a djinn - had just attacked him. He warned Ayoub not to anger the djinn, for fear his money would not be doubled. So Ayoub left his cash in the magic room, and waited.

He said he saw lights and smoke. He heard the voices of spirits. Then there was silence. The money had indeed doubled. Ayoub was delighted - and the heist could begin. "He believed it was Black Magic - that Mr Sissoko could double the money," says Alan Fine, a Miami attorney the bank later asked to investigate the crime. "So he would send money to Mr Sissoko - the bank's money - and he expected it to come back in double the amount." Between 1995 and 1998, Ayoub made 183 transfers into Sissoko's accounts around the world. Sissoko was also running up big credit card bills - in the millions according to Fine - which Ayoub would settle on his behalf.

In 1998 I was living in Dubai, and I heard rumours that the bank was in trouble. When a newspaper reported that the bank was having cash flow problems, crowds of people gathered outside, waiting to withdraw their money.

The Dubai authorities downplayed the crisis. They called it "a little difficulty that did not lead to any financial losses either in the bank's investments or depositors' accounts".

But this wasn't true.

"The people who owned the bank took a huge, huge hit. It was not covered by insurance," says Fine. "The bank was saved because the government stepped in to help. But they gave up a lot of their equity in the bank for that to happen." And where was Foutanga Babani Sissoko? By this time, he was far away. One of the beauties of his scheme was that he did not need to be in Dubai to keep receiving the money.

In November 1995, only weeks after putting on the magic display for Mohammed Ayoub, Sissoko visited another bank in New York, and did much more than open an account.

"He walked into Citibank one day, no appointment, met a teller and he ended up marrying her," says Alan Fine. "And there's reason to believe she made his relationship with Citibank more comfortable, and he ended up opening an account there through which, from memory, I'm just going to say more than \$100m was wire transferred into the United States." In fact, according to a case brought by the Dubai Islamic Bank against Citibank, more than \$151m "was debited by Citibank from DIB's correspondent account without proper authorisation". The case was later dropped. Sissoko paid his new wife more than half a million dollars for her help. "I don't know under what legal regime he married her but he called her a wife and she believed she was a wife," says Fine. "She understood that there were many other wives. Some from Africa, some from Miami, some from New York."

With the bank's money rolling in, Sissoko could fulfil his dream of opening an airline for West Africa. He bought a used Hawker-Siddeley 125 and a pair of old Boeing 727s. This was the birth of Air Dabia, named after his village in Mali. But in July 1996, Sissoko made a serious mistake as he tried to buy two Huey helicopters dating from the Vietnam War, for reasons that remain unclear.

"His explanation of why he wanted them was emergency air ambulance. But the helicopters he was looking at were pretty big helicopters, they were not the kind that you see running back and forth to hospitals and trauma centres in the United States, they were much bigger than that," says Fine.

Because they could be refitted as gunships, the helicopters needed a special export licence. Sissoko's men tried to speed things up by offering a \$30,000 bribe to a customs officer. Instead, they got themselves arrested. And Interpol issued a warrant for Sissoko's arrest too. He was caught in Geneva, where he'd gone to open another bank account.

Tom Spencer, a Miami lawyer who was asked to represent Sissoko, vividly remembers going to meet him in Geneva's Champ-Dollon prison.

"I talked with the prison warden, who asked me whether or not Sissoko was going to go to the United States," Spencer says. "I said, 'Well, you know, we'll see.' And he said, 'Well, please delay it as long as possible.' And I said, 'Well why?' And he said, 'Because he's flying in fantastic meals from Paris every night, for us.' And that was my first bizarre encounter with Baba Sissoko."



Sissoko was quickly extradited to the US, where he started to mobilise influential supporters. The readiness of diplomats to vouch for Sissoko shocked the judge presiding over his bail hearing. And Tom Spencer was stunned when a former US senator, Birch Bayh, announced he was joining Sissoko's defence team.

"Well, you have to ask yourself, why would anyone get involved for a foreign national who has no apparent value to the United States?" says Fine. "I don't know the answer to the question. But it's an interesting one to pose." The US government wanted Sissoko held in custody, but he was bailed for \$20m (£14.5m) - a Florida record at the time. Then he went on a spending spree. His defence team was rewarded with Mercedes or Jaguar cars. But that was just the start.

Sissoko spent half a million dollars in one jewellery store alone, Fine recalls, and hundreds of thousands in others. In one men's clothing store he spent more than \$150,000.

"He would come in and buy two three four cars at the same time, come back another week and buy two three four cars at the same time. It was just, the money was like wind," says car dealer Ronil Dufrene. He calculates that he sold Sissoko between 30 and 35 cars in total. Sissoko became a Miami celebrity. He already had several wives, but that didn't stop him marrying more - and housing them in some of the 23 apartments he rented in the city.

"'Playboy' is the right word to describe him. Because he is very elegant. And handsome. And he dresses with great style. He blew a lot of money in Miami," says Sissoko's cousin, Makan Mousa.

Sissoko was also giving away large sums to good causes. His trial was approaching, and he knew the value of good publicity. In one case witnessed by his cousin, he gave £300,000 (\$413,000) to a high-school band that needed money to travel to New York for a Thanksgiving Day parade.

Another of his defence lawyers, Prof H T Smith, remembers that on Thursdays he would drive around giving money to homeless people. "I was thinking, is this some modern day Robin Hood? Why would you steal money and give it away? It doesn't make any sense," he says. "The [Miami] Herald did a story just after he left, and I think - I don't want to exaggerate but I think they said they could chronicle like \$14m he gave away. He was only here 10 months. That's over a million dollars a month." Alan Fine took a slightly more cynical view.

"So much of what he did was for image and to perpetuate a belief that he was a very powerful man and fabulously wealthy. He would give away money, but... to my knowledge it was never done in a way that he didn't get publicity for it." Despite this PR drive, when Sissoko's case came to court he disregarded his lawyers' advice and pleaded guilty.

Maybe he calculated that this would provoke fewer questions about his finances.

The sentence was 43 days in prison and a \$250,000 fine - paid, of course, by the Dubai Islamic Bank, though without its knowledge. After serving only half this sentence, he was given early release in return for a \$1m payment to a homeless shelter. The rest he was meant to serve under house arrest in Mali. Instead he returned home to a hero's welcome.

It was around this time that the Dubai Islamic Bank's auditors began to notice that something was wrong. Ayoub was getting nervous, and Sissoko had stopped answering his calls. Finally he confessed to a colleague, who asked how much was missing. Too ashamed to say, Ayoub wrote it on a scrap of paper - 890 million dirhams, the equivalent of \$242m (£175m). He was found guilty of fraud and given three years in jail. It's rumoured he was also forced to undergo an exorcism, to cure him of his belief in black magic.

Sissoko has never faced justice. In his absence, a Dubai court sentenced him to three years for fraud and practising magic. Interpol issued an arrest warrant and he remains a wanted man.

I found transcripts from other trials at which Sissoko failed to appear, including one in Paris. His lawyer claimed he was a scapegoat for Ayoub's actions

and the bank's money had gone elsewhere, but the court didn't swallow it and convicted him of money-laundering.

For 12 years, between 2002 and 2014, Sissoko was a member of parliament in Mali, which gave him immunity from prosecution. For the last four years, no longer an MP, he has been protected by the fact that Mali has no extradition treaty with any other country. The Dubai Islamic Bank, nonetheless, is still pursuing him through the courts. I flew to Mali's capital, Bamako, to find people who might tell me about Sissoko. I tracked down his seamstress, who remembered him fondly.

"The last time I saw him, two or three years ago, I made him a suitcase of clothes. If he didn't give out presents, he wasn't happy. It's his style. He loves to give things to people," she said. I also found his driver, Lukali Ibrahim. "The good thing about him is that when things are going well you can expect a lot of presents from him. He likes to help people with their problems," he said. "The bad thing, I can tell you a few. This is someone who always gives people hope but instead of telling you the truth, he's just leading you on."

In the market I found a goldsmith who had only praise for a client who would call and ask him to make presents for his friends.

I also heard that he could be found living near his native village, Dabia, which had given its name to Sissoko's short-lived airline, near Mali's border with Guinea and Senegal.

After a long drive I found a house that fitted the description I'd been given.

Suddenly, surrounded by armed guards, there he was. Babani Sissoko, in person, now perhaps 70 years old.

He agreed to an interview. The atmosphere was edgy and slightly surreal. He began by telling me about his entry into the world.

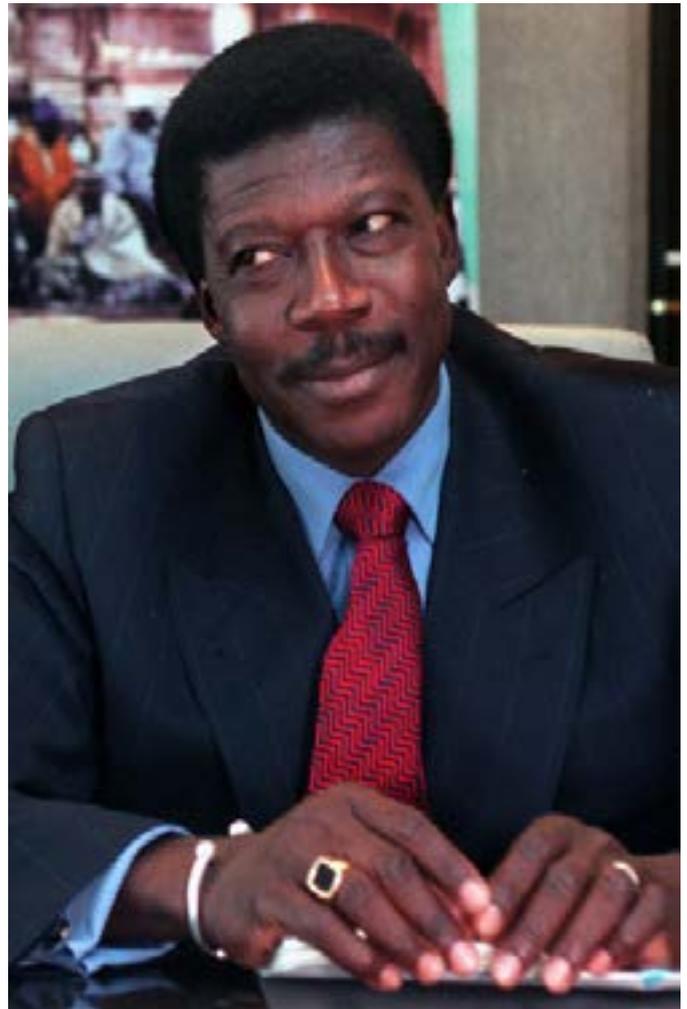
"My name is Sissoko Foutanga Dit Babani. You know, the day I was born all the villages round here burned down. The villagers went round shouting, 'Marietto has had a boy.' The fire leapt and leapt. There used to be a lot of bush around." He then talked about his efforts to rebuild the village, which began in 1985, and about the money he made. At one point he had been worth \$400m, he said.

Eventually, I asked about the \$242m he had received from the Dubai Islamic Bank.

"Madame, this \$242m, this is a slightly crazy story. The gentlemen from the bank should explain how they lost all that money. I mean the \$242m. Listen, how could that money have left the bank the way it did? That's the problem. It's not this man alone [Ayoub] who authorises the transfers. When the bank transfers money it's not just one person who does it. Several people have to do it." I pointed out to him that Mohammed Ayoub had claimed at his trial that Sissoko had put him under a spell. "The gentleman you're talking about, I've seen him and met him," he said. But the heist, he denied.

"The only contact I had with him was when I went to buy a car. The bank bought it for me and I repaid the loan. It was a Japanese car."

Had he controlled people by means of black magic?" Madame, if a person had that kind of power, why would he work? If you have that kind of power you can stay where you are and rob all the banks of the world. In the United States, France, Germany, everywhere. Even here in Africa. You could rob all the banks you want." I asked him if he was still rich. His answer was blunt. "No I'm not rich any longer. I'm poor." Defying Interpol, Sissoko has spent a remarkable 20 years on the run, even if he has squandered all his money and can never leave Mali. He has never spent a day in jail for the black magic bank heist.







By: Akosua Darko
Senior Writer
London, UK



ABRABO

Ghanaians call life Abrabo, suffer before you get. Someone who lives it well is called obrefuo, one who suffers to get, and obra is living life, suffer to live. Life is about managing suffering and finding joy in it. I saw a young woman lose it in Ghana and watched her walk around the street trying to kill herself, a former celebrity in Ghana. I know her story she said she worked hard followed women empowerment and it didn't work. The young woman is a sensitive soul, she doesn't have the ruthless nature to step on others to rise to the top. Sadly it didn't work for her, she dated a man she struggled with and he cheated on her she tried to kill herself then but still didn't succeed. So what did she do, she found friends who showed her another way.

What counsellor Lutterdott said 'a woman's way out of poverty' is her vagina. That is true and an absolute fact. If a woman is beautiful especially, her vagina is her diamond farm. The girl is beautiful so they introduced her to rich marry men, who wanted no commitment but would lavish money, houses and cars for girls who would have sex with them. So she joined because she was tired of life. I hope she finds the strength to try again.

A couple of months ago I was in her place tired. I lost faith in everything I once believed in because life taught me that hardwork does not pay, women empowerment does not pay. I realise that if I focused on my beauty and spent more time there, my vagina would have made a way. I do not wish to have slept with married men. Yet I wish I would have focused on finding a man who would have looked after me because I did not see what fighting and doing for myself brought me. The people I trusted and helped have become Mps, and people in fantastic jobs with salaries. They left me behind. It made me angry and bitter. I don't believe in politics, I don't vote and I do not get involved with empowerment. Unless it's about the girls I'm empowering in Ghana to forge their own path.

Thankfully I have learned life is about learning and suffering. You must put yourself first, go where you're wanted. If you're in a place where you are not appreciated run and run like the wind. Now I'm in a job that I love. I still want a man who will look after me and be there for me spiritually, emotionally and financially because I deserve it and I've realised that they don't have to be rich but willing to look after me. I'm broke but trying to work where I find joy and people are kind. I cut my coat according to myself. You know what my pain has turned into motivation for those I work for, and the people who read my motivation column in my magazine.

I'm where love exists and around love. I use my beauty to succeed too. My vagina is a way out of poverty but it doesn't have to be by giving it to men for pay. Yet I'm using it for business, motivation and promoting issues important to me. My point is life can hurt so bad yet suffering is a part of it. Some people suffer and choose to still see sunshine in the rain. We cannot go back but can see light forward. We have to learn to let go of the past and see what the future brings. I watch the girl with so much sadness because I understand her world is on fire yet all it takes is disappointment, anger, bitterness and hurt from people who don't deserve our time to get there. Surround yourself with love and love will lift you higher.

Ghanaian Woman Weds Fellow Woman.



By:Okunlola Kayode F.
Lagos,Nigeria



Lifestyle



LGBT Ghana's page on social media have boldly shared intimate photos and congratulated two Ghanaian women who married themselves in another classic wedding. Within the two, we couldn't distinguish which of them was the male and female as they both wore female wedding gowns.

One of them was seen sitting on a wheel chair as they exchanged vows. It also emerged that the couple are living in the New York City in the United States of America. Recently, another couple who are males broke the internet with a classic wedding. These two LGBT marriage ceremonies gives a clear indication that they are unperturbed about the threats from their mother country.

Well, who are we to judge, we can talk about our customs and traditions which frowns on LGBT activities in Ghana. Could there be laws to let interpol go and capture Ghanaians who flout these rules? Well, let's see how it goes as Sam George and his colleagues keep fighting to make fmore stringent laws.



Legendary Musician Sir Victor Uwaifo Is Dead.

Entertainment



By: Ibukun Babatunde
Port Harcourt, Nigeria



Veteran musician Victor Uwaifo has died at the age of 80 in Benin-City. The multi-talented icon was also a songwriter, sculptor and professor.

Uwaifo was renowned for his mastery of the guitar and the flute. He won many musical awards both nationally and internationally. His stagecraft and music prowess left millions of his fans in awe throughout his career. He will be remembered for hit songs like 'Mami Water', 'Joromi' and 'Guitar Boy'.

Meanwhile, President Muhammadu Buhari has condoled with the family and friends of the legendary musician. In a statement signed by presidential spokesman Femi Adesina, the President said the entire country will miss him. "President Muhammadu Buhari condoles with family, friends and associates of legendary musician and multi-talented artiste, Sir Victor Uwaifo, who passed on Saturday, leaving a legacy of successes in many areas of life, including academia and administration," the statement said.

"The President joins the Nigerian music industry and performing artistes, home and abroad, in mourning the former first Honourable Commissioner for Arts, Culture and Tourism (Edo State), who was also the first musician and instrumentalist to be given National Honours Merit, Member of the Order of the Niger (MON) in 1983.

"President Buhari believes the renowned musician, with global appeal and recognitions, lived for many firsts, which include invitation to the State House by four presidents and Heads of State, and winner of a gold disc in Africa for his song, 'Joromi', released in 1965 at the age of 24.

"The President notes the glory that Sir Uwaifo brought to Nigeria through his international tours, and the active role he played in national development, returning to school to get a first degree at age 54 with first class honours, masters degree at 56, and a doctorate at 77.

"President Buhari prays for the soul of the departed musician, writer, sculptor, musical instrument inventor and university lecturer, knowing the entire country, particularly the music industry, will sorely miss him."

In another development, Edo-born, “Joromi” crooner, Sir Victor Uwaifo, died of Pneumonia, not Covid-19 complications, Goodman Osarentin Uwaifo, son of the late music icon, has said. Goodman Osarentin Uwaifo, was reacting to reports making the rounds that his father died of Covid-19 complications. Goodman Osarentin spoke in company of his sister, Mrs. Evelyn Oghonmwun. Recall that the music legend, whose “Mammy Water” album was a hit for decades, succumbed on Saturday at the age of 80.

Nigerians have been asking questions to know the true cause of his death. Reacting to Nigerians demand, Goodman Osarentin opined: “I want to use this opportunity to clear this misinformation. We have heard rumours going around that our father, Sir Victor Uwaifo died of COVID-19. It is not true.”He died of pneumonia and not COVID-19. He was rushed to the hospital on Friday and passed on the following day on Saturday, August 28. “We did the necessary tests. He was treated for pneumonia.”



Kanye West files to legally change name to Ye amid divorce from Kim Kardashian.

By:Seyi Awoleye
Los Angeles,CA



US rapper and fashion designer Kanye West has asked an LA court to legally change his name to Ye and has cited the reason for this to be due to “personal reasons” Kanye West is now waiting for a judge to approve his request. The eccentric rapper, 44, formerly filed a petition to change his name from his moniker Kanye Omari West to just Ye, with no middle name or last name. According to Los Angeles Superior Court documents.

The billionaire rapper has said that his decision to change his name is due to “personal reasons” which he declared in the court documents filed in Los Angeles.

West a designer has been coined Ye for the past few years and he even used the nickname as the title of his 2018 album. In September that year, he raised eyebrows when he first signalled that he wanted to officially shorten his name.

The rapper has applied to legally change his name to Ye . At the time, he tweeted: “The being formally known as Kenya West I am YE.” He must now wait for a judge to approve his request before it becomes official.

Kim Kardashian’s ex also told a US radio host the name held religious significance for him, claiming it is the most commonly used word in the Christian bible.

The star is reportedly about to drop his 10th studio album, Donda, which he named after his late mother.

Kanye and Kim are still in the midst of divorce proceedings. This comes after two similar events that were celebrating the same thing, but the album was still not released. His divorce to



reality queen Kim is still going through after she filed to end their seven-year marriage in February this year due to “irreconcilable differences”.

The former couple share four children together, North, 8, Saint, 5, Chicago, 3, Psalm, 2. The family have been turning up in full force to his previous listening parties, with Kim’s getup sparking controversy during the second round.

Her fans were completely confused by her outfit choice, a full black Balenciaga jumpsuit and mask, with narrow slits for just her eyes and mouth.

Kim’s fans asked her ‘why?’ she masked up in eerie jumpsuit for Kanye’s second listening party. The reality TV queen attended the event with her children and their friends. The 40-year-old shared snaps of her all-black ensemble from the occasion at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, which left tons of her fans in a state of complete confusion.

MUSICAL GENIUS LEE SCRATCH PERRY, DIES AT AGED 85.

By:Linda R. Jones
London, UK



Lee “Scratch” Perry, whose pioneering work with roots reggae and dub opened up profound new depths in Jamaican music, has died aged 85. Jamaican media reported the news that he died in hospital in Lucea, northern Jamaica. No cause of death has yet been given. Andrew Holness, the country’s prime minister, sent “deep condolences” to Perry’s family.

The loping tempos of Perry’s work established the roots reggae sound that Bob Marley made world famous, while

his dub production, with its haunting use of space and echo, would have a profound influence on post-punk, hip-hop, dance music and other genres.

Along with his gnomic pronouncements and mystical air, he became one of Jamaica’s most unusual and esteemed artists. Keith Richards once described him as “the Salvador Dalí of music. He’s a mystery. The world is his instrument. You just have to listen.”

His passing, first reported by the Jamaican Observer, was mourned by the many artists with whom Perry has worked over a career that has spanned seven decades. He was a prolific solo artist, as well as a collaborator and producer, making more than 1,000 recordings in that time. The Beastie Boys, who first worked with Perry when he opened for them in Japan in 1996 before they joined forces on the track Dr Lee PhD as party of 1998’s Hello Nasty album, hailed the musician’s “pioneering spirit”.

“We are truly grateful to have been inspired by and collaborated with this true legend,” the group said in a tweet. Flying Lotus, whose real name is Steven Ellison, wrote on Twitter:

“Blessed journey into the infinite. RIP Lee ‘Scratch’ Perry.”

Rapper Lupe Fiasco also remembered Perry, tweeting: “African blood is flowing through I veins so I and I shall never fade away.” Glastonbury Festival’s Emily Eavis hailed the singer as a “musical genius”. Eavis tweeted: “RIP the almighty Lee ‘Scratch’ Perry, musical genius, free spirit and a regular Glastonbury performer. We shall miss him.”

Perry was born in rural Jamaica in 1936 and moved to the capital Kingston in the early 1960s. In a 1984 interview with NME magazine, he said: “My father worked on the road, my mother in the fields. We were very poor. I went to school... I learned nothing at all.

Everything I have learned has come from nature.”

He started his music career in the 1950s as an assistant at a reggae music label, before moving up to become a recording artist with the same label.

Over the next seven decades Perry went on to work with a number of fellow music legends, including Bob Marley and the Beastie Boys. He also won a Grammy in 2002, was nominated four other times - in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2014 - and received a Jamaican national honour, the Order of Distinction.



Perry's career in music began in the late Fifties when he was employed to sell records for Clement "Coxsone" Dodd's Downbeat Sound System; by the early Sixties, Dodd opened his famed Studio One, where Perry – nicknamed "Little" at the time, due to his 4'11 stature – got his first experience in the recording studio, producing a few dozens song for the label.

"Coxsone never wanted to give a country boy a chance. No way. He took my songs and gave them to people like Delroy Wilson. I got no credit, certainly no money. I was being screwed."

After falling out with Dodd, Perry jumped over to Joe Gibbs' rival label Amalgamated Records, where Perry continued to produce in addition to furthering his own recording career as lead artist. Disagreements between the irascible Perry and Gibbs resulted in "Scratch" finally forming his own label Upsetter Records – a nod to Perry's proclamation "I am the Upsetter" – in 1968.



Thanks to his popularity in Jamaica and the U.K. – where his 1968 single "People Funny Boy," a slam at Gibbs, became a Top Five hit – in 1973, Perry was able to build his own backyard studio in Kingston, which he named "the Black Ark." Here, Perry's artistic endeavours led him to push the limits of the recording studio's relatively antiquated capabilities to create his "versions."

As the architect of the remixed sound, Perry would layer (or overdub) his own rhythms and riddims with repetitive vocal hooks lifted from other songs – providing the blueprint for sampling in other genres – along with deep, reverberating bass, errant sound effects and disembodied horn melodies, all stewed together.

Scratch's son Sean Perry said of his eccentric father in People Funny Boy, "Mr. Perry is an enigma, but trust me, he is ahead of his time; it's we who have to try to catch him up."



MIKEL ARTETA FIRES BACK AT SCATHING ARSENAL ATTACK BY RWANDA PRESIDENT.

Sports

By:Linda R. Jones
London,UK



Rwanda president Paul Kagame had a go at Arsenal in a series of tweets after their opening day defeat to Brentford as he claimed that fans should not accept “mediocrity. Mikel Arteta has responded to scathing criticism from the president of Rwanda after he slammed Arsenal’s ‘mediocre’ performance in their 2-0 defeat by Brentford.

Rwanda are one of Arsenal’s sponsors, with the ‘Visit Rwanda’ logo printed on the left sleeve of their shirts. But president Paul Kagame was left frustrated by their start to the season and took to social media to make his feelings clear in three separate tweets. Following the defeat, he wrote: ‘What?? It’s football, it’s a loss of Arsenal at/to Brentford. Brentford deserved to win and they did. The game itself aside Arsenal and the fans don’t deserve to kind of get used to this... NO !!! I say this as one of the big fans of Arsenal. The change has taken to long to come!

‘It’s been a struggle of about decade(s) – ups & downs – more downs until this point. Can’t we have a plan that really works?? One part to look at is how we deal in the market- players we buy to execute the plan. The touch & go mentality does not bring change. We just must NOT excuse or Accept mediocrity. A team has to be built with purpose to win win win. So that when we lose... it was not to be expected! I am sure we all know on whose shoulders the heaviest burden rests. I hope they know too or even accept it!!!’ Arteta was asked about Kagame’s comments, Arteta simply responded: ‘I agree that Arsenal should not accept mediocrity. I totally agree with that.’

The Gunners boss was asked to clarify his comments about critics who he said are trying to ‘bury’ him, but he refused to go into specific detail. He said:

‘I’m talking about the lack of clarity in the messages and using moments to try to come and using some very disrespectful ways to describe certain things. That’s what I’m saying. Nothing new. It’s not about pointing, it’s about expressing the feelings that are so obvious in moments like this.’

Kagame, who has enjoyed support from Western donors for restoring Rwanda to stability after a 1994 genocide, is also accused by rights groups of being an autocrat and quashing political opposition to extend his 21-year presidency. A first-half strike from Sergi Canos and an early second-half goal from Christian Norgaard condemned Arsenal to an opening day defeat by the newly-promoted Brentford.



MEET THE NEW OLU OF WARRI AND HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE

Lifestyle



By:Dr. Funmi
Awoleye-Beckley
Lagos,Nigeria



Ivie Okunbo now Mrs Ivie Uhunoma Emiko is the wife of the newly crowned Olu of Warri, king Tsola Emiko who was crowned on 21st August 2021 in glamorous ceremony that was witnessed by dignitaries from all over the world.

The new King Mr Tesola Emiko is now addressed by his Royal title as the Atuwatse III of Warri Kingdom. King Tesola is an intelligent and hard-working young man. After completing his studies overseas, he came back to Nigeria to start up a successful chain of businesses. He is married to Queen Ivie Uhunoma who happens to be the daughter of a late Nigerian Billionaire named Captain Hosa Idahosa Okunbo. Unfortunately the magnanimous Businessman left the world on the 8th of August, 2021.



DAVID LAMMY FORCED TO EXPLAIN THAT BLACK PEOPLE CAN BE ENGLISH

By: Linda R. Jones
London,UK

Labour to vote against Priti Patel's anti-protest crackdown plan Priti Patel under pressure to toughen laws on hate and violence against women Barrister who refused to delete tweet calling pupil 'stropky teen of colour' sacked Government statistics error reveals lowest convictions rate in a decade Tottenham MP David Lammy slams "stupid and selfish" Spurs trio for breaking Covid rules.

Fears grow for Human Rights Act as Tories launch 'bonkers' review Small Axe viewers praise 'divine' Lovers Rock as 'best hour of TV in so long'

Fury as peer calls Kamala Harris 'The Indian' in act of 'Dark Ages-level racism' Nigel Farage branded a 'shameless opportunist' over anti-lockdown rebrand Comic Relief to stop sending famous faces to Africa following 'white saviour' row Britain's first black Archbishop to get peerage 'imminently' after row.

Workers risk being denied justice as tribunals backlog to rise as furlough ends Tough sentencing shake-up to impose 20-hour curfews and satellite monitoring.

Adele supported by Naomi Campbell amid cultural appropriation accusations Boris Johnson tries to blame 'mutant algorithm' for exam chaos at bizarre school speech.

Tony Abbott confirmed on Board of Trade despite 'homophobe and misogynist' controversy.

Johnson tries to blame 'mutant algorithm' for exam chaos at bizarre school speech.

Dawn Butler MP accuses Met Police of racial profiling after being stopped in 'nice car'

Boris Johnson's government 'dragging its feet' on tackling racism says watchdog chief

David Lammy has been the Labour MP for Tottenham since 2000.

He was appointed Shadow Justice Secretary by Keir Starmer in April 2020.





ZAMBIA ELECTION: HICHILEMA WINS LANDSLIDE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

Politics

By: Mpheza Clara Manda
Senior Correspondent
Lusaka, Zambia



Opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema secured a stunning landslide victory over Edgar Lungu in Zambia's presidential election, results showed on Monday 16 August 2021. Zambia's newly-elected president, Hakainde Hichilema, has been sworn into office after pulling off a stunning rare victory for an African opposition leader. Hichilema was inaugurated Tuesday 24 last month at a ceremony attended by leaders such as Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Malawi leader Lazarus Chakwera. Zambia's second female Vice President Mutale Nalumango was also sworn in during the ceremony.

Hichilema defeated outgoing President Edgar Lungu in a landslide by almost one million votes in his sixth attempt at becoming ruler of Zambia. There's no doubt that political winds of change were ushered in by young people who are often accused of being reluctant to vote. They turned up in high numbers and generally rejected President Edgar Lungu. "We want jobs, young people want jobs," chanted throngs of people as they filled the streets of the capital shortly after Mr Hichilema was declared the seventh president of this copper-rich nation. This will be Zambia's third transfer of power to an opposition candidate, cementing its place as one of Africa's most democratic countries, despite the widespread fears ahead of this closely fought election.

Mr Hichilema has faced problems with authorities since entering politics. After the 2016 election, he was charged with treason for allegedly failing to give way to the presidential motorcade. He spent four months in a maximum-security jail before the charges were dropped. Mr Hichilema has described himself as an ordinary “cattle boy” and has contested and lost every election held in Zambia since 2006. However, each time he has increased his share of the vote. In 2016, Mr Hichilema said the election was stolen from him after he lost to Mr Lungu by just 100,000 votes.

After initially indicating he may challenge the result, Lungu addressed the nation following the elections, saying: “Based on the revelations issued at final results, I will comply with the constitutional provisions for a peaceful transition of power. Despite conceding defeat early, Lungu was booed by some of the crowd as he made his way to the stage at the packed Heroes stadium in the capital Lusaka to hand over power.

Hichilema called Tuesday “a new dawn in Zambia,” in a tweet ahead of the ceremony. “As I sit here in our vehicle being driven to Heroes Stadium, I see the love, the joy and the jubilation as people line the streets on our way. I’m overwhelmed with gratitude. I love you all so much,” he added.

Opposition leaders from other African countries were also invited to the event. Nelson Chamisa, opposition leader in Zimbabwe, told CNN: “This is a significant and fantastic for what is possible for the future of Africa. Zambia is an inspiration to stubborn laggards in democracy. Strong institutions are key for effective power transfer and smooth transitions,” he said in a statement when asked during the inauguration. Chamisa added that Zambia is an excellent example to be emulated on the continent. “Africa in general and Zimbabwe in particular needs leaders not rulers, strong institutions - not strong men. Leaders must lead and leave, serve and go. Zimbabwe must be free and Democratic. Freedom can be delayed but never denied,” he said when asked what the message for Zimbabwe is

Mr Hichilema was born into humble beginnings in the southern district of Monze. He managed to get a scholarship to the University of Zambia, and later graduated with an MBA degree from the University of Birmingham in the UK. He went on to become one of Zambia’s richest men, with business interests in finance, ranching, property, healthcare and tourism.



World's Richest Black Man, Aliko Dangote, Could Add Another \$2 Billion to his Fortune

Politics



By:Dr. Funmi-Awoleye Beckley
Abeokuta,Nigeria



The world's richest Black man, Aliko Dangote, could add more than \$2.5 billion to his net worth depending on the terms of the sale of a 20 percent share of his oil refinery.

Reuters reported in August that Nigeria's government has approved its state oil firm the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), to buy a 20% share of Dangote's oil refinery. According to Afrotech, Timipre Sylva, the junior oil minister said in a statement NNPC will pay \$2.76 billion for the 20% share.

The NNPC told Reuters its move to work with private companies is an effort to safeguard the country's energy security and the purchase would not affect plans to refurbish its own refineries. NNPC is currently approaching banks to finance the purchase of the refinery.

The deal came together as Nigeria secures crude oil supply agreements in order to cut its foreign dependence on refined oil. Afrotech reports Nigeria is Africa's top exporter of crude oil, but the country also exclusively imports all its refined oil, due to defunct state refineries, thus the interest in Dangote's refinery.

Dangote, who was born in Kano, Nigeria, is worth more than \$12 billion according to Forbes and is overseeing the construction of what will be one of the world's largest oil refineries, which is expected to end the country's dependence on foreign refined oil. Once completed, the refinery is expected to produce 650,000 barrels of refined oil per day.

Earlier this year, Nigeria approved \$1.5 billion in spending on the refurbishment and modernization of the Port Harcourt oil refinery. The country has also approved the upgrades of the Warri and Kaduna refineries which will cost a combined \$1.4 billion.

Dangote owns 85% of Dangote Cement, which produces 45.6 million metric tons of cement per year and has more than 10 locations throughout Africa. Dangote also has investments in sugar and salt refineries which have largely contributed to his multi-billion dollar fortune.



Alexx Ekubo and Fancy Acholonu breakup: Nigerian actor Alexx, fiancée Fancy wedding engagement break.



By: Dr. Funmi Awolaye-Beckley



As shocking as it may be,-Just a few months to the marriage between Nollywood actor, Alex Ekubo and model, Fancy Acholonu, the couple has called off their engagement.

Fans were greeted with the news on Thursday, thursday 19th,2021 days after the couple was observed to have unfollowed each other on social media and also deleted their pictures together.While Alex has yet to comment on the situation, Fancy in a post on Instagram confirmed that their relationship had come to an end.

“Hey guys,I am writing to inform you all officially that I have ended my relationship and engagement and I have called off the wedding with Alexx Ekubo,” the American-born model wrote.“I am aware this may be a shock to many people.I made the best decision for myself, because it is important that everyone finds happiness and live in their truth. At this time, my family and I ask for you all to please respect our privacy. Thank you so much.”



R Kelly accused of being a ‘predator’ as sex abuse case opens in New York



By: Bunmi Johnson
New York, USA

The trial of the US R&B Superstar R. Kelly has begun at a court in Brooklyn, New York. The star is accused of racketeering, sexual abuse and bribery; charges which he has repeatedly denied. Some of the allegations made against the singer - whose full name is Robert Sylvester Kelly - date back more than 20 years.

If he is convicted on all counts he could be sentenced to several decades in prison. Kelly was back in court to hear the opening statements in his long-anticipated federal trial arising from years of allegations. He has denied the charges. As the case opened, assistant US attorney Maria Cruz Melendez said: "This case is about a predator."

Explaining the evidence to be given at the trial, Ms Melendez alleged that Kelly, 54, used his fame to abuse others. "What his success and popularity brought him was access, access to girls, boys and young women," she said. "This case is not about a celebrity who likes to party a lot." Prosecutors seem set to allege that Kelly and his entourage - which has been described in court documents as an "enterprise" - organised for his alleged victims to travel across state lines to meet him in violation of federal law.

The first witness, Jerhonda Johnson Pace, told the jury R. Kelly knew she was underage in 2009 when they had intercourse in Chicago, where the age of consent is 17.

Now 28, she testified that she had initially told Mr Kelly she was 19, but had revealed her real age on the day they had sex for the first time.

"I felt uncomfortable. I felt like it wasn't right, that I should tell him my age."

He asked me, 'What is that supposed to mean?' and told me to tell everyone I was 19 - and to act 21," said Ms Pace, who admits she had once been a fan of the singer.

Lawyers for Kelly meanwhile branded his accusers in legal documents as "disgruntled groupies" who wanted the attention of the R&B singer, and only revealed their allegations years later.

According to reports from inside the courtroom, his lawyers said he and his accusers - identified in court as "Jane Does" - "all became like a family" and "when the relationships went sour ... these individuals became angry, resentful and even spiteful".

Kelly's lawyer, Nicole Blank Becker, went on to say the allegations against her client were a "mess of lies" and that there were a number of "untruths".

Ms Becker further alleged: "He didn't recruit them. They were fans. They came to Mr Kelly" and the alleged victims enjoyed the "notoriety of being able to tell their friends that they were with a superstar".

"Don't assume everybody's telling the truth," Ms Becker told the jury. "They knew exactly what they were getting into. It was no secret Mr Kelly had multiple girlfriends. He was quite transparent."

More than a decade has passed since Kelly was acquitted in a 2008 child pornography case in Chicago. However, many of the women allegedly abused by him



came forward in the Lifetime documentary *Surviving R Kelly*. The series explored how an entourage of supporters protected Kelly and silenced his alleged victims for decades, foreshadowing a federal racketeering conspiracy case that landed Kelly in jail in 2019.

Prosecutors in Brooklyn have reportedly lined-up multiple female accusers and cooperating former associates who have never spoken publicly before about their experiences with Kelly.

They are expected to offer testimony about how Kelly's managers, bodyguards and other employees

allegedly helped him recruit women and girls – and sometimes boys – for sexual exploitation.

An anonymous jury made up of seven men and five women has been sworn in to hear the case. The trial, coming after several delays due mostly to the pandemic, will unfold under coronavirus precautions restricting the press and the public to overflow courtrooms with video feeds.



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Africa's first representation at the Children of the Universe 2021 pageant.

Entertainment

By: Albena Jones
Associate Editor
Sofia, Bulgaria



For the ninth year, Bulgaria hosted the international competition Prince & Princess of the Universe. The event takes place annually in mid-June, during the 7 days off the competition, 5 age groups of boys and girls from the five continents compete for the child of the Universe title.

Due to the global pandemic, this year the pageant was held in the Bulgarian capital Sofia, rather than at the traditional, beautiful Black seaside location. Many contestants could not take part because of the various COVID-19 travel restrictions.

The event organizer Mrs. Universe Ltd joined forces with the multi-cultural company Albena International Ltd. which promotes Africa in the EU and for the first time, we had contestants from Nigeria, Sudan, and South Sudan representing the African continent. The organizers are hopeful that things will return to normal next year and they will continue the annual tradition of holding the competition with an even bigger international presence than ever before.

Traditionally, the jury evaluates the participants in three consecutive evenings: National costumes, Talent, and Evening wear. During the last night of the Evening Wear competition round, the finalists are selected and crowned.

The main goal of Children of the Universe is to nurture creativity, confidence, and the development of social and artistic skills among the participants. Our children are our future; they are the ones that will build a better world. During the contest, children are able to communicate and learn from each other, exchanging cultural knowledge and traditional souvenirs from their countries and are given the opportunity to showcase their talent, charm, grace and beauty in a fun and loving environment, supported by their relatives, mentors, and a fantastic audience.



Restaurant
Montecito













PRINCESS
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SUPER GRAND PRIZE UNIVERSE

DIPLOMA
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and princess of the Universe
TheFountain.com

PRINCESS OF THE UNIVERSE

PRINCESS OF THE UNIVERSE











PRINCESS

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What is ArtWizard?

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

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

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

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

What is the innovation of the ArtWizard Platform?

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

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

Services offered by ArtWizard

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

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

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



NYanakiev_A_Journey_Trough_Time_



nocturno



NYanakiev_Expectation



IRussev-Summer



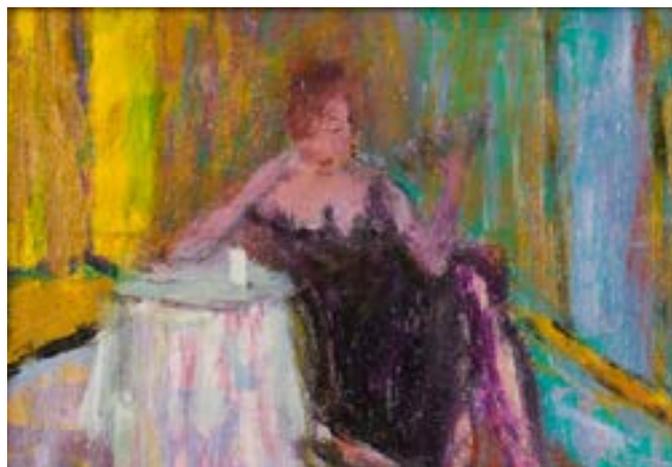
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LDimanov_The_Butterfly



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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.





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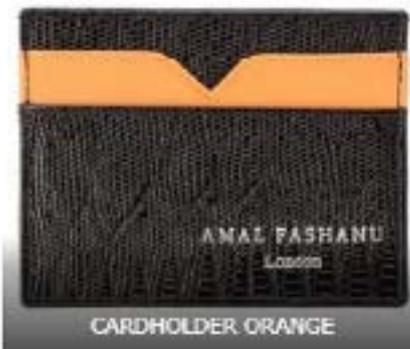
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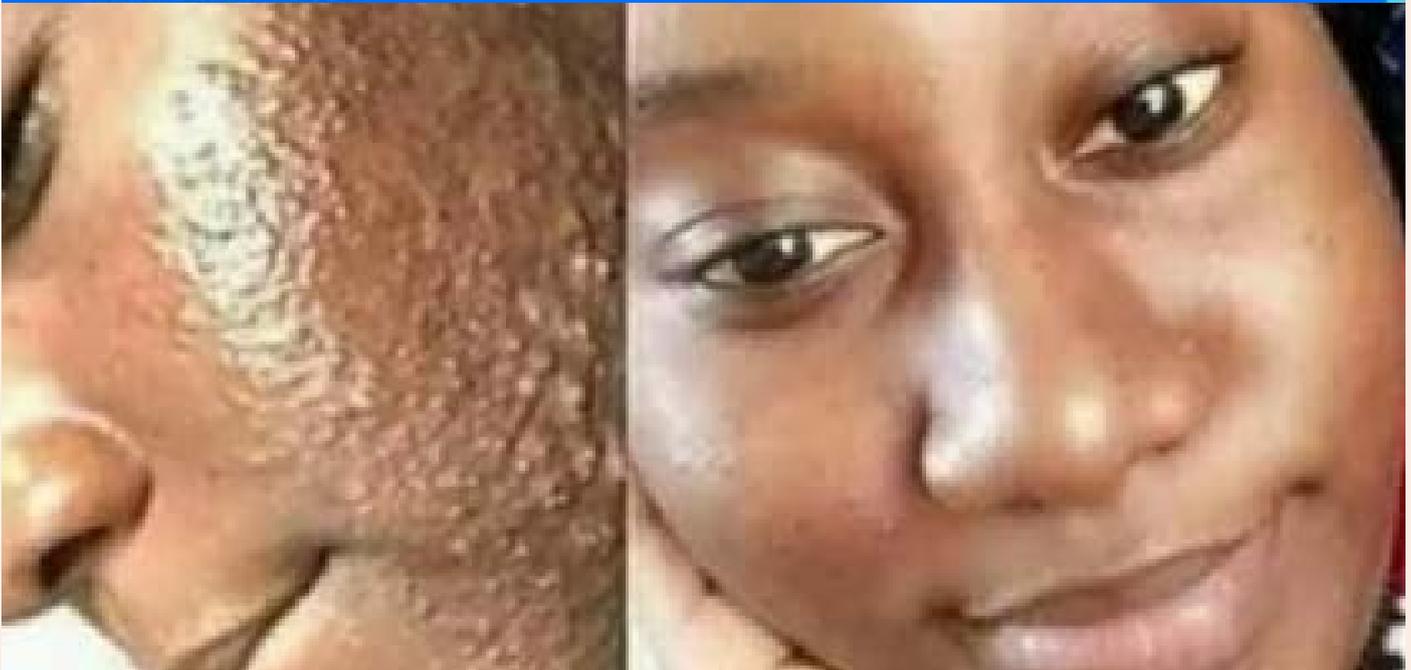
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HOW TO BECOME A BULGARIAN PERMANENT RESIDENT OR CITIZEN BY WAY OF PURCHASING PROPERTY

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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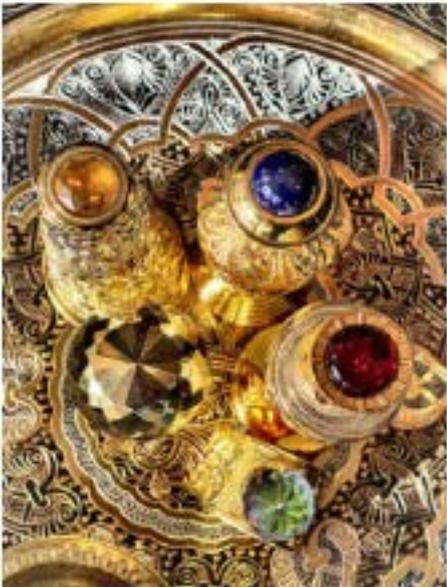


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