

# A-CHOICES

Issue Number . 16

DECEMBER, 2021

The African Lifestyle Magazine

"As women we need to have unshakable self-belief and see ourselves as just people".

An exclusive interview with  
Her Excellency

**DR JUSTINA MUTALE**

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



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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](mailto:achoices@a-choicesmagazine.com)*

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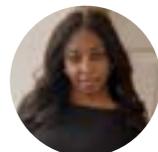
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# EDITOR'S LETTER



Welcome to the December issue of A-CHOICES Magazine, where we celebrates all that we love about being Africans. This month,Dr. Justina Mutale shared her tremendous journey across the length and breadth of the world advocating gender equality. As a gender advocate, Mutale has amassed successes in preventing gender based violence and sexual harassment, improving economic security for women, strengthening gender equality laws and a lots more.

Mutale is one of the influential and inspirational women in Africa, in 2012; she was named 'African Woman of the year' an achievement that put her on platforms with several African leaders. She is a global leader with over 30 years of experience in diplomatic and international affairs. She is a philanthropist and a bestselling author; she is also a recipient of the Mandela100 prize and Danny Glover Power of a Dream award.

As 2021 comes to an end... I want to deeply appreciate your support and consistency to reading us, we are here because you read us. To our esteem clients, thank you for advertising with us and allow us to carry on our work. Without your patronage we could not do what we do; we are indebted to you all for your backing. To my dedicated TEAM,a huge thank you to you guys. I am constantly impressed by your performance.Thank you for your hard work! Thank You Lord For Your Blessings On Me.

I also want to wish you all merry Christmas and a prosperous 2022; we hope to see you next year to enjoy incredible content and grow with us as A-Choices Magazine evolve. Remember you can always advertise with us and also catch up with us on: [www.achocesmagazine.com](http://www.achocesmagazine.com) Cheers to many happy returns. We celebrate people, we celebrate lifestyle and we celebrate African achievers.

A-CHOICES

## AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH HER EXCELLENCY Dr. JUSTINA MUTALE



By:Gbenga Teejay Okunlola  
London, UK

Her Excellency, Dr. Justina Mutale has travelled the length and breadth of the world listening to concerns about gender equality, age discrimination, domestic violence etc. As a human rights activist and gender advocate, she has achieved some significant successes in areas such as preventing violence against women and sexual harassment; balancing paid work with unpaid caring responsibilities; improving lifetime economic security for women; strengthening gender equality laws, monitoring and agencies; and promoting women's representation in leadership positions. Dr. Mutale has also facilitated the attendance at the UN of women from marginalized groups as key advocates to address issues of gender equality. She has been globally acclaimed as one of the most influential and inspirational African women. In 2012, she was named 'African Woman of the Year', sharing a platform with various African Heads of State. Dr Mutale is a global impact visionary leader with over 30 years' experience working in the diplomatic and international development setting.

She is an international development expert, in addition to being a philanthropist, international leadership expert, international keynote speaker, international guest lecturer and #1 international bestselling author of: "The Art of Iconic Leadership: Power Secrets of Female World leaders" and co-author of the highly cerebral book: "Women on Corporate Boards: An International Perspective", in addition to contributing to several other global publications and books on leadership, gender, equality, diversity and inclusion, including FORBES Magazine.

Dr Mutale has for years consistently advocated for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. She is Founder and President of the Justina Mutale Foundation and its Scholarship Programme for underprivileged African young women. A recipient of the 'MANDELA100 Prize' and the 'Danny Glover POWER OF A DREAM Award' from legendary Hollywood Actor and Humanitarian. Needless to say, that; Dr. Mutale is an embodiment of a true African Heroine.



**A-CHOICES:** Dr. Mutale, can you please tell our readers a little bit about yourself, your initiative-Justina Mutale Foundation and its Scholarship for underprivileged African young women?

Dr. MUTALE: I come from Zambia, from a background of strong, powerful, assertive women. My Foundation advocates for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in political leadership and economic empowerment by providing leadership and entrepreneurship training, mentorship and coaching. We also advocate for the retention and completion of tertiary education for young women and girls from rural and disadvantaged communities in Africa by providing them with university scholarships to access tertiary education around the world.

**A-CHOICES:** With your wealth of experience, what would you say are the dominant challenges faced by women around the globe?

DR MUTALE: A system with institutionalised discrimination against women is the dominant challenge faced by women, because the system places limitations on women's potential by restricting women's equal participation in decision-making, the work-place,

education and all other spheres of life.

**A-CHOICES:** What do you think are the solutions to these challenges?

Dr. MUTALE: The system needs to be readjusted to include women at all levels and in all spheres. Both men and women need to unlearn the social, cultural and traditional conditioning that has placed limits on women's potential. Unlearning biases and changing the stereotypes would be essential, if we are to see both genders competing on a more equal footing in all spheres of life.

**A-CHOICES:** You are doing groundbreaking in empowering girls and women and promoting gender equality around the world. What was your primary motivation behind it?

Dr. MUTALE: As indicated earlier, I come from a background of very powerful, strong and assertive women. Women who have defied the gender dynamics for centuries. On my mother's side of the family, a woman rules the kingdom. Although a man rules the kingdom on my father's side of the family, this did not stop one strong, assertive and powerful woman to rise up and form a movement that shook the political foundations of my country, Zambia.





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Also, women from my mother's tribe are given their own feminine names at birth, which they carry throughout their life, and they never assume the husband's name nor the father's name. This gives women from my mother's family ownership of the self as woman, without having to walk in the shadows of a husband or father. Prior to founding my own organisation, I worked in the Gender Section of the Commonwealth Secretariat in London. I was surprised to find that there was a fight for gender equality and that women were considered to be second to men in many spheres of life.

My degree in International Relations and Politics had enhanced my understanding of power politics and the role it plays in shaping the gender dynamics in leadership.

My further engagements with forums that address gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls such as the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women; the African Union's High-Level Panel on Gender Equality; the Commonwealth Women's Forum and several others, made me realise there was a disconnect between the policies aimed at enhancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and what was actually obtaining in reality on the ground.

I then decided to do something about this by creating my own Foundation, focused on women's leadership and the role women play in the economy, politics and society to help change mindsets and make women their own drivers of the gender agenda. I decided to bring in a different dialogue, different language, different approach and different perspective.

**A-CHOICES:** The scourge of violence against women is one of, if not the, greatest worldwide gender equality issue today. We have come from a place (Africa) where this form of violence was hidden behind closed doors and considered to be a matter between a husband and wife. What is your take?

Dr. MUTALE: Violence against women or any person for that matter should never be tolerated in any form. In any part of the world. As humans, we need to learn to talk through our problems rather than resorting to violence. Love cannot be expressed through violence, I therefore, find the idea of hiding violence behind closed doors absurd as this denies the both the victim and the perpetrator possible help to resolve the cause of the violence.

**A-CHOICES:** What is the prevalence of sexual harassment in Africa? What are the changes that you believe will best address the problem?

Dr. MUTALE: As in any other part of the world, because of institutionalised discrimination against women, men believe they have power over women, and this is what perpetuates sexual harassment in Africa and elsewhere. Both men and women need to be educated on what constitutes sexual harassment so that they are able to recognise it when it takes place. Rules, laws and regulations should be put in place to address and tackle sexual harassment.

**A-CHOICES:** What more do you think can be done to curtail the spread of HIV/AIDS among women?

Dr. MUTALE: To start with, safe sex is one of the most effective ways to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS. Women should be given the right to negotiate sex. Early child marriage should be outlawed as that also spreads the virus from the older men to the young women whom they marry. We also need a lot of sensitization campaigns aimed at stopping the spread of HIV/AIDS to let women and men know how it is spread and to let them know how not to spread it.

**A-CHOICES:** What does advancing gender equality and women's human rights in a policy context really mean? Why is it so important?

Dr. MUTALE: Statistics indicate that women form 51% of the world population. And I strongly believe that a world run on half its human capital, half its economic potential, and half its capability is one that is bound to fail. The inclusion of women's participation in all spheres of life brings the perspectives of both genders to the decision-making table. Gender equality means that men and women have equal power and equal opportunities for financial independence, education, and personal development. Gender equality, besides being a fundamental human right, is essential to achieve peaceful societies, with full human potential and sustainable development. Moreover, it has been shown that empowering women spurs productivity and economic growth. Empowered women and girls contribute to the health and productivity of their families, communities, and countries, and creates a ripple effect that benefits everyone.

**A-CHOICES:** Do you interview victims of human rights abuses?

Dr. MUTALE: I am an Ambassador for Peace, and my work is focused on

advocating against human rights abuses. My Foundation advocates for the protection and upholding of the rights of women and girls, alleviation of poverty and its feminisation, provision of quality education, personal development and improving the quality of life of women and girls; and their communities.

**A-CHOICES:** Is achieving gender equality all about women agitating for change? Or is it also getting men taking the message of gender equality out to other men as “male champions of change”?

Dr. MUTALE: Achieving gender equality means women and men working together hand in hand. It means equal participation and equality of opportunity for both men and women in all spheres of life. In advocating for gender equality, we are aiming for a 50-50 planet, where we can have the perspectives and equal contributions and participation of both genders at all high-level decision-making tables.

**A-CHOICES:** What changes in attitudes and business practices do you think are needed to facilitate work-life integration?

Dr. MUTALE: Adjusting the male work model will help to facilitate work-life integration. The world of work has for centuries and continues to be based on a male

work model, which does not take into account family life, because looking after the family has historically been considered as the preserve for women.

**A-CHOICES:** Why is gender balance and having a more diverse workforce important to you?

Dr. MUTALE: I believe it is important to take an intersectional and holistic approach to tackling workplace inequality by activating diversity and inclusion strategies and promoting diverse and inclusive work environments that empower both the male and female workforce to contribute their full potential.

Employers should ensure diversity of thought by allowing the voices and perspectives of both genders to be heard. The gender gap in the workforce should be closed and job opportunities, roles, responsibilities and remunerations should be based on merit and not on gender. We need to realise the substance and magic that equality, diversity and inclusion brings to the table by having a workforce that represents the true diversity of the world to make teams thrive.

**A-CHOICES:** Representation of women in boards and senior positions is understood to be key to progress? Why? And why are they still not there in sufficient numbers?

Dr. MUTALE: Research has shown that companies that include women on their boards are more progressive than those that do not. This is because women are adept at strategy development, improving corporate social responsibility and monitoring management. Therefore, women’s presence on boards contributes to cohesiveness and improved corporate reputation. A number of studies also indicate that gender inequalities have led to widening social inequalities, environmental degradation and high economic costs around the world.

This has been attributed to the current economic model, which is largely built on the ambitions and perspectives of men. Therefore, bringing in a variety of perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences can be key to an organization’s success. One way to bring in these diverse perspectives is through gender diversity on a board. However, despite growing numbers of female leaders and changing mindsets, leadership continues to be dominated by men and as such the leadership terrain is still considered the domain of men. You therefore, find that even in the 21st century, people still doubt the capability of women executives. Even where a woman executive has proved her capability, women leaders are never given the full credit that is due to them.

**A-CHOICES:** The United Nations has committed to achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls everywhere by 2030, What do you have to say?

Dr. MUTALE: The United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs), which have at their core gender equality and the empowerment of women as a priority, with gender equality cutting across all the 17 goals of the SDGs. The emphasis on gender equality and the empowerment of women in the SDGs indicates that the world cannot achieve any or all of the Sustainable Development Goals without securing the full and equal rights of women, who form half of the world’s population. I am a mother to a millennium baby.

My daughter was born in the year 2000; the beginning of the century. She was born at the inception of the United Nations’ very ambitious Millennium Development Goals. By the time the Sustainable Development Goals replaced the Millennium Development Goals in 2016, the young lady was already a teenage at 16 years old. This millennium baby and all other children born at the beginning of the millennium will be fully grown adults at the conclusion of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030. My millennium baby, together with her peers will be 30 years old by the year 2030.

As adults, they will be the decision makers, policy makers, business leaders and political leaders of that era. As a mother, I do not want to see my millennium baby and her peers marching for gender equality at the conclusion of the Sustainable Development Goals in the year 2030 or beyond. By 2030, my hope and prayer is that the fight for gender equality will become a thing of the past.

**A-CHOICES:** As an activist, philanthropist, what other projects have you been developing?

Dr. MUTALE: Through my work, I advocate for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in political leadership and economic empowerment by providing leadership and entrepreneurship training, mentorship and coaching. I also advocate for the retention and completion of tertiary education for young women and girls from rural and disadvantaged communities in Africa by providing them with university scholarships to access tertiary education around the world. I believe that every woman and girl has potential, and that every woman and girl should be given the tools and opportunity to excel and realise their highest potential. My work is a gift to the next generation woman, to inspire and motivate them to take up leadership roles in all spheres of life.

My Foundation advocates for the protection and upholding of the rights of women and girls, alleviation of poverty and its feminisation, provision of quality education, personal development and improving the quality of life of women and girls; and their communities.

I convene the World Summit on Women & Girls and have for years been a consistent contributor, delegate, speaker and official parallel event convener at global platforms that address women and gender issues, including the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women; African Union High-Level Panel on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls; and Commonwealth Women's Forum, in addition to various other fora that address gender issues across the globe. I am also founder of POSITIVE RUNWAY: The Global Catwalk to Stop the Spread of HIV/AIDS, a worldwide HIV/AIDS response campaign.

**A-CHOICES:** It has been repeatedly emphasized that the effect of COVID-19 the most hits women and women-led businesses. How have you been able to stay afloat, and what economic recovery come back measures would you suggest?

Dr. MUTALE: From time immemorial, women leaders have often triumphed in situations where men believed were

unwinnable. The advent of Covid-19 will go down in modern history as the era in which the power of female leadership was brought to the fore. It is a time that has proved that given the same opportunities, female leaders have what it takes to handle a crisis better than their male counterparts. In one of the toughest years that has tested the mettle of every leader, and every head of state or head of government across the globe, it is those countries that are led by women that have proved the far greater mettle in their response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the management of Covid-19 at national level, women leaders have used their uncommon sense of natural wisdom to employ a different approach than that used by their male counterparts. Women leaders used their sixth sense, soft skills, and empathetic approach to tackle the spread of the virus. This approach, which is a marked departure from the male modus operandi, resulted in completely different and better outcomes for those countries led by women. In times of crisis, women tend to deploy a sixth sense filled with a high degree of emotional intelligence, empathy, compassion, care and motherly survival instinct, which leads to more effective ways of resolving matters in any given crisis. To tackle the pandemic, women leaders went above and beyond the call of duty to protect their countries and their populations.

**A-CHOICES:** What has the Justina Mutale Foundation project achieved so far?

Dr. MUTALE: The Foundation have 4 critical programme areas which include, Advocacy; Leadership and Entrepreneurship Training; Education and Conferences. Under Leadership and Training, we run training workshops and seminars and mentorship programmes for women as well as young women and girls. We are due to launching the Justina Mutale Young Women Leaders Fellowship Programme. We have expanded the Scholarships Programme to offer a minimum of 100 Scholarships per year across the African continent. Annually, we convene the World Summit on Women and Girls, which brings together world leaders to dialogues with young women and girls to articulate the future we want. The Forum brings together African women and girls on the Continent, together with those in the African Diaspora, as well as women leaders and girls from western countries to share good practices, ideas, hopes, aspirations, and experiences; and to mentor, educate, empower, inspire and motivate one another to raise the voices of women and girls to become effective leaders in the decision-making processes in Africa and elsewhere. In terms of women's economic empowerment, we provide entrepreneurship training and mentorship to women.



**A-CHOICES:** You are an effective female leader. What drives you?

Dr. MUTALE: What really drives is my belief that it is possible for women to be effective leaders. I am blessed in that I work in an industry for which I have a natural passion. When you love what you do and enjoy your work as much as I do, and when one is focused on getting the job done without focusing on the reward, there no limit to how a far one can go. I am a born go-getter and a highly ambitious person with an insatiable drive to succeed. I therefore, work very hard to get things done. I also believe that if one wants to see one's dreams come true, one must never go to sleep! I believe that for anyone to succeed one has to work hard and put in 110% in everything they do.

Once I have a vision in my head I will do whatever it takes for that vision to become reality, despite all the obstacles that might stand in my way. I am also a very resilient person, a trait that is very important in the industry that I work, and which has been very beneficial to me in terms the area that I work in. My determination and focus for reaching and achieving my goals are some of the qualities that have driven me to be the person that I am today, and to accomplish what I have accomplished thus far.

**A-CHOICES:** What are the primary challenges you face in your work?

Dr. MUTALE: I do not see obstacles, I only focus on the goal at hand. Limiting beliefs, traditions, cultures and social conditioning have prevented many women from unleashing their full potential. I can confidently say that I am one of the lucky exceptions when it comes to negative cultural and social conditioning, as I come from a background of very positive, strong, powerful and assertive women. My mother and other women in my family background taught me that a woman has the power to lead and to shape the world. They have shown me that women are the backbone of society and the world's most potent force as natural born leaders.

**A-CHOICES:** As someone who has successfully combined family life and career advancement, what are the key lessons you have learned?

Dr. MUTALE: You know, they do say, all work and no play makes one dull person. There is the always time to relax no matter how busy one's schedule may be. It is no secret that for all of us, the 21st Century brings with it a very fast-paced world, where everyone seems to be running around in circles trying to do too many things at any given time. The digital age and onset of new technologies and smart phones appear to make time management unmanageable and complicated for many people as we find ourselves with unprecedented demands on our time, with our attention being sought from all corners of the world, in different directions, day and night via smart phones with their apps and social media and online tools of communication, through which information and messages are relayed to us 24 hours a day. And most of this communication almost always appears to be urgent or to demand our urgent attention. It may therefore, often seem that there isn't enough time in a day to do everything that one needs to do. This false perspective on time can lead to a build-up of unnecessary stress for most people. However, my attitude to time is guided by the understanding that there is a difference between "Clock Time" and "Real Time" and if one cannot tell the difference between the two, then everything else that one might try to do to manage one's time will not work to one's benefit. Based on this belief I always have time to go to the beauty spar, to go shopping, to read, to socialise, spend quality time with my children and do all the other things that I enjoy doing outside of my work.

**A-CHOICES:** You were a special guest speaker at the just concluded “Racism in Education Panel” at the Pennsylvania Medical School, USA. Please, tell us more about it?

Dr. MUTALE: The panel was convened by the University of Pennsylvania Medical School in the USA to discuss the embedded racism in education and how that impacts the progress of people of colour.

**A-CHOICES:** You were also the convener of the 2021 WORLD SUMMIT ON WOMEN & GIRLS. Under the theme: “GIRLFORCE: UNSCRIPTED AND UNSTOPPABLE”.

Dr. MUTALE: The World Summit on Women and Girls is an annual event that brings together African women and girls on the Continent, together with those in the African Diaspora, as well as women leaders and girls from western countries to share good practices, ideas, hopes, aspirations, and experiences; and to mentor, educate, empower, inspire and motivate one another to raise the voices of women and girls to become effective leaders in the decision-making processes in Africa and elsewhere. In terms of women’s economic empowerment, we provide entrepreneurship training and mentorship to women. The Summit brings together women and girls from the global north and the global south for an intergenerational dialogue on women’s leadership and change, focusing on Beijing+15 and passing on the torch to the Millennials as drivers and disruptors of equality on the journey towards 2030.

The Summit addresses the journey so far on issues pertaining to women’s empowerment, gender equality, female leadership, economic empowerment, political participation, science and technology and all other sphere of life. It looks at the successes, failures, challenges, opportunities, realities on the ground, new ideas and emerging issues in the area of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to articulate the future we want and chart a way forward for the next 10 years towards the conclusion of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030, and the achievement of a 50-50 Planet.

**A-CHOICES:** What would be your advice to President Hakainde Hichilema on crackdown on press freedom and civil liberties in Zambia?

Dr. MUTALE: Zambia is a democracy, and our President is a strong proponent of press freedom and civil liberties. Therefore, Zambian citizens are accordingly availed their civil liberties with no undue restrictions within the limits of the law.

**A-CHOICES:** How do you want the already warm relations between Washington and Lusaka to be under President Hakainde Hichilema leadership?

Dr. MUTALE: Zambia shares the democratic ideals of the USA. The warm relationship with Washington is a step in the right direction and of mutual benefits to both countries.

**A-CHOICES:** What role do you think Zambia can play in promoting democracy within the SADC’s region and by extension Africa?

Dr. MUTALE: Zambia has always been in the lead when it comes to democracy in the SADC region and Africa as a whole. Zambia was the first African country to introduce multi-party democracy. Since then, every leader in Zambia has been democratically elected. SADC member countries and other countries in Africa can learn from Zambia’s democratic ideals.

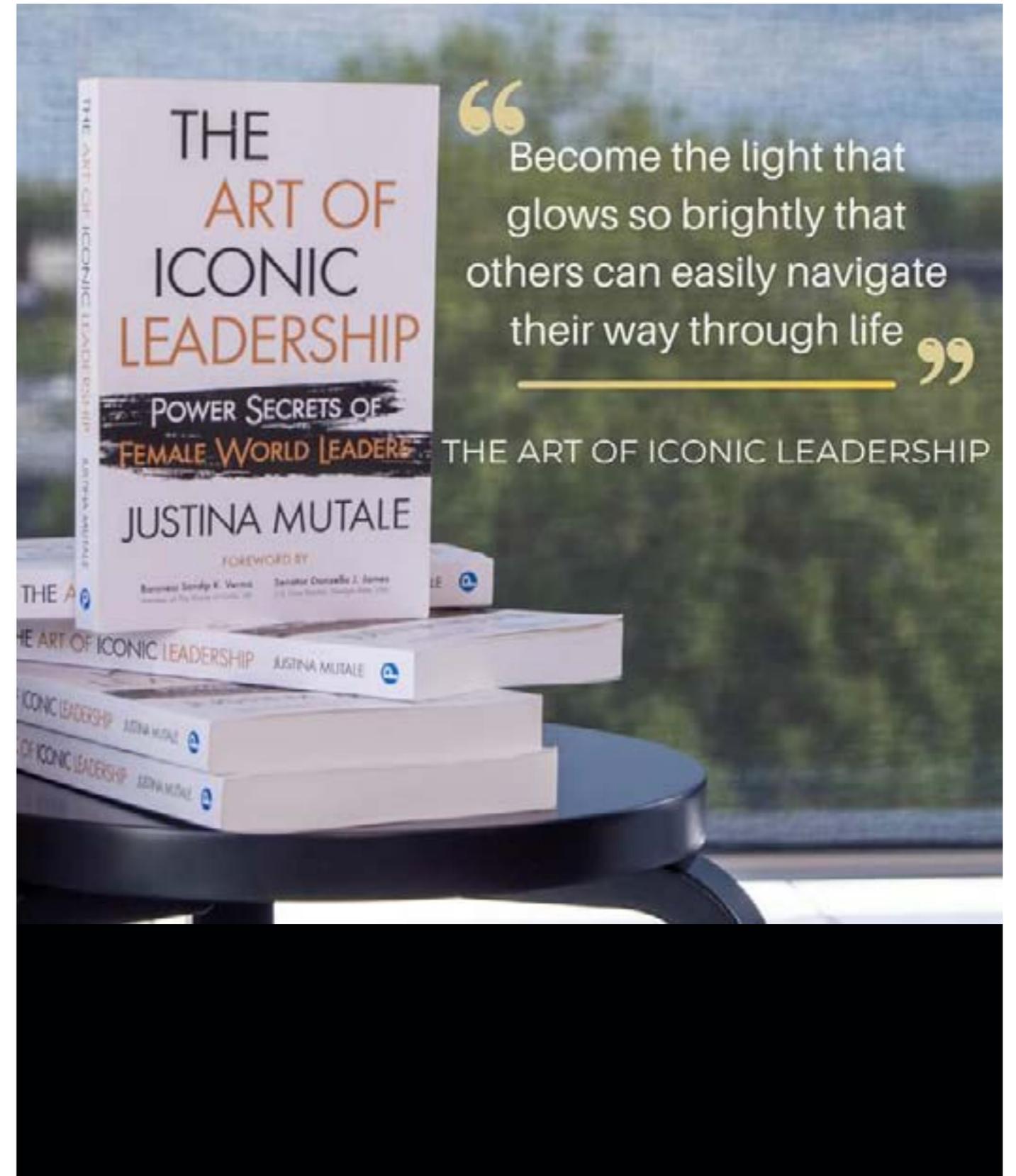
**A-CHOICES:** What one piece of advice would you give any aspiring female professionals reading this?

Dr. MUTALE: I would advise aspiring female professionals to look within themselves, because women have all the necessary traits required for one to be an influential leader or professional. This is because women are blessed with limitless inner strength, natural instincts and natural wisdom. Aspiring female professionals should horn in on the high emotional intelligence that they possess, which connects them to the needs, concerns and hopes of their communities, and this makes women adept at leading in crisis. In dealing with their teams, women leaders should deploy their sixth sense and horn in on their emotional intelligence, empathy, compassion, care and survival instinct. They need to be versatile and utilise their agility to adapt and handle different waves that come at them from all directions and should strive to ensure they know their purpose and operate from that purpose.

**A-CHOICES:** What is your message to the people of Zambia

Dr MUTALE: My message to the Zambian people is to always remember and live by our country's motto: "One Zambia One Nation". To always remember that we are a nation that is built on peace, love, harmony and unity and to always live as one big happy human family.





“ Become the light that glows so brightly that others can easily navigate their way through life ”

THE ART OF ICONIC LEADERSHIP

## TWO MEN CAUGHT SMUGGLING GUNS INTO UK

By: Janet Adams

Guest writer

London, UK

Keston Joseph (left) and Dion Roberts (right) have been convicted, along with a third man from Birmingham

Two men from Coventry have been convicted of running a mail order gun service after a trial at Birmingham Crown Court.

The National Crime Agency launched an investigation after two semi-automatic pistols and hollow-point bullets were intercepted at Coventry Airport on January 24, 2020. Border Force officers recovered the weapons, which had been concealed in an electronic safe in a package labelled as car parts, sent from Orlando, Florida.

The parcel was addressed to a 'John Bob Walton' in Cambridge.

Five days later, a man claiming to be Walton called Parcelforce asking where it was. NCA investigators traced the number back to Dion Roberts, 33, from Lodge Green Lane, Meriden, Coventry.

Roberts and a second man, Keston Joseph, 33, from Broad Street, Foleshill, Coventry, were stopped by NCA officers, supported by West Midlands Police, on January 31, 2020 while driving on King William Street in Coventry. Both were arrested.

Joseph was released under investigation but Roberts was remanded in custody and his phone seized. Analysis of his messages showed that he had arranged the importation with a contact known as 'Shotta' who was based in Florida.

The messages also showed that they had successfully imported another semi-automatic pistol two weeks prior to Roberts' arrest, using the same method. In audio messages, Roberts instructed Shotta to send the weapon in a safe that was insulated with carbon paper and to "just show them as car parts innit".

He also assured him: "We make a lot o' money bro. We make a lot of paper, a lotta lotta o' paper there to be made."

## Crime

When arranging the second importation, Roberts asked Shotta to include five rounds of ammunition with each gun. Shotta warned against this as he thought they would give off a 'certain smell', but Roberts told him this wouldn't matter due to the insulation in the safe.

Roberts and Joseph collected the package containing the first weapon on January 11, 2020. Officers recovered a photo from Joseph's phone of him holding the gun, which had been taken that morning.

Phone records showed that following this, Roberts and Joseph were actively searching for buyers while simultaneously organising the shipment of the second package.

Roberts made contact with the third man, Dashan Caines, 46, from Falcon Lodge Crescent, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, to bring him in on the conspiracy. Communication between the three men was ongoing and the investigation revealed they had travelled together to hide the safe.

With Roberts in custody and evidence secured against his co-conspirators, NCA armed officers arrested Caines and Joseph on March 5, 2020.

The safe was recovered two months later, hidden in a bush near Roberts' home with the firearm still inside.

When NCA forensic scientists analysed the weapon, they discovered Caines' DNA on it.

At Birmingham Crown Court, Caines and Joseph were found guilty of conspiring to acquire and sell prohibited weapons and ammunition following a five week trial. Roberts pleaded guilty to the offences at an earlier hearing. All three men will be sentenced at the same court on a date to be confirmed.

NCA Branch Commander Mick Pope said: "These men planned to build a business on selling illegal weapons to other criminals.

"They saw this only as a money-making scheme, paying no consideration to the danger firearms pose to the public.

"Criminals who own firearms – often those linked to the supply of illegal drugs – use them to instil fear, inflict violence and, in some cases, to kill." The success of this investigation reinforces our commitment to protect the public and tackle this threat.

"We will continue to work with key partners, such as Border Force, to prevent illegal firearms from entering the UK."



## NICOLA ADAMS REVEALS SHE SLEPT WITH A HAMMER TO DEFEND HERSELF.

Andrew Collins  
Guest writer  
London,UK



## Sports

Nicola Adams has revealed that she slept with a hammer under her pillow as a child to defend herself from her mother's abusive partner.

The boxing champion, 39, grew up on a council estate in Leeds and suffered abuse from her father, Innocent, before her mother, Denver, started dating another abusive man.

She has now told The Sun: 'It was horrible. I couldn't understand why it had happened, and I remember asking my mum: "How have we ended up in this situation again?" I'd been through a lot already, and this guy was a lot bigger than my dad. I knew there was no way I'd be able to stop him if anything serious happened.' It was then when she decided that she would have to sleep with a hammer under her pillow so she could defend herself and her mother.

Although he wasn't abusive towards her, Nicola still felt scared. She went on to say: 'One night I'd just had enough. I went downstairs and took the hammer and said: "You need to leave the house now or I'm going to use it." 'I remember I was scared. I didn't know what was going to happen, I just knew I had to do something.

As soon as I had, I was thinking: "Oh c\*\*p, I'm here now, and I don't know what's going to happen."

After this, she followed him to the car with the weapon and made sure he wouldn't come back to their home before throwing a brick through his car window as he drove away. Nicola spent most of her childhood scared of her father because he would lash out at her with a fist or belt for just being late home.

It was because of this that she got used to feeling scared and sad most of the time, and has since had to have trauma therapy.



## Fans Call for Will and Jada Interviews to Stop: "Enough is enough".

# Entertainment

Bunmi Johnson  
New York, USA



Ever since the infamous entanglement with August Alsina, Jada and Will Smith have been on a mission to expose all the details about their marriage that most people would keep private. The couple will literally talk about intimate details of their love life on any major platform, from The Red Table Talk to The Oprah Conversations, and they truly leave nothing to the imagination. Most fans are always excited when celebs let them into their private lives, but when it comes to the Smiths, peeps are wholeheartedly rejecting the invitation.

Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith seem to be the only celebs who could get fans to ask them to keep their business to themselves. After countless interviews and many personal details about their marriage being shared, followers have come together to say "enough is enough".

Just recently, E! News reported that Will Smith sat down with Oprah and spoke about the steamy hot early days when he and Jada started dating.

He mentioned that for the first few months of their relationship, all they did was drink and get intimate with each other until it got to a point where he worried he could never satisfy her. Before that, Revolt reported that Jada sat down with Gwyneth Paltrow on her social media talk show and also shared some saucy details about their intimacy. She spoke about their struggle to maintain a healthy intimate life.

It was reported that Will Smith and his wife Jada Pinkett Smith are not too shy to share very intimate information about their relationship. Will recently went on The Oprah Conversations and did exactly that.

The Fresh Prince reminisced on the beginning stages of his relationship with his wife as he gushed about their connection. News24 reports that while discussing what he wrote in his memoirs about the begging stages of his relationship with Jada, Will nostalgically spoke about the intense sexual connection they had. He said the two of them were very big on having a great time.

He said that for four months straight, the majority of what they did was drunk and have get intimate multiple times a day.

Meanwhile, the actor, who starred alongside his son in the box office dud After Earth, revealed how he felt his son was "betrayed" by his father's actions after it was Will who had "coached" him through the film. "After Earth was an abysmal box office and critical failure, and what was worse was that Jaden took the hit.

Fans and the press were absolutely vicious; they said and printed things about Jaden that I refuse to repeat. Jaden had faithfully done everything that I'd instructed him to do, and I had coached him," he wrote in his new memoir, Will.

"We never discussed it, but I know he felt betrayed. He felt misled, and he lost his trust in my leadership," the father-of-three-continued. Will is father to Jaden, 23, 21-year-old daughter Willow, 21, and son Trey, 29.



## FW de Klerk: South Africa's last apartheid president dies at 85.

By: Andrew Collins  
Guest Writer  
London,UK

FW de Klerk, the former president of South Africa and the last white person to lead the country, has died. The 85-year-old had been diagnosed with cancer earlier this year. He came to power in 1989 under apartheid, a system of legalised racism, but later became a key figure in the transition to democracy.

He ordered Nelson Mandela's release from prison, leading to historic polls where the anti-apartheid leader became the first black president. De Klerk shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Mandela for helping to negotiate an end to apartheid. But his legacy divides opinion in South Africa.

Following his death, the FW de Klerk Foundation released a video recording - dubbed his "final message" - in which he talks about apartheid.

"Let me today, in the last message repeat: I, without qualification, apologise for the pain and the hurt, and the indignity, and the damage, to black, brown and Indians in South Africa," he says.

The foundation said De Klerk had died peacefully at his home following his struggle against mesothelioma - a cancer that affects the lining of the lungs.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said De Klerk's death "should inspire all of us to reflect on the birth of our democracy".

### Ending apartheid

After working for more than a decade as a lawyer, De Klerk won a parliamentary seat for the National Party, which had introduced the system of apartheid in 1948. He served in several ministerial posts before taking over as the head of the party in February 1989, and months later becoming president. De Klerk had been a firm believer in apartheid, but after coming to power he publicly called for a non-racist South Africa.

## Politics



In a famous speech to parliament in 1990, he announced that he was removing the ban on parties that included Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and said he was ordering Mandela's release from prison after 27 years.

His actions helped bring an end to apartheid-era South Africa, and he became one of the country's two deputy presidents after the multi-party elections in 1994 that saw Mandela become president. De Klerk retired from politics in 1997, saying: "I am convinced it is in the best interest of the party and the country."

### 'Uneven legacy'

Although the relationship between De Klerk and Mandela was often punctuated by bitter disagreements, the new president described the man he succeeded as someone of great integrity.

In a statement on Thursday, the Nelson Mandela Foundation said De Klerk would “forever be linked to Nelson Mandela in the annals of South African history”.

“De Klerk’s legacy is a big one. It is also an uneven one, something South Africans are called to reckon with in this moment,” it added.

Many have blamed De Klerk for violence committed against black South Africans and anti-apartheid activists during his time in power.

Last year, he became embroiled in a row in which he was accused of playing down the seriousness of apartheid, after saying he was “not fully agreeing” with a presenter who asked him to confirm that it was a crime against humanity. De Klerk later apologised for “quibbling” over the matter.

Human rights lawyer Howard Varney described him as an “apologist for apartheid”, while the Fort Calata Foundation - which campaigns for justice for people killed by the former white-minority regime - called him an “apartheid criminal”.

In the video message released following his death, De Klerk said he had on many occasions “apologised for the pain and the indignity that apartheid has brought to persons of colour in South Africa”.

In his message, Mr Ramaphosa praised De Klerk for the “vital role” he played in South Africa’s transition to democracy, despite “severe pressure to the contrary from many in his political constituency”.

South Africa’s main opposition party, the Democratic Alliance, said De Klerk’s contribution to the country’s transition to democracy could not be overstated.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said De Klerk would be remembered for his “steely courage and realism in doing what was manifestly right”.



## Kanye West says Kim Kardashian is 'still' his wife.

# Entertainment

By:Janet Adams  
Guest writer  
London,UK

In an interview recorded earlier in October for Revolt TV's Drink Champs, Kanye West said he and Kim Kardashian were 'still' married because their divorce hadn't been finalized. The 44-year-old rapper claimed he hadn't even seen the divorce papers despite Kim filing earlier this year.

The hitmaker lashed out at 'Cancel Culture' and defended Marilyn Manson, who was featured on his Donda album after being accused of sexual assault by multiple women. Kanye shared rare praise for his friend-turned-foe Drake but also shared his worries that his fellow rapper might have had an affair with Kim.

The Jesus Walks rapper admitted he hadn't

received a second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine. Kanye confirmed he still supported Donald Trump: 'I've still got a red hat on today, I'll let y'all know that'

Kanye West revealed he wants to stay together with estranged wife Kim Kardashian as he touched on his divorce, friendship with accused rapist Marilyn Manson and his ongoing feud with rapper Drake in a candid chat on Revolt TV's Drink Champs on Thursday.

In the interview, which is believed to have been filmed in October, Kanye spoke about his split from his wife of seven years, detailing the impact the impending divorce has had on himself and their four children.



The rapper, 44, insisted he was 'not even divorced' and hadn't seen the divorce papers yet - despite Kim filing to end their marriage in February - adding: 'I want us to be together'. The couple share four young children: North, eight, Saint, five, Chicago, three, and Psalm, two, and Kanye added that the divorce had been difficult for them as they wanted their parents to stay together.

During the rambling interview, which featured numerous digressions and left turns, Kanye discussed the jokes Kim made about their split when she hosted Saturday Night Live last month.

In her opening monologue, Kim, 41, quipped: 'when I divorced him, you have to know it came down to just one thing: his personality.'



## Frank Bruno rekindles romance with ex-lover Nina Coletta.

# Entertainment

Linda R. Jones  
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London,UK



BOXING legend Frank Bruno is said to have recently rekindled his romance with an old flame who has helped his mental health recovery. Nina Coletta dated the ex-heavyweight champ for four years until 2016.

According to friends, "they grew close again when Frank, 59, "reached out" after he was admitted to hospital following a relapse in his fight with bipolar disorder.

Nina, 56, who runs a hairdressing business in Glasgow, has been splitting her time between her home in Scotland and Frank's in Bedfordshire.

A source said: "Frank is in a great place right now and Nina is a big part of that. She's been really supportive and Frank is happier than he's been in a long time." The dad of four wrote of his latest health battle in 60 Years a Fighter, out this month.

Our source said Nina, who joined him at the Pride of Britain awards last week, told Frank the book would be an important step in opening up about his feelings. They added: "Frank was proud to take her to the awards where she met his friends." Frank won the WBC heavyweight crown in 1995 but struggled after retiring and split from wife Laura in 2001.

Last month he told The Sun on Sunday lockdown led to his relapse, which saw him sectioned in June last year. His charity The Frank Bruno Foundation is holding a fundraising ball on November 12 to help others battling with their mental health.



## MAINA GOES TO JAIL.

By:Kangmwa Gofwen  
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## Politics



Just as the Fuji house of commotion is filled with drama, so also is Nigeria. This very episode in the Nigerian house of commotion started way back October 25th, 2019 when the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC arraigned Mr. Abdulrasheed Maina former chairman of the defunct Pension Reform Task Team PRTT.

Mr. Maina and his firm Common Input Property and Investment Ltd were arraigned before Justice Okon Abang on 12 counts bordering on money laundering to the tune of N2 billion. Typical of every accused, Maina pleaded “not guilty” to the charges level against him.

The episode got more interesting when Maina jumped bail the gracious court granted him and fled to neighboring Niger Republic. While Maina was jumping his bail, his surety Ali Ndume, senator representing Borno South was remanded for failing to provide the defendant. Ndume was granted bail from the Kuje Correctional Center five days later. Interestingly, Maina was appointed the chairman of PRTT to ‘cleanup a pension mess’ in the office of the Head of Service of the Federation in 2010. Apparently, Maina is a mess himself and needed a task force to carry a reform on him.

When the word ‘pension’ is mentioned what immediately comes to mind are pictures of old civil servants that worked diligently for 35 years and are deserving of good welfare after retirement. Unfortunately those are the set of people Maina decided to rob instead of doing the job he was appointed to do.

Several pensioners have had to go through horrible experiences because of lack of payment of what is due them. And someone had a filled time toying with the resources others have labored for over the years. It’s unfortunate that the likes of Maina are spread everywhere in government.

However, with the aid of the warrant of arrest issued by the presiding judge, Maina was apprehended by security agencies in Niger and brought back to Nigeria in December last year. And yes, the commotion continued. Barely three weeks after his capture, Maina filed for a fresh bail (you’d wonder where they get their guts from) on grounds of his deteriorating health.



It is worthy of note that Maina Jumped bail and fled to Niger without passport as both his American and Nigerian passports were seized by the court as part of the bail conditions granted him earlier. How convenient it was for him to carry the corruption everywhere. Maina was in jail till the end of his trial on November 8.

The judgement delivered by Justice Okon Abang found Maina guilty on all the 12 count charge the EFCC leveled against him and his company Common Input Property and Investment Ltd. According to News Agency of Nigeria NAN, the judge sentenced Maina to various jail terms ranging from three to eight years which are running concurrently.

Maina was jailed three years for count-1, five years for count-2, eight years for count-3, eight years for count-4, two years for count-5, five years for count-6, and eight years for count-7.

He also was sentenced to three years for count-8, five years for count-9, and eight years for count 10, three years for count 11 and three years for 12. Justice Okon said Maina's imprisonment shall run concurrently beginning from October 25th, 2019 the date he was arraigned. Maina will now spend the longest sentence of eight years in jail.

At last karma has caught up with the klepto-Maina and the pensioners have gotten justice and some sort of closure knowing that the person responsible for some of their predicaments is thrown in jail.

But the episode did not just end there, usually when convicts are served their sentence, fear, regret and remorse are written all over their faces. They hide their face in shame because of the disgrace they have brought upon themselves and of course family and friends.

Instead, Maina was seen laughing and waving to 'admirers' like a champion that won a trophy from a tournament after so much hard work. Maina was cheerfully walking to the prison van waiting outside the court room; one will wonder, is there something we are not aware of? Or was Maina's reaction a sheer mockery to the corrupt judicial system?

Sadly, the very organ responsible for enforcing lawfulness is also corrupt. According to a report by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Commission ICPC, indicated that the judiciary is on top of the Nigerian corruption index between 2018 and 2020. A year later, has the judiciary been reformed or was Maina smiling at a system just as corrupt as he is?

Regardless of what this may seem, Maina the kleptoMaina has gotten a fraction of what he deserves and we just hope that he serves the sentence and doesn't jump anything because it seems his hobbies includes jumping and taking things that belong to others.

## TWENTY-TWENTY-ONE: CHEERS TO NEW BEGINNINGS

By:Kangmwa Gofwen  
Lagos Bureau Chief  
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Twenty-twenty-one was a blend of an incredible and trying year for a lot of people, the Covid-19 pandemic jumped into the year and we have been battling with the different variants that keep popping up.

Everyone had a fair share of some dramas especially in the entertainment industry. Shows were put on hold because of the social distancing that came with the pandemic hence people had so much time to troll and chase clouts up and down on social media.

The year is coming to an end and it seems we are ending the year with good tidings. It's the yuletide season and the atmosphere is filled with love and warmth and the entertainment industry is not left behind; love and reconciliation is everywhere in the air.

## Entertainment



The feud between P-Square that lasted four years was buried some weeks ago as the twins celebrated their 40th birthday together. You would recall that in 2017 the twin brothers went solo after singing together for over a decade.

It is not clear yet if the brothers are back to singing together or not however, fans have express joy over their comeback and are expecting more hit songs from them.

Also, Annie Idibia on November 13th her 37th birthday apologized to her husband Innocent Idibia popularly known as 2Baba for "throwing him out there".

In September Annie Idibia called out her husband 2Baba over alleged infidelity. The actress and wife of the music superstar accused him of fleeing to the United State to meet with his baby mama Pero Adeniyi.

Annie also accused the Idibia's for not being supportive to her since she married their son. 2Baba was able to manage his family feud even after his wife brought it out on social media. Meanwhile on her 37th birthday weeks after, Annie made a heart melting post on her Instagram handle, "I let a lot of people down, especially the people close to me" she wrote on her handle.



"I have gone from being so angry to being so broken and back to anger and then sadly, which I am ashamed to admit, suicidal. I have acted so badly in a way I am not proud of.

"I allowed my emotions to cloud me, I allowed my emotions to lead me into making bad decisions, and I allowed my anger and emotions to make me act on something that wasn't true because I was kept in the dark. I want to apologize to my husband, Inno I am so sorry I threw you out there like I did, (so unwise) that isn't the kind of woman you married.

"Totally sorry for the entire mental stress and heart break it caused you, so sorry I put both our families out there the way I did. (I still be your smallie oo). To my beautiful mothers, my amazing mother and my beautiful mother in-law I am so sorry I let both of you down, no mother should go through the kind of pain that you both felt. I am really sorry (I am still your baby). I am far from perfect, but I have decided to choose peace and I wanna do better given the chance. "to both my families, Macaulay's and the Idibia's, I am sorry for all the pain and disrespect towards both families, please forgive me, una no fit throw away una pikin oo.

To all my 7.1 plus family out here thank you for still standing and supporting me and my brands.

To all the brands that are working with us, thank you for still sticking with your NKOYO ooo, to the ones we are in talks with, I appreciate. To my online in-laws wey I carry mata come give thanks for all the love bashing and rebuking I have learnt, I no go do am again. All I want for my birthday is peace. Annie Macaulay Idibia”



Meanwhile it was a beautiful sight to behold as Joke Silva stood lovingly to support her ailing husband Olu Jacobs during the Africa International Film Festival Awards (AFRIFF) where he won the lifetime achievement award.

Olu Jacobs was seen trying to give a hand shake to his wife mistaking her to be among the award presenters, Joke instead gave him a heartwarming hug.

The veteran actor has been off the screen for a while and only resurfaced during the award. It was revealed days after by his wife that he suffers dementia with lewy body and it has been going on for some years now. Their love story has been the talk of town for many, its inspiring to see that love is winning.

What better way to end the year than receiving gifts from those who love and support you? Music star David Adeleke popularly known as Davido has received a whopping N200 million cash gifts from fans and colleagues.

The hip-hop star requested 100 million from fans and friends to mark his birthday. Minutes after publishing his account on social media, he was aloof with the response he got. David amassed N200 million in two days.

For each donation he received, Davido posted on both his Instagram and Twitter handles. He expressed a high level of transparency as he also posted alerts which showed how fast the numbers multiplied.

At the end of the challenge, he revealed that he will be donating the amount gotten to orphanages across Nigeria. He went further to add N50 million making a sum total of N250 million and also set up a five man committee to oversee the disbursement of the funds across boards.

The committee is made up of Mrs Titi Adebayo as chairman of the team, Professor Jonathan Nwosu secretary, Professor Yahana Joel Asabe of the Northern Nigerian Seventh Day Adventist Union Conference, Pastor Oyalabu of Spring Time Development Foundation, and Professor Uloma Onuoha.

Several reactions have trailed the decision of the hip-hop star to donate to the orphanage. He has also said it will be a yearly activity and prays the support of friends and fans. What better way to end the year. Cheers to new beginnings as we look forward to having a rewarding year.



# Malcolm X's daughter Malikah Shabazz was found dead in her home.

## Lifestyle



Bunmi Johnson  
Bureau-Chief,  
New York, USA



A daughter of Malcolm X was found dead Monday November 22, 2021 inside her Brooklyn home. Malikah Shabazz, 56, was discovered by her daughter inside the Midwood residence at about 4:40 p.m., the sources said.

Investigators do not suspect foul play, sources said. An autopsy will determine Shabazz's cause of death. NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea said that Shabazz had been "ill for a period of time" but didn't elaborate.

"At this point in time, working with other authorities, the medical examiner, and speaking to the family, she had been ill for a period of time, and at this point, nothing appears suspicious," Shea told PIX11. He added that cops were "absolutely not" looking for a suspect.

Dr. Betty Shabazz was pregnant with Malikah and her twin sister, Malaak, when their father Malcolm was assassinated. Malikah Shabazz and her twin sister, Malaak, are the youngest of six daughters of Malcolm X and his wife, Betty Shabazz. The twins were born seven months after the civil rights activist was killed.

Shabazz had several run-ins with the law over the years. She and her daughter, Bettih Shabazz, were arrested in a Walmart parking lot in Maryland in January 2017 on animal cruelty charges. Several injured dogs were found subjected to "inhumane conditions" inside a stolen U-Haul truck the pair were driving.

Bernice King, the daughter of Civil Rights activist Martin Luther King Jr., expressed condolences on Twitter. "I'm deeply saddened by the death of Malikah Shabazz. My heart goes out to her family, the descendants of Dr. Betty Shabazz and Malcolm X."

### MEN EXONERATED

A New York State court judge dismissed first-degree murder convictions of two men who served over two decades in prison for killing Malcolm X in 1965. Muhammad A. Aziz, alive and living in Brooklyn at age 83, and Khalil Islam, who died at 74 in 2009, were exonerated after a lengthy 22-month investigation revealed the New York DA, the FBI and other law enforcement hid evidence that would have led to their acquittal. "I'm an 83-year-old man who was victimized by the criminal justice system," Aziz said to the court before he was exonerated. Ellen Biben, the New York County Supreme Court Judge presiding over the case, agreed with his statement.

"I regret that this court cannot undo the serious miscarriage of justice," she said. "There can be no question that this is a case that cries out for fundamental justice."

## #LekkiGenocide



By: Dr. Funmi  
Awoleye-Beckley  
Abeokuta, Nigeria

# Politics



"Its bombshell report -- which took more than a year to produce -- accuses Nigerian Army officers of having "shot, injured and killed unarmed helpless and defenseless protesters, without provocation or justification, while they were waving the Nigerian Flag and singing the national anthem and the manner of assault and killing could in context be described as a massacre"

-CNN

Who is DJ Switch?

DJ Switch is a Nigerian DJ and music artist whose real name is Obianuju Catherine Udeh.

DJ Switch was born in Udi town in Enugu State. She had most of her childhood in Warri, Delta State and later moved to Abuja. She is currently based in Lagos. DJ Switch is the last child in a family of eight children. Her father is late.

Education

DJ Switch attended the University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT) in Rivers State where she graduated with a degree in Geology.

DJ Switch's DJ Career

DJ Switch gained fame and popularity after she emerged the winner of the maiden and only edition of the Glo X-Factor talent show in 2013. Following her Glo X Factor win, DJ Switch was signed to Sony Music and later endorsed by Peter Okoye's P-Classic record label.

Before contesting in Glo X-Factor, DJ Switch was part of a music band called Da Pulse. The group consisting of six members including DJ Switch won the 2009 edition of the reality music competition, Star Quest and was awarded a cash prize of N3.6 million and another N7.5 million in recording contract plus other rewards.

DJ Switch as a musical artiste

Obianuju Catherine Udeh aka DJ Switch is a multi-talented creative artist. Besides her DJ work, DJ Switch is also a singer, rapper and songwriter.

DJ Switch's songs and discography

DJ Switch has rerecorded over a dozen songs both personally and in collaboration with other artistes. Some of DJ Switch's most notable songs include:

1. So Tey
2. Whine
3. Makusa
4. Clap For Them
5. Step
6. Gun Gun
7. Bad Man
8. Baby O
9. Koma
10. My Body
11. Give Me More

#### DJ Switch's Awards and Nominations

DJ Switch has been nominated for several reputable awards. She was a nominee of the City People Entertainment Award for Most Promising Act of the Year (Female). DJ Switch won the City People Award for Best Female DJ in 2016.

DJ Switch was featured in a 2018 CNN editorial titled: Nigeria's female DJs spinning against stereotypes.

#### DJ Switch's Family, Husband and Children

DJ Switch is not yet married and does not have a husband. As a single mother, DJ Switch's is raising her child alone. DJ Switch said in a 2013 interview with Encomium Magazine: "My baby is eight and I would rather keep the identity of the child's father private." DJ Switch's daughter is currently fifteen years old.

#### Other interesting facts about DJ Switch

DJ Switch left her well-paying job with the oil company Halliburton to pursue a career in entertainment.

On August 29, 2020, DJ Switch was invited to the BBNaija Season 4 'Lockdown' show as a guest DJ for the Saturday night party. For two hours, DJ Switch thrilled the BBNaija Lockdown housemates and viewers of the show with her exceptional DJ skills.



## UB40 former member Astro dies after short illness.

Linda R. Jones  
London,UK



Terence Wilson, a founding member of UB40 who was known by fans of the pioneering reggae band as Astro, has died following a short illness.

He was 64. Wilson's death was confirmed on the official Twitter page for his group, UB40 featuring Ali Campbell & Astro.

"We are absolutely devastated and completely heartbroken to have to tell you that our beloved Astro has today passed away after a very short illness," the statement read. "The world will never be the same without him."

## Entertainment

UB40 formed in Birmingham, England in the late 1970s, when reggae was becoming an outlet for the country's working class youth to express their feelings about issues including racism and poverty. UB40 took their name from the British unemployment benefits card, a form they replicated as the cover of their 1980 debut album *Signing Off*.

"I went through the same rigmarole as most black people in the late 70s," Wilson told *The Guardian* in an interview in May, referencing the era's stop-and-frisk "sus law," which often unfairly targeted men of color. "It was a weekly occurrence. We found it harder to write love songs than militant lyrics, because it was a lot easier to write about stuff you had witnessed or read about. It seemed natural to us."

In 2013 Wilson left UB40 and formed his own version of the band alongside former members Ali Campbell and Mickey Virtue. "Since Astro rejoined my band, it's been a renaissance for us," Campbell said in a 2016 interview. "Me and Astro is enough to make the fans happy, they're voting with their feet."

Wilson and Campbell continued to release music and perform, and were planning a 2022 tour for their last album, *Unprecedented*, up until Wilson's death.

Earlier this year, another founding member of UB40, the group's saxophonist and songwriter Brian Travers, also died following a battle with cancer.

He acquired his nickname as a child because he wore a pair of Dr Martens boots with the model name "Astronaut", the musician explained in a 2016 interview with website *UK Music Reviews*. "Fortunately, no one called me astronaut because it is rather a mouthful so they shortened it to Astro and it has stuck ever since," he added. Asked how he felt about touring and performing live, Astro said: "There is no job on this planet that gives you the job satisfaction that I get. I live to be on stage."



## Saif al-Islam Gaddafi disqualified from standing in Libya election.

Linda R. Jones

London,UK

Libya's election commission has said in a press release that Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, the son of the former ruler and a strong candidate in December's planned presidential election, was ineligible to run, compounding the turmoil surrounding the vote. Gaddafi was one of 25 candidates that the commission disqualified in an initial decision pending an appeals process that will ultimately be decided by the judiciary. Ninety-eight Libyans registered as candidates.

Disputes over the election rules, including the legal basis of the vote and who should be eligible to stand, threaten to derail an internationally backed peace process aimed at ending a decade of factional chaos. The military prosecutor in Tripoli had urged the commission to rule out Gaddafi after his conviction in absentia on war crimes charges in 2015 for his part in fighting the revolution that toppled his father, Muammar Gaddafi, in 2011. Gaddafi has denied wrongdoing.

Some of the other candidates initially approved by the commission have also been accused by political rivals of possible violations of the election rules. One candidate, interim prime minister, Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, had vowed not to run for president as a condition of taking on his present role, and did not stand down from that role three months before the vote, as is required by a contested election law.

Another prominent candidate, eastern military commander Khalifa Haftar, is said to have US nationality, which could also rule him out. Many people in western Libya also accuse him of war crimes committed during his 2019-20 assault on Tripoli. Haftar denies war crimes and says he is not a US citizen.

Dbeibeh has described as "flawed" the election rules issued in September by the parliament speaker Aguila Saleh, who is also a candidate.

UN Libya envoy Ján Kubiš, who is stepping down from his post, told the UN security council on Wednesday that Libya's judiciary would make the final decision on the rules and on whether candidates were eligible.

## Politics



## Black artist Josephine Baker honoured at France's Pantheon.



By:Gbenga  
Teejay Okunlola  
London,UK

Praised for artistic career, actions as a civil rights activist and her humanist values. France honours US-born cabaret performer and WWII resistance fighter Josephine Baker on Tuesday 28 December, 2021 at the Pantheon, making her the first black woman to receive the honour. She joins figures that have indelibly marked French history, such as former minister Simone Veil, philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, writer Victor Hugo, and scientists Pierre and Marie Curie. Baker is just the sixth woman honoured at the Pantheon, the final resting place of France's most revered luminaries. Baker's voice resonated through streets of Paris' famed Left Bank as recordings from her extraordinary career kicked off an elaborate ceremony at the domed mausoleum.

Military officers from the air force carried her cenotaph along a red carpet that stretched for four blocks of cobblestone streets from the Luxembourg Gardens to the Pantheon. Baker's military medals lay atop the cenotaph, which was draped in the French tricolour flag and contained soils from her birthplace in Missouri, from France, and from her final resting place in Monaco. Her body stayed in Monaco at the request of her family.

French President Emmanuel Macron paid tribute to "a war hero, fighter, dancer, singer; a Black woman defending Black people but first of all, a woman defending humankind. American and French. Josephine Baker fought so many battles with lightness, freedom, joy."

"Josephine Baker, you are entering into the Pantheon because, [despite] born American, there is no greater French [woman] than you," he said. Baker was also the first American-born citizen and the first performer to be immortalized into the Pantheon.

She is not only praised for her world-renowned artistic career but also for her active role in the French Resistance during World War II, her actions as a civil rights activist and her humanist values, which she displayed through the adoption of her 12 children from all over the world. Nine of them attended Tuesday's ceremony among the 2,000 guests.

"Mum would have been very happy," Akio Bouillon, Baker's son, said after the ceremony. "Mum would not have accepted to enter into the Pantheon if that was not as the symbol of all the forgotten people of history, the minorities." Bouillon added that what moved him the most were the people who gathered along the street in front of the Pantheon to watch. "They were her public, people who really loved her," he said.

A coffin carrying soils from the US, France and Monaco – places where Baker made her mark – were to be deposited inside the domed monument overlooking the Left Bank of Paris. Her body will stay in Monaco, at the request of her family. "World-renowned music hall artist, committed to the Resistance, tireless anti-racist activist, she was involved in all the fights that bring together citizens of goodwill, in France and around the world," the Elysée said in a statement announcing the decision.

"For all these reasons, as she embodies the French spirit, Josephine Baker, who died in 1975, today deserves the recognition of the homeland."

Born in St Louis, Missouri, in 1906, Baker had a difficult upbringing in the United States marked by poverty and racial segregation. She eventually became a performer in New York before travelling to France in 1925 to join a musical show at the Folies-Bergère theatre in Paris.

She went on to become a huge success in France with performances that accentuated many African stereotypes of the colonial time. She famously wore a banana skirt and became an icon of the city's Jazz Age.

"I became famous first in France in the twenties. I just couldn't stand America and I was one of the first coloured Americans to move to Paris," Baker told the Guardian in a 1974 interview.

Her marriage in 1937 to Jean Lion is what eventually led to her becoming a French citizen.

At the beginning of World War II, she used social events to gather counter-intelligence information and in 1940 refused to sing for Germans in occupied Paris, according to archival records from France's military.

Towards the end of the war, she performed for the French army while continuing her intelligence work for Charles de Gaulle's staff.

In 1945, she went to Germany to sing with prisoners and deportees who were released.

She received France's highest distinction, the Legion of Honour as well as a military decoration in a ceremony in 1961.

In the later years of her life, she was a vocal anti-racism activist, who spoke at the 1963 March on Washington where Dr Martin Luther King gave his famous "I have a dream" speech.

Sadly, towards the end of her life, she went into heavy debt and was eventually helped by Princess Grace of Monaco. She started her performing career again in 1974 just before her death aged 68 due to a cerebral haemorrhage.



## Prince William blamed African population growth for habitat loss.



Prince William, Duke of Cambridge has come under fire for his latest comments on Africa. The royal suggested that population growth poses a threat to wildlife on the continent. Prince William has been accused of hypocrisy and stigmatising women's rights in Africa by a prominent writer after he blamed population growth for destroying the continent's wildlife.

The Duke of Cambridge told an awards ceremony: "The increasing pressure on Africa's wildlife and wild spaces as a result of human population presents a huge challenge for conservationists."

## Politics

By: Linda R. Jones  
London, UK

"The comments echoed similar sentiments he made in 2017 at a gala for the Tusk Trust when he said: "Africa's rapidly growing human population is predicted to more than double by 2050 -- a staggering increase of three and a half million people per month." There is no question that this increase puts wildlife and habitat under enormous pressure."

But his comments have seen him accused of stigmatising women's rights in Africa. Writer Eliza Anyangwe fumed: "It should be obvious to all that panic about population growth in Black and brown parts of the world is underpinned by race and class prejudice."

In an opinion piece for CNN, Ms Anyangwe fumed: "It should be equally obvious that what every woman needs is the freedom to choose for herself if, when and how many children she will have."

"If despite years of talking about conservation Prince William has not considered that his concern for Africa's wildlife could stigmatise Africa's women, perhaps now is the time for him to do so."



Ms Anyangwe, who founded the Nzinga Effect, a media project focusing on the stories of African women, blasted the Duke for his hypocrisy as he is himself expecting his third child.

She continued: "When it comes to overpopulation as the cause of wildlife loss in Africa, Prince William just won't let it go."

"Then, as now, people have been quick to point out two things: the first is the Duke of Cambridge's hypocrisy."

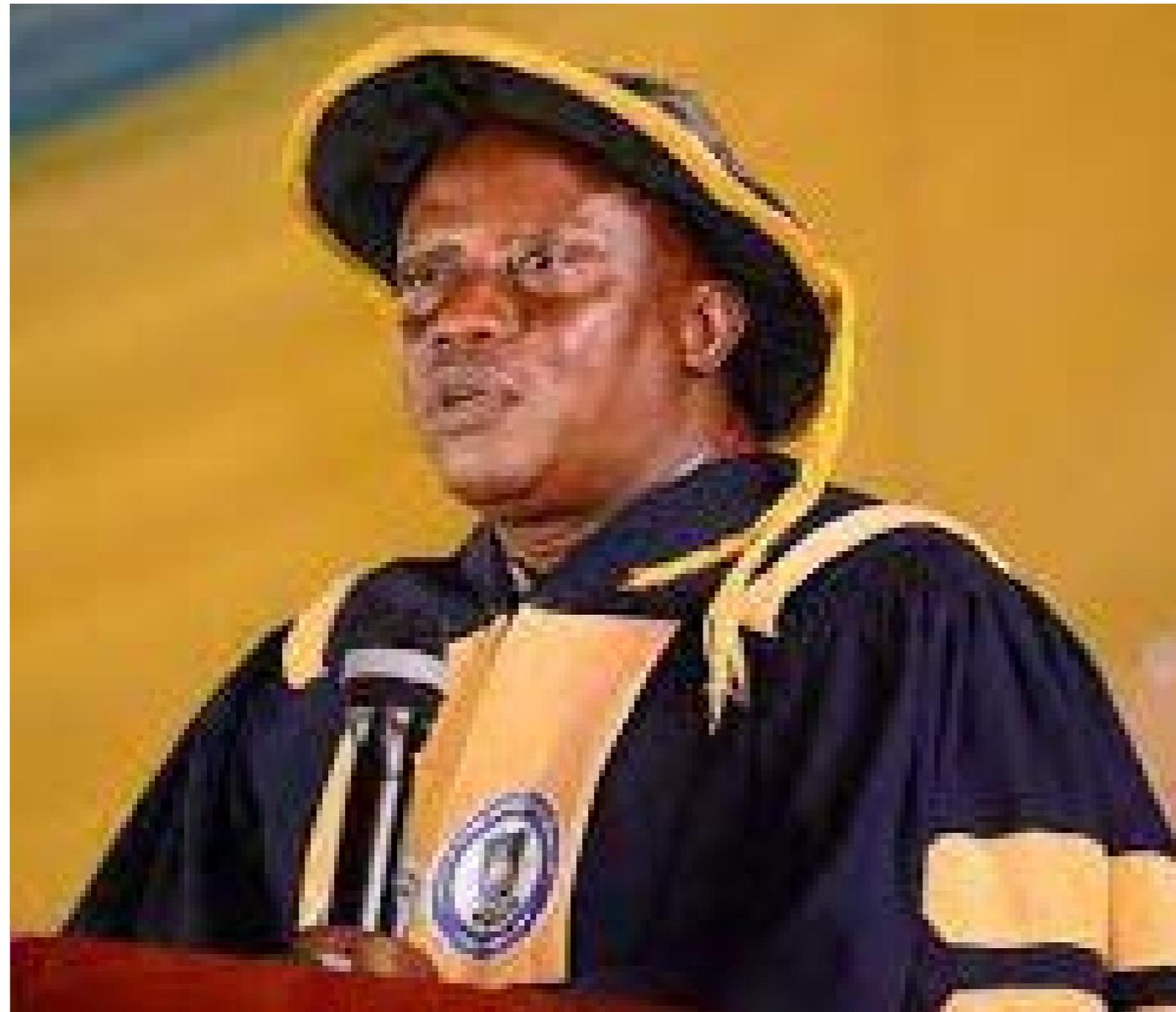


## A NIGERIAN VICE CHANCELLOR WITH A NOVEL DEVELOPMENTAL METTLE.



By: Dr. Martins Adekanmbi  
Associate Dean 3 PG School

IGNATIUS AJURU UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION  
RUMUOLUMENI PORTHARCOURT, NIGERIA



## Lifestyle

Professor Ozo-mekuri Ndimele came to Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolumeni Portharcourt at the time when every aspect of the institution was in disarray; a situation likened to the Israelites under Pharaoh. He moved in swiftly, paid backlog of salaries and brokered peace among aggrieved staff. He was concerned about the progress of students, he made policies that allowed struggling students complete their programs. He also ensured that no student face any form of molestation, intimidation, or extortion from staff.

The welfare of staff was also of much concern to him, all staff due for promotion were immediately promoted. This came at a time all hope was lost. The institution progress significantly as well as the campus

The institution had a new look, modern facilities to accommodate the increasing quota of the institution were erected. The faculty of Business Studies was moved from the temporary site to a befitting structure in the main campus.

He established Distance learning in partnership with University of London and other international Universities. The School of Post Graduate Studies attracted the crème de la crème of the society because of its effective school calendar and the state of the art facilities. Prof. Ozo-Mekuri Ndimele did all these in his first five years in office.

Before he left office as the Vice Chancellor, he started and completed a beautiful edifice for research and development in the University and appointed a Professor in the university as Director. He also started and completed befitting offices for Professors and Senior staff.

The university environment became a new business hub when structures were raised in "New haven" which became an extension of the University accommodating staff and sea-view quarters. He also started a University micro finance bank with staff as share holders to boost the finances of those involved. He is a stable personality with love for humanity as he touched lives in unique ways. A forgiving and goal oriented man that is worthy of emulation. Nigeria needs many men like this in its educational institutions so as to attract foreign students just as students from some West African countries have applied to study in the University. Kudos to Professor Ozo-Mekuri Ndimele a rare gem!! Jehovah-God bless you and your family, your legacy lives on as you have made indelible mark in the lives of the staff and students.

We join you to appreciate governor Nyesom Wike for giving you that opportunity!!





## Britons who break the 90-day Schengen rule are given '24 hours' to return to the UK, causing Brexit chaos.

By:Linda R.Jones  
London,UK

Britons who break the Schengen 90-day rule are given '24 hours' to return to the UK, causing Brexit chaos. An expat legal expert told A-Choices magazine that Britons who break the Schengen Area's 90-day rule can be ordered to return to the UK, with some being given only 24 hours. Following the UK's exit from the EU last year and the end of the Brexit transition period, Brussels classified British citizens as third-country citizens. Within the 27-member trading bloc, Britons' freedom of movement came to an end.

Travelers from the United Kingdom can still visit the Schengen Area without a visa, but they are limited to 90-day stays within a 180-day period. The Schengen Area's 26 member states are expected to be free of passport and border controls. Schengen's signatory countries differ from the EU's 27 member states in a few ways.

Spain, which attracts millions of British tourists each year, is one of the Schengen countries where the 90-day rule now applies to Britons. Maura Hillen, a legal expert in the country, explained how the authorities were implementing the EU's 90-day rule to this website.

The spokesperson for the property association 'Abusos Urbansticos Andaluca No' is an Irish expat who has lived in Spain for 14 years and has campaigned for the rights of British expats. Because of the EU's 90-day stay rule, Britons without Spanish residency who overstay their welcome may now be given "marching orders" to return to the UK, and repeat offenders may be detained.

In Spain, overstaying is considered a serious breach of the law, which can result in fines of up to €10,000 (£8,462), a ban from the Schengen Area for six months to five years, and even expulsion from the country. Ms Hillen said the punishments were "dependent on the circumstances" of where and when Britons are found to have broken the 90-day limit.

## Politics

She said: "It depends on if you're in the airport or if they pick you up in a town where they know you can get a flight, they might give you 24 hours to get out of the country." But otherwise,

if they know you need to travel to actually reach a port, they might give you three or four days to leave the country or if there's extenuating circumstances, they can give you longer. "But if you're a repeat offender or if you're not very compliant, I believe they do have the power to put you in a detention centre."

As well as holidaymakers, the 90-day rule also affects Britons travelling to Spain with the intention of settling permanently in the country and obtaining residency.

Earlier this year it was reported that some Britons who had residency applications rejected had been given just 15 days to leave the country.

The Local Spain spoke to Anne Hernández, the head of citizen help group Brexpats in Spain about the issue.

At the time she said had not heard of the 15-day deadline, but that British expats had been in touch about the issue.

She added that she knew of "several cases" in the Málaga area on the Costa del Sol, but did not know the exact numbers.





## The 4 sisters whose goal is to put Puff Puff on the map.

By: Our writer  
London,UK



## Lifestyle

Puff Puff Ministry Sisters. From left Marianne, 26, Lola, 29, Fola, 21 and Yossie, 27

Many bakers believe that the secret to a good dessert is a lot of passion and years of perfecting old family recipes. For four sisters from North London, their mother's 20-year-old recipe helped them achieve just that.

Inspired to create a legacy of business by their grandfather who passed away, and their parents' dream to give them a good education - a fried dough ball kitchen was born. Puff Puff Ministry in Wood Green, North London, is where Fola, Marianne, Yossie and Lola, all under the age of 30 - whip up a popular Nigerian dessert known as Puff Puff, with a little twist.

Along with their father Paul who helps out by making deliveries, the women plan to make puff puff one of the UK's next favourite desserts. The women were inspired by their mum who owned a bakery in Nigeria. Marianne said: "Our wider mission was to make puff puff one of the UK's most loved desserts." "Everyone knows brownies, cookies, cupcakes and we kind of thought, 'why can't puff puff be on par with that?' "Everyone eats donuts. You see donuts everywhere you go but people don't know puff puff."



The sisters who moved to the UK from Nigeria in 2007, decided to add their own spin on the traditional treat by adding familiar toppings such as Oreos and Nutella to the fried dough ball. Marianne said: "People know donuts and other cultural foods so why not West Africa as well, why not puff puff? It's delicious."

"That's why we chose the toppings that we chose. People know Oreo and Biscoff. "It's things you already love and then you bring that with something you're not familiar with. You're more curious to want to try it."

“It’s also definitely about putting the West African dessert on the map.”

The girls want the Nigerian dessert to be the next big thing in the UK. The success of their 15 month venture was marked by the sisters having to briefly close down their website, after becoming inundated with dozens of orders. Fola said: “Christmas hit and we were four months into it, and we had a 100 boxes of puff puff which was insane to us.

“We saw the orders picking up and we were like, ‘should we wait for it to go to 100?’, and then we forgot about it.” Then we passed 100 and we were like we need to close the website now.” The excitement of seeing orders mount up wasn’t lost on the entrepreneurs who say they appreciate every purchase that’s made. Marianne said: “We are slight nutters though, we loved it.” We were like: ‘Oh my God, this is insane. How are we going to make this?’

“If someone is using their hard earned money to buy your product that is just the greatest honour.” The women make the puff puff themselves in a shared kitchen in North London. The bakers have received requests for delivery from the United States as well as Nigeria where the treat hails from. Along with West Africans who are familiar with the dessert, people from places such as Turkey say it gives them “a taste of home”.

Marianne said: “It’s all about bringing that taste of home to so many people.” People who are maybe from like Turkey or so on saying, ‘when I visit home this reminds me of that.’ It’s not just people who are from an African country, everyone has something like puff puff no matter where they are in the world. Fried dough balls are universal. “Because every country around the world has some variation of fried dough balls and we have a glossary of fried dough balls.

“Puff Puff Around the World, we call it and basically share the different names and tell the story of different countries like Kala in Liberia, Mikate in Congo and so on.” We share this on our Instagram as well.” The sisters run the business part time and work nine-to-five jobs

The sister’s love for baking has been passed down from their mother Toyin Olaleye who owned a bakery in Nigeria. The women grew up helping their mum during the school holidays which they say instilled a love of business they felt destined to pursue.



Fola said: “We practically lived in that bakery. It was basically behind our house on the same compound as our house.” We were always in the bakery, I think I helped out the most.

“I was always making bread with the staff and making cookies and cakes with the staff, playing with flour, it was always a mess.” We had really fond memories from that, growing up in that sort of environment, so I think it was almost inevitable that we would one day start a food business”.

The sisters who run the business part time and work nine-to-five jobs, also believe their grandfather played a role in motivating them, and that being sisters is key to their success. The sisters’ grandfather Simeon Babafemi Olaleye inspired them to aim for success. Marianne said: “I think it part of our family legacy is business. Our parents have always been incredibly entrepreneurial and we all are as well.

“Our grandad is so central to everything that we are today.

“When we were younger he used to give us spelling quizzes while we were walking down to buy some sweets. He’s just so key to our education.

So it really starts from him. “He passed away but now it’s about that legacy of being business minded and entrepreneurial and wanting the best that you can for yourself.”

Fola added: “I think our parents appreciate the fact that we’re doing it as sisters so we’re still keeping that family business thing going.

“I think there’s pride in knowing that all your children are doing this business and creating this legacy.

“Our mum is always trying to make sure that we stick together.”

Parents Toyin and Paul Olaleye are proud of their daughters for what they've achieved. The London School of Economics and University College London graduates hope to carry on the family business and pour all the money they earn back into their business.

Marianne said: "The money that we get goes back into our business that's why we've still got our nine-to-five jobs."

"It's very much a legacy project. It's about leaving something for the next generation."

"The reason we're here today is because of our mum's bakery business combined with our dad's own income."

"That's what got us through all these years in the UK. What sent us to the best schools in London, why we have the education that we have."

"Now we have nieces and nephews, it's about making life that little bit easier for them."

"Every time our parents tell us how proud they are of us and everything we're doing, it gets me very emotional."

"They are incredibly proud and we're just very lucky we've been able to do this, just carrying on our mums legacy."

"It's very much about carrying on that legacy and that we can carry on that baton on to them."



**Venus & Serena Williams: 'Emma Raducanu and Naomi Osaka are great for tennis'**

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# Sports



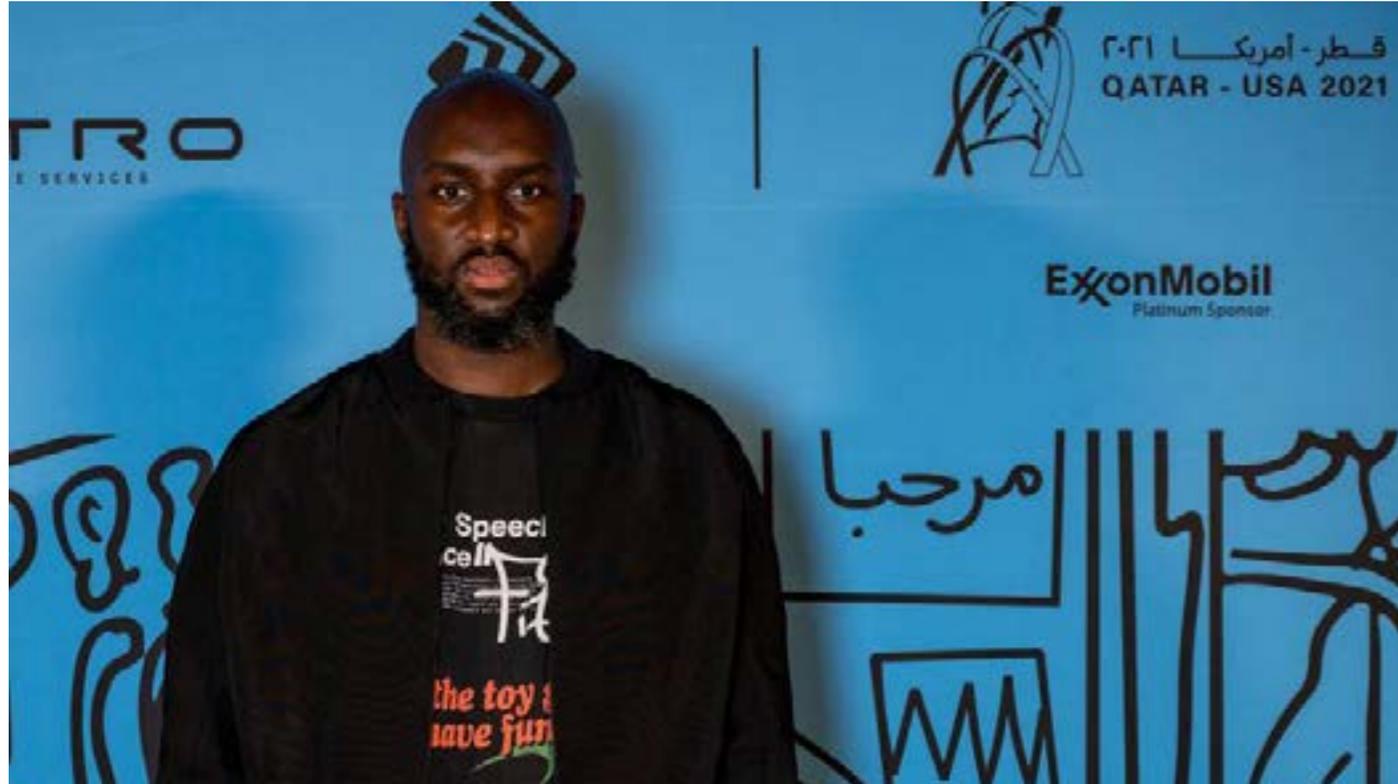


## Influential Louis Vuitton And Off-White Designer Virgil Abloh, Dies at 41.

By:Linda R.Jones

London,UK

## Lifestyle



The fashion industry has lost a talented, unique, and boundary-pushing force with the news that Louis Vuitton and Off-White designer Virgil Abloh has died aged 41. The African-American talent was privately suffering from a rare cancer, cardiac angiosarcoma, it has been revealed in the wake of his death.

41-year-old Ghanaian-American designer Virgil Abloh has died after a 2 year battle with a rare form of cancer, a statement from his associates LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton said on Sunday. Abloh, founder of luxury streetwear brand Off-White, and artistic director of men's wear at French fashion house Louis Vuitton leaves his wife Shannon, and 2 children - Lowe and Grey.

Chairman and CEO of LVMH Bernard Arnault said in a statement, "We are all shocked after this terrible news. Virgil was not only a genius designer, a visionary, he was also a man with a beautiful soul and great wisdom." "The LVMH family joins me in this moment of great sorrow, and we are all thinking of his loved ones after the passing of their husband, their father, their brother, or their friend," he added.

"We are devastated to announce the passing of our beloved Virgil Abloh," a post on his Instagram account read. "Through it all, his work ethic, infinite curiosity, and optimism never wavered. Virgil was driven by his dedication to his craft and to his mission to open doors for others and create pathways for greater equality in art and design. He often said, 'Everything I do is for the 17-year-old version of myself,' believing deeply in the power of art to inspire future generations."

Abloh, a first-generation Ghanaian American who had been the creative director to his friend and collaborator Kanye West, was that rare thing in fashion: a name-brand designer whose influence was felt outside of fashion's usual self-selected niches, a veritable pop-culture icon. Some of this was due to his designs, whose flourishes – his trademark Off-White™ logo, his winky use of quotation marks splattered on clothes, shoes, and accessories, the hazard-yellow band liberally applied to handbags and underwear alike – made them instantly recognizable. But it owed just as much to his insistence on remaining culturally omnivorous: DJ-ing, curating, collaborating (with Nike, Takashi Murakami, Levi's, and Ikea), and generally refusing to be limited to the usual avenues of luxury fashion.

He was not only the rare American to succeed at a major European house but even rarer, a Black designer in a still predominantly white milieu. His first work, a printed take on a Ralph Lauren rugby top, showed his desire to combine art and fashion, and in 2013 he founded his own label, Off-White. As an African-American, the name was a nod to the bias felt by people of colour.

Characterised by a subversive outlook, his work for the label often had words written on pieces, or were finished with cable ties. He had "Air" written on Nike Air trainers, for example, and he once put an image of the Mona Lisa on a T-shirt, drawing accusations of infringing trademark.



Abloh designed the album covers for Ye's and Jay-Z's joint album *Watch the Throne*, as well as Ye's *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*.

At Louis Vuitton, meanwhile, he was able to flex his designer muscles, using the skill of the house to execute some truly dazzling work that questioned the rigid lines of menswear. He introduced oversized layers, often worn with sharply tailored jackets, and dressed his models in durags and trilby hats. He put models in skirts, and added pleated panels to shorts and trousers. Waists became defined with tight belts, and shoulders took on exaggerated width through padding.

Skilled at grabbing headlines, Abloh knew that a bag made to look like a plane, for example, would guarantee worldwide coverage, yet he was still a clever and subtle designer who brought streetwear culture to the hallowed halls of high fashion.

It is hard to think of a designer who more distilled his or her moment – the frantic pace of the digital, the immediate accessibility of references, the fading stakes of soi-disant authenticity, the collapsed divide between celebrity culture and street culture – than he did. But he rushed toward it all with a generosity that's rare.

Regardless of the controversy, Abloh won a devoted following for his work, which straddled streetwear and high-end, and in 2018, he was appointed as the menswear designer for French maison Louis Vuitton, making him the first person of colour to hold the position. That same year, he was named by Time magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

Abloh was also long-time creative director for Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, as the pair served fashion internships together at Fendi. As the news broke of Abloh's death, Ye dedicated his Sunday Service to his friend. A choir sang Adele's song *Easy On Me*, which was streamed live on [dondalive.com](https://www.dondalive.com).

Bruce Pask, the men's fashion director of Bergdorf Goodman and Neiman Marcus, reminded me how Abloh, for his first show at Louis Vuitton, invited not only the press but also a phalanx of students and fans to line the runway: If he had made it, he was bringing everybody with him. His was a dream without precedent, but his alchemical mix of enthusiasm and eye carried the day.

"I've never heard Virgil say a negative thing in my whole life," his friend and collaborator Justin Saunders, of the website [JJJJound](https://www.jjjjound.com), told GQ Style. "What I knew about creativity was saying no to things, but he's on the opposite flip. It's like when Virgil convinced me to be a DJ," Saunders said.

"I still don't know how to use a mixer. I said to Virgil, 'I don't know how to DJ,' and he said, 'It doesn't matter. Let's just go have some fun.' And then eventually we were DJ-ing at Coachella."





## 'I still feel married,' supermodel says of late musician, who died in 2016.

By:Linda R. Jones  
London, UK

Iman Abdulmajid, the widow of late rocker David Bowie, has admitted she will never remarry after her husband's tragic 2016 death. The supermodel – who is known simply as Iman – told PEOPLE she has no intention of marrying someone else after confessing she doesn't like to refer to the English singer as her "late husband". The rock star and the supermodel had been married for 24 years. Bowie passed away in 2016 at the age of 69. When the 66-year-old's daughter Alexandria Jones, 21, asked Iman about it, she recalled: "I said 'No, I will not'. I still feel married."

The two had met on a blind date back in 1990. "David said it was love at first sight," the 66-year-old shared. "It took me a few months, but I got there." Iman added that Bowie "properly wooed me," including sending flowers to her hotel room while she was in Paris for a fashion show and meeting her at the airport when she returned. "Early on, we were walking down the street, and my shoelace came undone, and he got on his knees to tie it for me, and I thought he's the one," she said. The chemistry was off the charts right from the start. "David was beyond handsome," she said. "He oozed charisma."

The pair eventually married in Florence, Italy, on June 6, 1992. Speaking with Hello! magazine in 2000, Bowie said, "My attraction to her was immediate and all-encompassing. I couldn't sleep for the excitement of our first date. That she would be my wife, in my head, was a done deal."

"I'd never gone after anything in my life with such passion in all my life. I just knew she was the one."

Five years after his death from cancer in 2016, Iman has released a fragrance called Love Memoir as a tribute to the couple's "epic romance".

## Lifestyle

Iman says the idea for perfume came during the first few years after her loss and admits she was still "processing" it.

"There are days that are harder than others but the memories are not all sad of why the person isn't here. The memories are now of how great it was," she said.

"I definitely feel his presence, especially when I look out over the glorious sunsets at our home because David loves sunsets."

"So in that way he is ever present." Bowie died after an 18-month battle with liver cancer at the couple's home in New York City.



## Patrice Evra reveals first pro deal made him 'property' of Mafia godfather.

By:Andrew Collins  
London,UK

**F**ORMER Manchester United star Patrice Evra has claimed he was "owned" by The Mob at the start of career.

The 40-year-old French leftist says he signed his first pro deal with Marsala in Sicily without realizing it made him an "property" of the Mafia godfather.

Patrice Evra says he unintentionally became the boss of a mob bosscredit: PA: Press Association

He recalls in his new autobiography, I Love This Game: "I found this out when I wanted to move to AS Roma.

"AS Roma said, 'We have to withdraw the deal because you are that man's property.'"The enraged gangster does not pay Evra for five months, forcing her to struggle to buy food.

He eventually signed for Monza, then Nice and Monaco before moving to United in 2006.



## **Gunman, 14, sentenced to life for 'evil' murder of Birmingham schoolboy.**

By:Andrew Collins

London,UK

Yussuf Mustapha is thought to be Britain's youngest ever defendant convicted of committing murder using a gun.

A14-year-old boy believed to be Britain's youngest defendant convicted of a gun murder has been handed a life sentence and ordered to serve at least 16 years behind bars.

Yussuf Mustapha, who turned 14 just three weeks before he shot and killed Birmingham schoolboy Keon Lincoln, can now be named in media reports after a judge lifted an order protecting his identity.

Passing sentence on Mustapha and four other teenagers convicted of killing Keon, Lord Justice William Davis said the 14-year-old had shown a clear intent to kill when he opened fire at close range.

Mustapha and the other youths who carried out the killing were branded "heartless, evil monsters" by Keon's mother in a victim personal statement read to Birmingham Crown Court .

Sharmaine Lincoln said the killing of her 15-year-old son had left her feeling like "a piece of my soul has been taken from me".

Passing sentence on Keon's killers, Lord Justice William Davis said at least five offenders who arrived at the murder scene had been party to the use of a revolver.

A five-week trial was told Keon suffered eight sharp force injuries and a fatal gunshot injury to his abdomen outside his home in Linwood Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

The teenager, who was shot while on the ground, died in Birmingham Children's Hospital having been attacked with knives and fired at twice at about 3.35pm on January 21.

## Crimes

The judge told Italy-born gunman Mustapha, who has no previous convictions, that the material before the court indicated he had lived "a decent life with his family" prior to the murder.

The judge said: "According to the pre-sentence report he has been able at times to show a maturity in advance of his age.

"Certainly there is no indication that he is immature for his age or that he suffers from any behavioural issues which might have led to the events of January 21.

"I am invited in the report to consider the extent to which he may have been acting impulsively and whether his conduct may have been affected by emotional volatility or negative influences. I have done so.

"The offence was not impulsive or the result of volatility.

"I have no evidence of negative influences other than the fact that the other defendants were older than him."

The judge said the only mitigating factor in Mustapha's case was his age "given that, for someone of his age, many years in custody will appear, literally, to be a lifetime".

Prior to sentence, the court was told Mustapha and Keon went to the same school and they had "appeared to get on reasonably well together".

Mustapha's barrister, Adam Kane QC, told the judge his client was from a loving family and had been doing well at school, academically and in sport.

Mr Kane submitted: "When a boy of 14 years and three weeks commits an offence so transgressive as this one, it is plain that the decision-making process, the making of choices and thought of consequences... have gone grossly wrong - and have been affected by grossly wrong influences."

Mustapha's co-defendants Tahjgeem Breakenridge, 18, and Michael Ugochukwu, 18, were both sentenced to life for murder with a minimum term of 19 years.

Meanwhile, a 16-year-old Walsall youth also convicted of Keon's murder, who cannot be named for legal reasons, was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's Pleasure and to serve at least 17 years.

Kieron Donaldson, 19, was sentenced to a 12-year custodial term for Keon's manslaughter, having supplied weapons to those involved in the killing. Donaldson was told he will be entitled to release after serving two-thirds of the sentence.

During the hearing Keon's mother submitted a statement to the court in which she said she was "in a nightmare that I cannot wake up from".

In the statement, read to the court by prosecution barrister Michael Burrows QC, the victim's mother, who witnessed her son lying injured in the street after hearing gunfire, said: "The gunshots will forever ring in my ears, knowing that one of them ultimately ended my son's life.

"No reason for me can ever justify such an evil act."

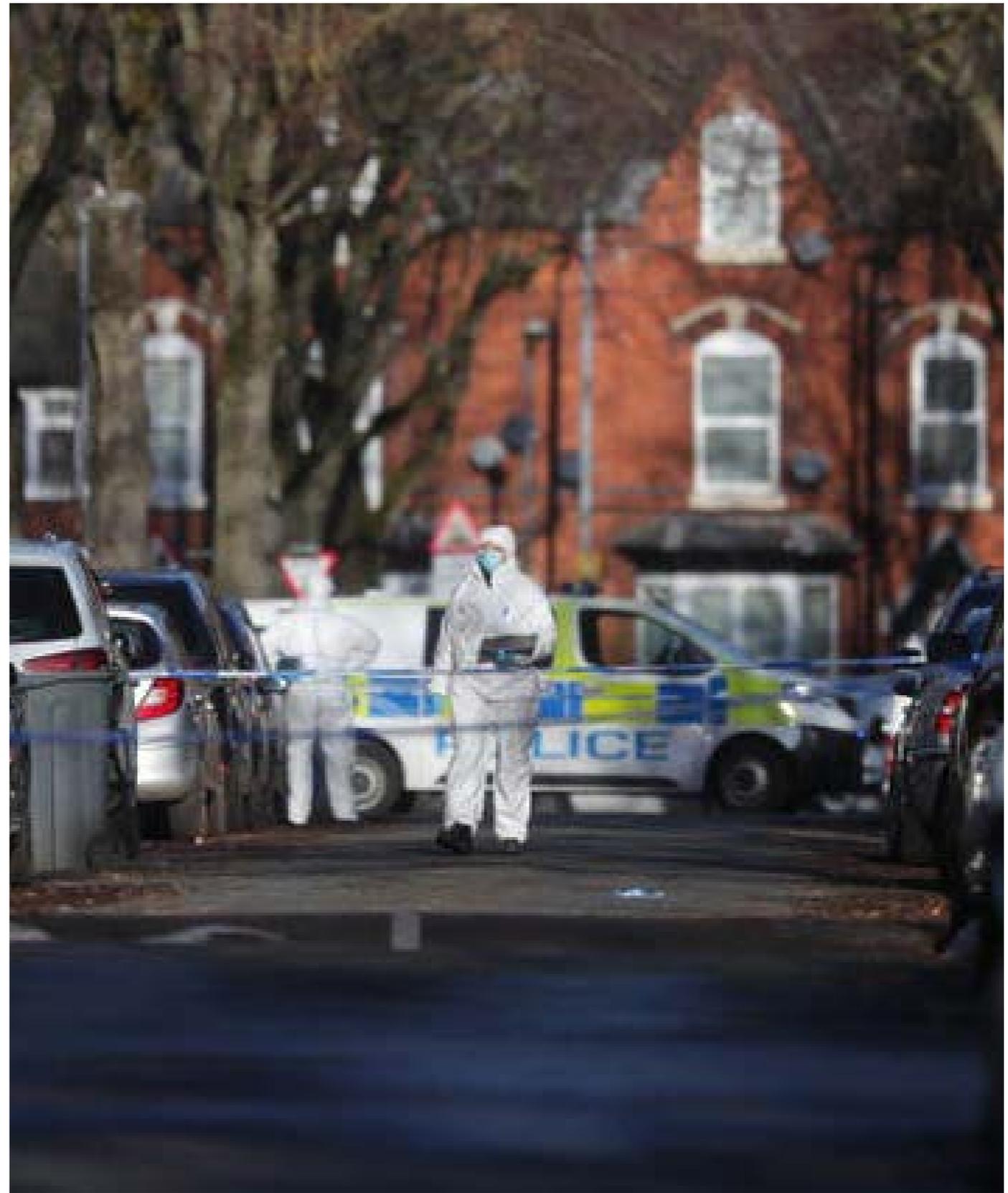
Donaldson, of Aston Lane, Perry Barr, was cleared of murder but convicted of unlawful killing after denying that he had assisted or encouraged any of Keon's attackers.

Mustapha; the 16-year-old defendant; Breakenridge, of Oldfield Road, Balsall Heath, and Ugochukwu, of Twynning Road, Edgbaston, all denied playing any part in the killing.





 **Linwood**



## 'I've made mistakes' – Kanye West talks fixing marriage to Kim Kardashian.



By: Bunmi Johnson  
New York

Kanye 'Ye' West, the Grammy-winning artist, says he plans to work out his strained relationship with Kim Kardashian, his estranged wife. The billionaire rapper spoke about his broken marriage during a visit to the Skid Row on Thanksgiving Eve. He said all he wants to do is "go back home" and be as close to "the situation" and his children as possible. "Now it's time to restore the families this Thanksgiving. It's all about restoring the family," Kanye said. "This morning I felt so blessed to wake up, to workout and be able to drive to my house and see my wife and my kids. "The narrative God wants is to see that we can be redeemed in all these relationships. "We've made mistakes. I've made mistakes. I've publicly done things that were not acceptable as a husband. "But right now today, for whatever reason – I didn't know I was going to be in front of this mic – but I'm here to change the narrative. I'm not letting E! write the narrative of my family. "I'm not letting Hulu write the narrative of my family. I am the priest of my home. I'm trying to express this in the most sane way, the most calm way possible, but I need to be back home." Kanye West and Kim split after she filed for divorce in February – about seven years after they tied the knot. The pair later agreed to have joint custody of their four children – North, 7, Saint, 5, Chicago, 3, and Psalm, 2. Earlier, he had maintained that Kim was still his wife, despite the ongoing process from their divorce. Kim and Pete Davidson, the US comedian, were reported to be dating after they were spotted getting dinner together.



## Barbados hails Rihanna 'national hero' as it becomes republic.



By: Seyi Awolaye  
Los Angeles, CA

American superstar and entrepreneur, Rihanna praised for her 'extraordinary commitment to the land of her birth'

Rihanna has been declared a national hero of Barbados, as the country celebrates its transition to an independent republic. "May you continue to shine like a diamond," the country's prime minister, Mia Mottley, said at an investiture ceremony for the pop singer, fashion icon and entrepreneur, in reference to her 2012 hit Diamonds.

Rihanna is Barbados's most famous citizen and in 2018 was appointed an official ambassador for culture and youth. She has never softened her Bajan accent, and her music, while tapping into pop, R&B and dance music, has remained connected to her Caribbean heritage.

Mottley said the superstar commanded "the imagination of the world through the pursuit of excellence with her creativity, her discipline, and above all else, her extraordinary commitment to the land of her birth".

She added: "On behalf of a grateful nation, but an even prouder people, we therefore present to you the designee for national hero of Barbados, Ambassador Robyn Rihanna Fenty."

Rihanna, 33, was born in Saint Michael and raised in the capital, Bridgetown. She was propelled to fame after the American producer Evan Rogers recognised her talents. Her 2007 single Umbrella confirmed her as one of the world's biggest pop stars, and in 2008 the then prime minister, David Thompson, announced an annual Rihanna Day.

As well as continuing to make music, Rihanna has enjoyed a highly successful business career with her Fenty group of companies. In August Forbes estimated she was worth \$1.7bn (£1.3bn), about \$1.4 bn of which comes from the value of her cosmetics company, Fenty Beauty, a partnership with the French fashion giant LVMH.

Rihanna joins a select group of 10 other Barbadians including Garfield Sobers, regarded as one of the greatest cricketers of all time and the only other living national hero. Sobers was also at the ceremony and hugged Rihanna.





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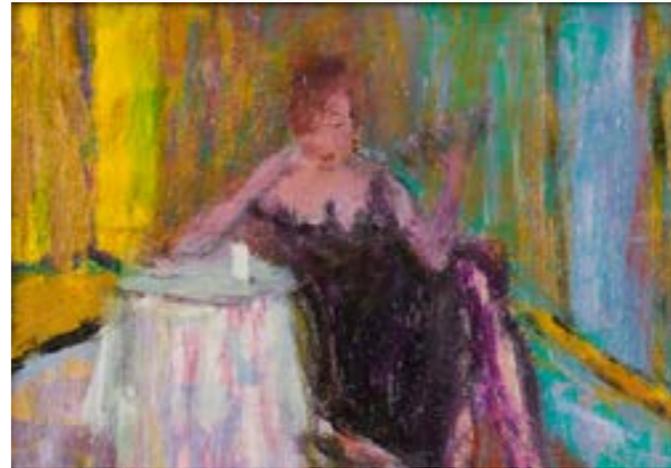
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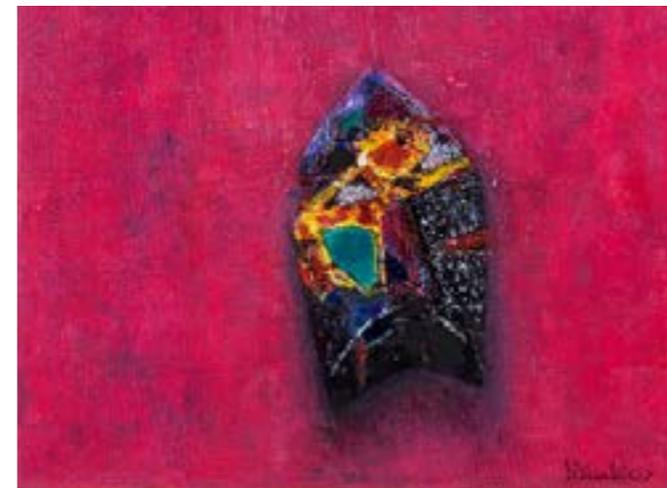
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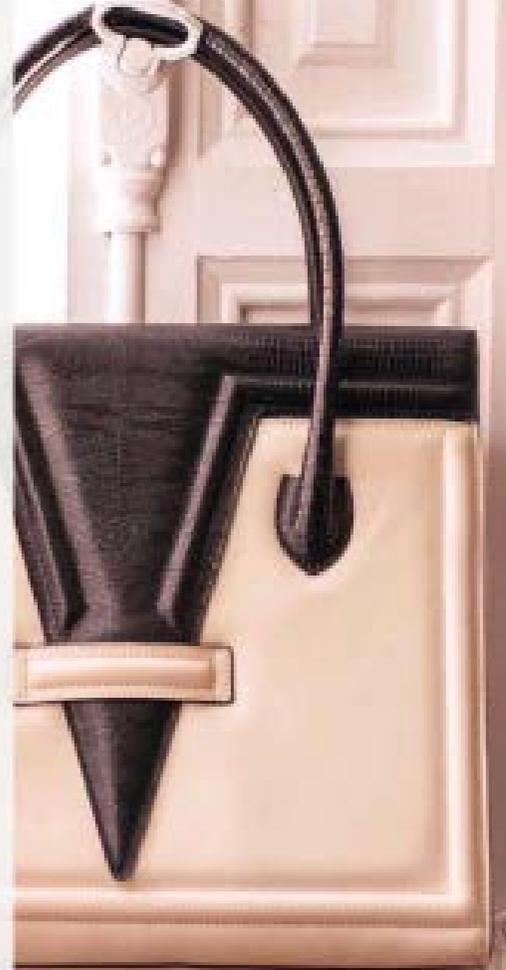
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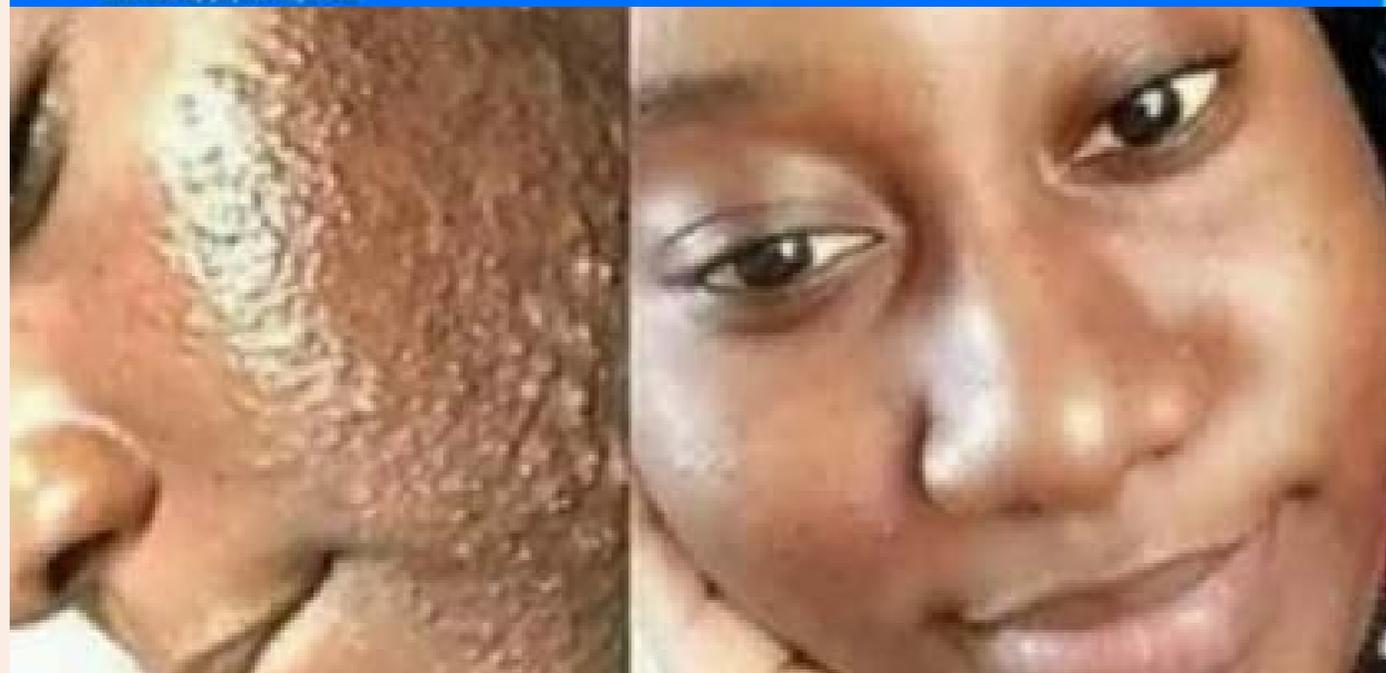


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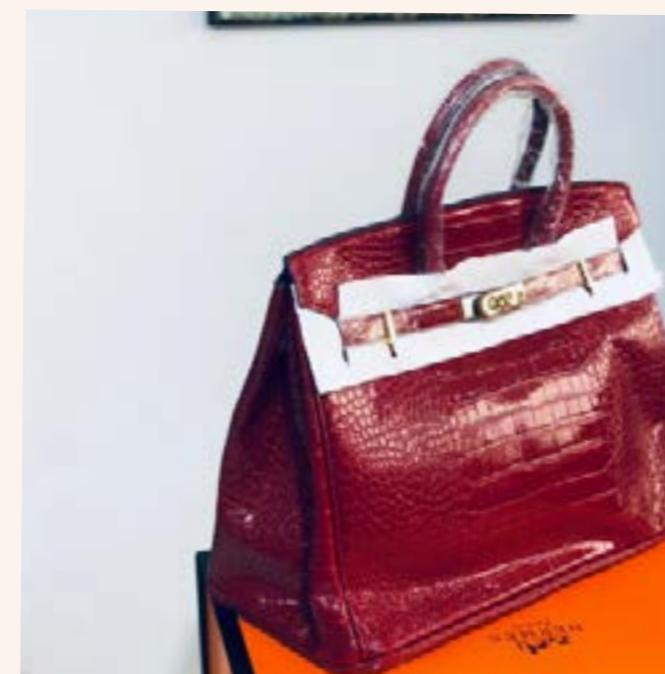
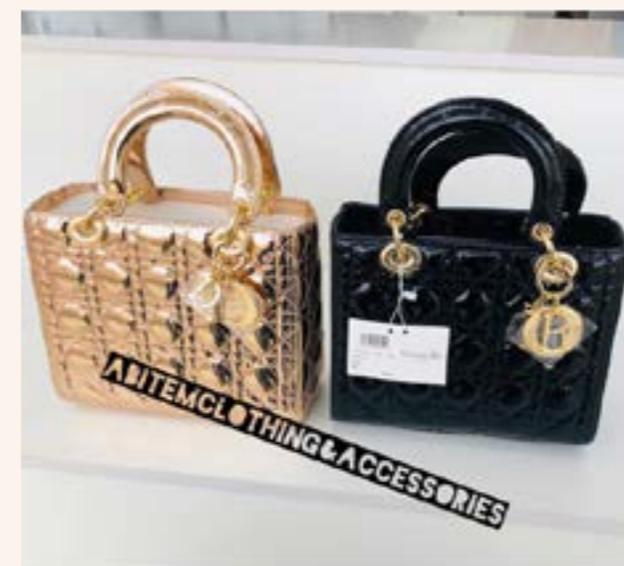
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# HOW TO BECOME A BULGARIAN PERMANENT RESIDENT OR CITIZEN BY WAY OF PURCHASING PROPERTY

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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