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A-CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine

Exclusive
Interview



FORMER BEAUTY QUEEN
DAMILOLA OTUBANJO,
DECLARES AMBITION FOR OGUN REP SEAT

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ABOUT US

A-CHOICES -The African Lifestyle Magazine

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

Write for Us

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

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

*Please send submissions to **achoices@a-choicesmagazine.com***

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EDITOR'S LETTER



Welcome to the May issue of A-CHOICES Magazine. It has been an incredible journey so far this year and we are glad to have you stick around with us. We do not take your readership for granted.

This month, we've got the beautiful Damilola Otubanjo as our cover girl. Damilola is a fashion enthusiast, entrepreneur, engineer, beauty queen and a philanthropist. In this interview by Gbenga Teejay Okunlola and our Lagos Bureau-Chief Joy Gofwen, she speaks about her journey **from runway to a successful fashion entrepreneur and** now politics. She also speaks about the level of participation of women and youths in the affairs of the country.

I would like to end by thanking the entire team involved in the making of this edition.

Don't forget you can advertise with us as we promise to deliver. You can catch up with us at www.a-choicesmagazine.com for exclusive interviews with celebrities, exciting articles and lots more. This is a magazine where we celebrate people, celebrate lifestyle and we celebrate African Achievers.

Thank you

Gbenga TJ Okulola

Publisher/Editor in Chief

A-CHOICES

www.a-choicesmagazine.com

DAMILOLA OTUBANJO -

From Runway Queen to Fashion Impresario to Politics



By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola
London, UK



By: Joy Gofwen
Lagos Bureau Chief, Nigeria



Damilola Otubanjo is a *fashion enthusiast*, entrepreneur, engineer, beauty queen and philanthropist. In this interview by Gbenga Teejay Okunlola and Joy Gofwen, she speaks about her journey from runway to a successful fashion entrepreneur and now into politics and the level of participation of women and youths in the affairs of the country.

A-CHOICES: So we know a bit about you, the engineer beauty queen, a fashion entrepreneur and now a politician, a very interesting combination you have there. But let's hear from the horse's mouth. Tell us a bit about your educational and family background.

DAMILOLA: My name is Damilola Otubanjo, I am an indigene of Ogun State, Ibiade town. I currently live in Lagos where I run my businesses. I have two daughters. I got my first degree from Olabisi Onabanjo Universi-

ty where I studied Physics and Electronics, then a second degree in Renewable Energy Engineering from Kingston University in London. I worked with the Lagos state government as a civil servant under the ministry of energy and mineral resources under the department of power. Then, after some years, I was seconded to Lagos State electricity board where I was in charge of the Lagos solar project. So I worked with the agency for another two years before I decided to step out and start my private business, which is what I'm currently doing.

A-CHOICES: So this business was not from the beginning?

DAMILOLA: I had a boutique when I was in school as an undergraduate. I've always been an entrepreneur; from my early days as a younger living with my grandmother I had my own side business, while she was running hers. It's not a coincidence when we find ourselves in a particular path. If only we can take the trouble to cast our minds back we would see how far we have come the way we have come.

A-CHOICES: How has the journey been from a runway queen to a successful fashion entrepreneur and how has your engineering background helped you in this journey?

DAMILOLA: Significantly! For me, we evolve and as we evolve we discover an aspect of us that we were not aware of until we have reached that evolutionary

stage. Engineering for me has significantly impacted my fashion business because I'm highly visually stimulated. Having done a lot of engineering designs, I can then pick up a new style upon an inspiration or an existing style that I want to do a bit of modification, when I see these styles, I'm able to literally separate all the parts. So that experience has really helped me in terms of garment construction I can separate the entire process using my mind. So no matter how difficult or complex the style is; engineering design has helped me to disintegrate and separate every component to then say,









Okay, this is how these pieces get pulled together and it forms a unit item. So it has significantly helped my path.

A-CHOICES: Last year you declared your interest to run for a seat at the House of Representatives in some parts of Ogun State ahead of the 2023 general elections. Why did you take that decision?

DAMILOLA: Well, I've always known at an early age that I am passionate about self-development, self-discovery, human development, and human-capacity. That is largely why I'm an entrepreneur, you must love to help people, you must love to develop concept, and you must love to bring something out of nothing otherwise, it would have been easier for me to build career path in engineering. I had to realize what my strengths and weaknesses were and the process of going through all of that is what makes me who I am. So running for office comes largely from that awareness that I want to be more. I want to give more. I want to serve more and there is no better platform to serve than through governance considering the structure of our country. I did struggle a lot before I got started and made my intentions clear last year and because I knew I wanted to be a public servant was why I went into civil service. I wanted to learn; I felt if I'm going to be a seasoned politician and an administrator I need to understand the mindset of a civil servant. I felt that was a crucial prerequisite skill for me to acquire and which was why I went into civil service first and then I realize if I don't start now, when do I want to start? So I took the bold step and stepped forward.

A-CHOICES: We'll be switching between fashion and everything you do. Do you think this shift into politics will alter anything in your business?

DAMILOLA: Sincerely, it would. I initially thought it shouldn't but if I'm being realistic, having come this far, I'm aware that I'm going to pay a significant price. I believe I should be able to manage it and I am sure it is going to be worth it at the end of the day. So I'm willing to give it a shot.

A-CHOICES: How would you assess the fashion industry in Nigeria?

DAMILOLA: It's a big industry and social media has increased the level of the game and demand for fashionable commodities. The fashion business is doing very well. Competition has pulled out of a lot of us creativity because you draw inspiration from other people driving their businesses and vice versa. Our young people are doing phenomenal work; our fashion designers are top notch. I see some designs done by Nigerian designers and I doff my hat for them. They're doing great.

A-CHOICES: Talking 2023 elections, what are your expectations from the agents that would supervise the electoral process such as, the INEC, the police and other stakeholders like the media and other observers?

DAMILOLA: Well, I expect that we have a free and fair election; I expect that the security forces do their job and really enforce security. I'm just optimistic that it should be a good election year. 2023 promises to be a very interesting and exciting year, a lot of shifts is about to go on in the political







terrain. Some of us though participants in the electoral process, we are also observers trying to see how the shift is going to take place, trying to see how new leaders are going to emerge because it is a transition governments so there is a lot of volatility. It is going to be a significant year for the next eight years. And I want to encourage that we make

the best out of this time and make the right decision.

A-CHOICES: A lot is going on right now in the country. There is a tussle about some parts of the electoral bill amendment, and then the security challenges in every part of the country. Do you think we are ready for 2023?

DAMILOLA: Well, I believe we will never be ready for anything if we don't start and. I see a bit of self-interests underneath all the volatility. Everybody is struggling to secure seats at the table. Everyone is trying to secure their person into office. We are taking self-agenda over the public interest and because of those set of personal agendas and self-interest we see a lot of 'remove this, add this' in the bill so that it leaves room for manipulation, but the people that are tasked with the responsibility of ensuring fairness should endeavour be to do right by the people, irrespective of whose Ox is gored. We should also understand that there's always some form of manipulation underneath these challenges that we're facing in this country.

A-CHOICES: This is coming early, But what's your message to the voting public in the face of these challenges we just talked about?

DAMILOLA: I believe Nigerians must get up and do the right thing, I believe Nigerians must get up and not just sit on social media and chit chat. We really need to take this country more serious than

we are taking it and the only way we can prove that we've taken this country serious is to participate. We should participate as voters we should participate as aspirants; we should take parts in the electoral process. We can't say enough of "get your voters card". But beyond and above that, we should populate the political parties; let's have more young people join political parties, be it the existing ones or the newly emerging ones. We have completely surrendered the custody of our lives by inaction; I think we're not ready for the type of change we want. We as Nigerians really need to step up our game and see how we can advance this country by taking personal responsibility to perform our civic duties.

A-CHOICES: Talking about the youths and the rising unemployment rate in the country. There are lots of people out there that are unemployed, do you think the President and the government is doing enough to bridge this gap?

DAMILOLA: I'll like to throw my weight behind the government and say the government is not the one we should hold accountable; our young people need to be held accountable for their own inadequacies. The challenge I see is not lack of employment, but a lot of young people are not employable. I'm an entrepreneur, trust me the major challenge we face as entrepreneurs is human resource. It's not even financial resource. There's the financial issue, which is the big elephant, but if you have so much money but you don't have the right people to drive that system, trust me, you are going nowhere. I know that they're going to probably attack me for putting this straight but our young people are not adequate for employment. I am quite disappointed at the rate of unemployment without a doubt, but a

lot of our young people want to be rich instantly, they have the wrong metrics for measuring what success is.

A-CHOICES: Among these populations of the Nigerian youth, we have those that are actually doing well and these sets of youths are frustrated and angry about the state of affairs, how do you think our government can change the narrative?

DAMILOLA: There's no doubt about that, a lot of us as entrepreneurs do not get enough help. There is no doubt that we need financing. We need support. We need institutions for training, for empowerment; like a pool where you can even outsource an aspect of your business. So yes, we have reasons to be frustrated.

First, before we can say we want to fix something we need to understand how we got here and how long it took us to get here. I think we need to be realistic without expecting a magic to happen. There is a time process to every manifestation, the change that we seek in this country requires a lot of consistent effort; it requires a high level of discipline across board. It's going to take a whole lot more than a conversation for us to turn this country in the right direction. We all need to take decisive, deliberate, and consistent action towards seeing any significant change.

A-CHOICES: There have been calls for successions from different quarters of the country what do you think could be the solutions?

DAMILOLA: It's unfortunate that we see the situation and we treat it in isolation. The more we bring division and separation, the more we fail and we

will not get it right. We need to look at the problem collectively and take individual responsibility for the failures in the system. How do you deal with your fellow Nigerian? Can you see somebody in distress and offer help? Can you go out of your way to give help? Can you really understand the challenges and the struggles of other people? Do we have such sense of sympathy or empathy? If we do not have these things we can separate from today to tomorrow and nothing is going to change. They are going to crush themselves and say we were better off together then, than now that we are separated.

A-CHOICES: Talking insecurity, Nigeria today is more dreadful than the time of the civil war. Nigeria has assisted many countries in controlling and resolving problems of insecurity like Chad, Liberia, Sudan, and Sierra Leone to mention a few. But Nigeria as a nation seemed to be deficient in the intellectual capacity needed to solve her problems why is that so?

DAMILOLA: The challenges that plague us are not unique to Nigeria. These are the challenges that every developing country face. We do not try to find out the cause of the problem but we rather sustain negativity thereby fueling the crisis. We need to get to the heart of the matter but definitely not by spreading false news and exaggerating the story. There is an approach to solving the problem, we need to look from within and take responsibility from where we have failed as individuals and then, we can start from there.

A-CHOICES: How do you think the President as the General Commander of the Armed Forces can handle this alarming level of insecurity?

DAMILOLA: For me, the number one thing to do is to identify what the problem is. The next is to assemble a team, which is what we have as administrators in the executive, legislative, and even the judiciary arm of government. But one major thing that I think is missing in every of the structural planning efforts is the lack of communication; I find a major communication gap between our leaders and the followers. The commander in chief in my opinion, has not adequately communicated to the people in a manner that he can be trusted. And every time we clamour for his speech, we expect him to talk to us, because we value him enough to want to hear what he has to say. But I'm afraid; he believes he is working so we should calm down. So basically, I think the President needs to communicate his best intentions to the people more often.

A-CHOICES: The level of female participation and representation in Nigerian politics is low. Sexist, patronage-based political cultures, combined with gendered economics and household inequalities are seen to be the main barriers to women's participation in governance, is that true?

DAMILOLA: First, I don't think anybody is stopping anyone from being in governance. Without a doubt, as women it is more challenging for us to participate actively because of the roles that we have to play asides of governance. I always reaffirm and reassure myself that I'm not doing anything out of the ordinary and that's not because anybody says I'm doing something wrong. But because there's a programming that I'm trying to bring myself out of on account of the society we find ourselves in.

I feel nothing is stopping women from participating because we are naturally equipped to do more than what we are doing without trying to prove a point or trying to show that we are better than the men because really, there is no competition.

A-CHOICES: Gender-based violence is a common social problem in Nigeria, especially in the Northern parts of Nigeria. There has been an increase in the cases of domestic violence, sexual exploitation, forced early marriage, and rape of minors since the spate of Boko haram insurgency, how can we get rid of these menaces?

DAMILOLA: Well, I am afraid there is nothing new under the sun. And I do not think anything is more than what it is; it is only amplified because of social media. What I think is on the rise for me is domestic violence and the obvious reason for that is men are getting more depressed. There's a huge level of pressure on the men to be more men, and more masculine because of the increase in women's capacity for advancement and development. Social media has its downside but it has largely empowered a chunk of women to the point where they are economically empowered to muscle up to the men which leaves the men struggling and wanting to fulfil the duties and responsibilities of the man, which really is one of the things that I think is responsible for the pressure, depression, misunderstanding, quarrelling, and high level of divorce and separation in our society. That for me is a modern day challenge.

First, in my opinion we need to create awareness in ways we can address some of these ills, identify with the struggles of men and see how we can then start to work around these issues.

A-CHOICES: What suggestions do you have that you think would make it safer for victim-survivors to come forward?

DAMILOLA: A lot of people are speaking out already. Those that are not speaking out, it's not because they can't find their voice, it is because they choose to inhabit it. The days of victimizing people are becoming less and less, there is much clamour for victims to speak up on social media platforms, which has led to a lot of people speaking up and a lot are getting help already.

A-CHOICES: So tell us what is your typical day like?

DAMILOLA: It is a busy one. I love adrenaline rush, I find myself loading my bag with more than I can carry. My typical day is usually packed from morning till night. And as a night owl I get a lot of energy towards the late evenings than even the early mornings.

I get a lot of inspiration; I do a lot of thinking and I am mostly sharp in the evening time. So usually I get my day started a bit late and ending very late.

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

DAMILOLA: I think I will be arrogant to take the term "successful" because I'm still struggling. I have not perfected everything, I've made mistakes like every other person but I have learned to wear my stripes with beauty. I'm not quick to dwelling on my errors I take the lessons and I move on. I tell

myself that if I knew better, I could have done better and now that I know better, I do it differently. I face life squarely and take the lessons. If I can look in the mirror and be proud of the woman I see, I think my job is done and that for me is being successful. I choose what success is to me.

A-CHOICES: What would you say are your major achievements?

DAMILOLA: One thing I am grateful to God for and I look forward to getting better at is, self-awareness and self-discovery because it is upon this awareness that I can hinge any physical or material manifestation on. I'm looking forward to being separated from the things of life yet be in tune with everything. That level of self-awareness is what I want to attain.

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

DAMILOLA: I am grateful for the gift of raising two amazing daughters whom I pray and wish that I can make the finest human beings after myself. I am grateful for the opportunity to have my dream fulfilled, I am grateful for the opportunity to seek help and receive it and I am grateful for self-awareness which is one of the finest gifts I have received.

A-CHOICES: There was a pandemic two years ago and everywhere was on lockdown with travel restrictions in place. What were you doing during that period?

DAMILOLA: The lockdown was one of my transforming periods, because while everyone was on lockdown I was having classes both physical and virtual. I was in a different state of mind and my business did not suffer, I was still driving business especially my skin-care line and that was because people had more time to cater to themselves. So for me, Covid-19 brought with it significant blessing. Though I was going through a significant shift.

THE DELECTABLE BRIDE



By: Joy Gofwen
Lagos Bureau Chief



Marriage is a beautiful thing and has no age limit as to when you get to enjoy the bliss that comes with it. Though young ladies especially in Africa are encouraged to settle down in their early 20s, women are now proving that there is no particular age that is late to get married.

Age they say is just a number and has nothing to do with when you will find love. **Rita Dominic** and the love of her life **Fidelis Anosike** found each other at 46 and 56 years respectively. The love birds were traditionally married on the 19 April, 2022 a



Rita Dominic



ceremony that brought the high and mighty of Nigeria's entertainment industry.

Nollywood stars, family and friends turned up in beautiful green with a touch of gold attires to celebrate with the newly wedded couple. The traditional ceremony took place at Rita Dominic's home town Aboh Mbaise, Imo State Nigeria.

The event was graced by the likes of Joke Silva, Ini Edo, Chioma Akpotha, Uche Jombo, Nse Ikpe Etim, Uti Nwachukwu, Chidi Mokeme and musi-

cian Kaycee just to mention a few. However, Nigerians have called out some of her colleagues like Genevieve Nnaji, Omotola Jalade, Tonto Dikeh, and others for missing the wedding party.

The delectable beautiful bride was dressed in a blue lace and adorned with traditional beads for the first function of the ceremony and later appeared in a beautiful fuchsia pink lace for the reception of the event. Unlike the recent trend of crazy styles in weddings, the bride and other celebrities were decently dressed in classy colorful dresses.

Here's what you need to know about Rita Dominic and her groom Fidelis Anosike. The multiple award-winning actress was born into the Royal Nwa-



turuocha family of Aboh Mbase and the youngest of four children. She started acting at the age of 5, she holds a BA in Theatre Arts from University of Port Harcourt.

She joined the Nigerian film industry fully in 1998; she is known for her ability to interpret different characters. She is the only actress to have won the AMVCAs Best Actress award in both drama and comedy categories, she is also the only West African actress to have won Kenya's Kalasha Awards. She has received several other awards and nominations for her outstanding performances. She is the also the co-founder of Audrey Silva Company a leading Nigerian film company dedicated to birthing quality content.

Fidelis Anosike is the chief executive officer of Folio Holdings, publishers of Daily Times Newspaper, one of Nigeria's leading local newspapers. He acquired the newspaper in 2004 under Folio Communications Limited. The Creative Arts graduate started Folio Communications at the age of 24 after he graduated from University of Benin in 1991.

Folio Communications is a conglomerate; it is also

the founder of Miss Nigeria, 1st October, Times Multimedia and Creative Africa Xchange (CAX), and Folio Nigeria powered by CNN. Mr Anosike is also the or-

ganizer of Miss Nigeria.

Meanwhile, many have used the opportunity to pick lessons and give advice to ladies not to rush into marriage but should rather focus on acquiring skills and building themselves in other for them to take with them value to their husbands house.

However, some motivational speaker has advised ladies not to follow the footsteps of the newly wedded bride; he said women have higher chances of giving birth to intelligent children at their prime, he said women should stop being selective in other to settle down early. He said Rita should have been celebrating her 20 anniversary and not a new union at 46.

His Facebook advice has generated heated arguments in the comment section of the post as many said marriage comes from the Lord and God's time is the best.

The celebrity wedding has been a sensation, her fans are still gushing over her beauty and the star stud ceremony. Congratulatory messages and prayers have since been flowing from all angles.

We wish her the very best of marriage.



Chioma-Akpotha



Uche-Jumbo

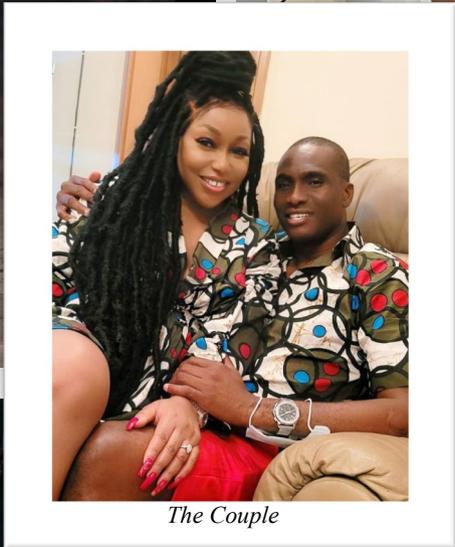


Ini-Edo

PHOTO KULTURE



Uti-Nwachukwu



The Couple



Queen Rofe



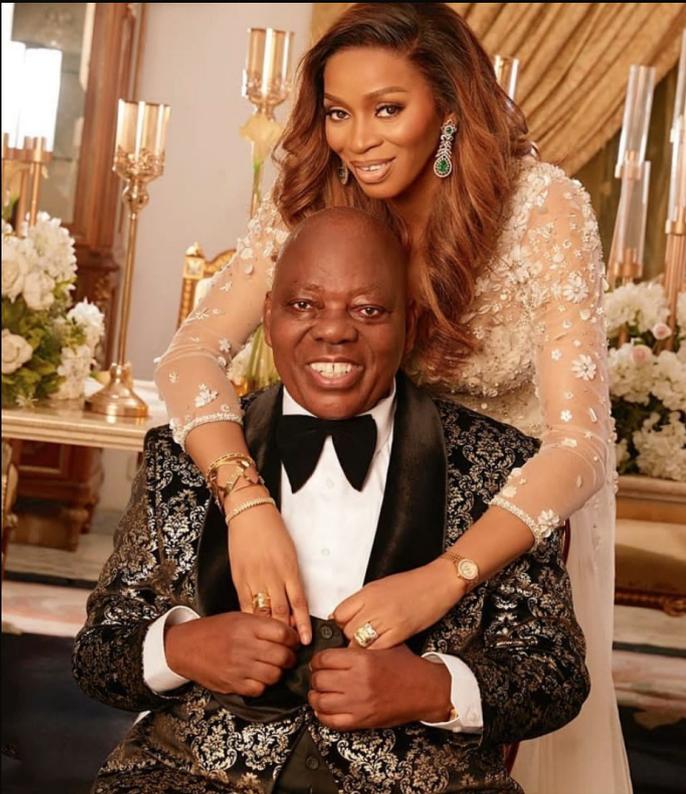
SOCIALITE, SHADE OKOYA, TURNS 45

Shade Okoya, the wife of industrialist, Razaq Okoya, has clocked **45**.

Mrs Okoya, who is also the CEO of *Eleganza Group*, went all out for her birthday pictures in black and gold tones. The 45-year-old's birthday pictures featured her husband and children.

Billionaire businesswoman, Shade Okoya, turned 45-year-old on April 25. She had a birthday photoshoot and has shared the photos online, Happy birthday to her!





THE FOUR FAMILY MEMBERS KILLED IN A HORROR STABBING IN SOUTH LONDON HAVE BEEN PICTURED BY POLICE

By: Linda R. Jones
London, UK

Juleth Hutchinson, 62, paid tribute to her brother Denton Burke who was one of four family members stabbed and killed in Bermondsey, South London last month.

Denton's grieving sister Juleth Hutchinson, 62, paid tribute to her brother who "only gave you jokes and smiles". She told how Denton, a father of two, was a former professional chef in Jamaica and worked as a street cleaner in Westminster. She said she last saw him on March 12 when he threw a surprise birthday party for his wife Dolet, who was battling breast cancer.

The family had a "lovely evening" at the get-together, where he cooked "piles of food" for his family.

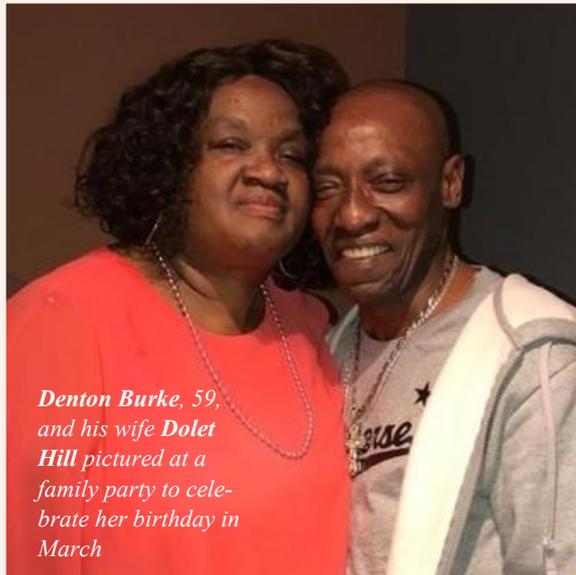
"I didn't know it was the last time I was going to see my brother," she added.

"My brother was a nice, quiet, innocent young man. He only gave you jokes and smiles. He was always smiling. "He didn't deserve to die like this and we don't know what happened.

"It's too much because we are a very close family and we love each other."

She added that Denton, originally from St Mary, Jamaica, "loved to cook" - especially jerk chicken.

Juleth said she had also worked with his wife Dolet at Guy's Hospital for 19 years.



Denton Burke, 59, and his wife Dolet Hill pictured at a family party to celebrate her birthday in March

"She was a lovely bubbly lady," she added. "She was always so kind and genuine. She was just a people person."

Dolet was described by a friend as "very loving, very kind and very generous"

Shaken by the shocking news, Juleth added: "I have always seen this sort of thing on the news but I didn't know it would come to my doorstep. I

don't know how to handle it at all."

Juleth, from Battersea, laid flowers with family members including her daughter and granddaughter at the scene in Bermondsey, south London.

Chayloe Daley, 26, also paid tribute to her great-uncle, adding: "We have been together since yesterday. We wanted to drive up here to get as close to him as possible."

Denton's niece Dawn Morrison, 56, added: "We miss them. We miss them so much."



*Dolet's granddaughter
Samantha was the
fourth victim*



Tanysha's daughter Samantha was 27 years old

The tributes come after police officially identified the four family members as Denton Burke, 58, Dolet Hill, 64, Ms Hill's daughter Tanysha Ofori-Akuffo, 45, also known as Rachquel, who lived in Kennington, and Ms Ofori-Akuffo's daughter Samantha Drummonds, 27, who lived in Forest Hill.



*Dolet's daughter Tanysha
was also killed in the attack*



Police officers in forensic suits enter a house in Bermondsey, south-east London after three women and a man were stabbed to death

Police said the 28-year-old man suspected of killing them was tasered before his arrest. He remains in hospital in a stable condition.

KIM KARDASHIAN ACCUSED OF BLACKFISHING



By: Seyi Awoloye
Los Angeles, CA
USA

Kim sported a heavy tan while wearing a black sequined dress on the night.

The reality star - whose late father Rob was Ar-



Kim & Pete

KIM Kardashian has been accused blackfishing yet again after she was seen flaunting a deep tan during a date with Pete Davidson.

The 41-year-old's complexion looked visibly darker than usual as she attended the Mark Twain Prize For American Humor in Washington last month.

menian - sat next to her boyfriend Pete, 28, in the audience at The Kennedy Center.

Critics flooded Reddit to accuse the SKIMS mogul of blackfishing - a term that refers to someone pretending to be Black or mixed-race, using tools for hairstyling and makeup.

Journalist Wanna Thompson created the term and described it as "White public figures, influ-

encers, and the like [who] do everything in their power to appear Black."

One user wrote on Reddit in a since-deleted comment: "When are we going to pull [Kim] up on the constant blackfishing? She is just unabashedly pretending to be a different race?"

Another added: "Her dress is pretty, but she looks really dark. Like chill out on the spray tan."

"Right? Every time I see her next to Pete she literally looks Oompa Loompa-esque," a user agreed.

Kim has repeatedly been called out for blackfishing and cultural appropriation over the years. Back in March, she was slammed for her "out of control" tan while on a dinner date with Pete.

In 2017, Kim was accused of blackfishing in a KKW Beauty ad, but retaliated by calling her critics "so toxic".

BEAUTY CONTROVERSY

"I did a photoshoot for the first launch of my KKW beauty contour sticks and we wanted them really moody. I was really tan. I wanted to show the contour," Kim said in a resurfaced KUWTK clip.



"The photos ended up being a little bit darker than I was," she continued as a photo of her from the shoot appeared.

"There were some people online saying I was doing 'blackface' and that the photos were inappropriate."

The video cut to people on the internet tweeting about Kim's photos.

"The internet world is so toxic. And I feel like people are just waiting for you to make a mistake, just to point it out," she said.

KIM'S FRUSTRATION

"What do you do? It's already out," asked a friend in the video.

Kim just looked at her and then back at her laptop with a frustrated expression.

Ren wrote in the digital magazine Public Books: "The Kardashians are a prime example of multiracial white supremacy.

"A commercial enterprise posing as a family, the Kardashians are hell-bent on extracting financial gain from Black people and

Black culture, even as they stigmatize, in particular, Black women through their project of multiracial whiteness."

THANDIWE NEWTON IS OFF TO REHAB

By: Linda R. Jones
London, UK



Thandiwe Newton

Thandiwe Newton is being urged to go to rehab after reportedly splitting up with Ol Parker, her filmmaker husband of 24 years. It follows claims of a 'breakdown' on the set of her latest movie project.

Thandiwe Newton has bravely opened up about her difficult past over the years, but after recent events, her team are said to be worried about her mental health more now than ever before. The 49-year-old actress was allegedly sacked from filming the latest instalment of the Magic Mike franchise following a heated row with the film's producer and leading actor Channing Tatum.

The London-born actress is said to have called time on her marriage to Parker—best known for directing 2018's *Mamma Mia!* The couple have three children. Claims the couple have parted ways emerged after the 52-year-old director was spotted outside their London home without his wedding ring.

Though details of the tête-à-tête have remained under wraps, with some speculation it was a clash in opinion over Will Smith slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars, it has been reported Thandiwe had been “acting strange on set” and was “ranting and raving” during filming anyway.

Thandiwe is also said to have fired her British-based agent, who she has worked with for over 30 years, with her trusted confidante being her pet rab-



bits she has kept in her hotel room, as reports claim.

“Her apparent breakdown caused so much disrup-



tion, it became clear she couldn't do the role. There is a lot going on in her personal life." With things taking a toll on her personal life, Thandiwe's team think it would be best for her to seek mental health support.

The source added: "Thandiwe's team want her to go to rehab for mental health support. She was supposed to leave immediately for a facility. "They tried for a Malibu rehab, but they couldn't take her. Arrangements are now being made to go to a facility in Arizona, if she agrees."

'WHAT HAS THE QUEEN EVER DONE?'

DR SHOLA HITS OUT AT ROYALS AS SHE DEMANDS REPARATIONS

By: Linda R. Jones
London, UK



DR SHOLA
Mos-Shogbamimu

British-born Nigerian activist and lawyer, Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu has lashed out at the Queen for "failing" to apologise or pay reparations to Caribbean nations.

The Queen has been urged to apologise by Caribbean protesters seeking reparations after the Earl and Countess of Wessex received a mixed reception during their visit to Saint Lucia. Edward and Sophie originally received a warm welcome to the

island during a walkabout in the town of Soufriere, but were soon met by a group of around 10 protesters before a trip to a cocoa plantation. The couple are still yet to hold a public walkabout on their Caribbean tour.

Speaking to Sky News, Dr Shola said: "The British monarchy's popularity is at an all-time low and it no longer has any relevance. "From the Cambridge's to the Wessex's it shows that the Royal Family isn't listening. "It is an insult to Afro-Caribbean's in those countries. "It is also a testament that the Queen as head of state of those nations failed.

"She failed as head of state, she has no legacy to



leave because the first question you have to ask is,



what did the Queen ever do as political head of state for these Afro-Caribbean nations? "What did she ever do for her subjects, the Afro-Caribbean citizens? "What has she ever done for the British Afro-Caribbean's who were born and raised in this country?"

She added: "When these countries are demanding reparations, what is the response we're getting from the Royal Family? "Nothing. No apology or reparations. America paid \$1.6billion in reparations to the Japanese Americans."

IT'S OVER! MADONNA SPLITS FROM BOYFRIEND AFTER THREE YEARS TOGETHER

By: Linda R. Jones
London, UK

Madonna is reportedly single again after splitting from her 28-year-old boyfriend, Ahlamalik Williams. The 63-year-old superstar has regularly posted images on social media of her sexy American toyboy who she started dating in 2019. However, the last time the dancer appeared on her Instagram was in a Christmas video from last year.

According to an insider, the break-up was amicable.

“Things have been on and off for a while. There’s a lot of love, but for now they have decided to separate. They are still on good terms and there are no hard feelings but they are at different places with their lives.

“They spent months together on tour and in lockdown, but now he has moved out of her home. With them both working on other things, it was hard to keep their romance alight.”

Ahmalalik, whose last Instagram post was in February showing him dancing to Kanye West’s Heaven and Hell, met Madge while dancing on her Rebel Heart tour in 2015.



Ahmalalik Williams & Madonna

In 2019, his father Drue (61) spoke out about their romance saying Madonna had told them she was “so in love with him and that we didn’t have anything to worry about as she was going to take care of him”.

The queen of pop seemed to allude to the rumoured split in a recent quote that she posted on Instagram. It read: “Karma said: when somebody in your life is not right for you . . . god will continuously use



them to hurt you until you become strong enough to let them go.”

The insider reveals that Madge is working on new music and has “thrown herself into a busy social life”, seeing friends and family in the wake of the split.

Recent photos on her Instagram account show her attending the popular Coachella Music Festival in the US as well as on a night out on the town with her “besties” who include British designer Stella McCartney.



KIZZ DANIEL QUILTS SMOKING ON BIRTHDAY



sake of my kids and people that genuinely love me, I quit."

Credit: Instagram| kizzdaniel

Singer, Kizz Daniel, has announced he is quitting smoking.

He made the announcement in a video on his birthday via his Instagram page on Sunday.

With his song "Addict" playing in the background, the singer said; "As I celebrate my birthday, for the

Black Muslim school girl, 15, 'left with bruises' after South London stop and search

By: Andrew Collins
London, UK

Black Muslim school girl, 15, 'left with bruises' after South London stop and search. School governor Carina White says the situation shouldn't have escalated.

A Black school girl was allegedly left with bruises on her arm following a stop and search on a street in South London. The police say they noticed a group of children attempting to open a closed shop shutter and when an officer approached, the children began to walk away.

Video footage of the encounter in Lambeth was taken by an eyewitness who filmed the Met Police officer then pulling the minor around the pavement with one arm handcuffed, while the rest of the students protested. The school kids then attempted to intervene and could be heard shouting 'let her go' as the officer pulled her away from the group.

As well as pleading for her release, school children could be heard saying "look, she doesn't have the key" as they attempted to hand the police an object. The video shows the school girl resisting but the officer then proceeding to forcibly take her into a commercial building to conduct a search. The Met has

since told MyLondon that no search was carried out.

In the video, a witness can be heard asking the officer numerous times what powers he has to detain the girl but he does not respond. The police have said that they are under no obligation to respond to the demands of people who gather around them.

A spokesperson for the Met said: "A 15-year-old girl who had been seen to be trying to open the shutter was stopped and told she was being detained for a search. The purpose of the search was to try to find the item that had been being used to



The girl

open the shutter.

"The girl tried to pull away from the officer who was also physically obstructed by a crowd that gathered around him. She was handcuffed in order to prevent her making off and was taken inside a commercial premises away from the crowd so the search could be conducted safely."

The Met has stated that police did not proceed with the search as the shop owner did not wish to take the matter further. During the commotion, while handcuffed, the girl's hijab began to slip. Police say that from the body camera footage her headscarf was already partially removed before the incident began. But school governor at Saint Gabriel's College in Lambeth, Carina White, says that when she watched the video she was left "raging". The girl involved was not a pupil at Saint Gabriel's.

Carina said: "I was fuming, raging, I had so many questions. There was absolutely no reason whatsoever for that situation to have escalated in the way that it did. And what we now have is the 15-year-old who I can only imagine is probably traumatised from that situation from that experience and is now covered in bruises." Bruising can be seen on her arm in the video after she is released.

As well as failing to de-escalate the situation, the school governor says that there was a lack of cultural awareness when the girl's headscarf began to slide back. She said: "It's Ramadan and Eid is in the next few days. You could clearly see that she has a hijab or headscarf over her hair. And in the process of her trying to get away from the officer or trying to avoid him putting handcuffs on her, her headscarf is falling down.

"She's 15, I understand. And you know, that is quite a serious thing for her from a religious and

cultural perspective to have her hair be on show to boys that are hanging around and the male officer there. You could also see that she was quite clearly in distress."

Carina hosts the podcast Black Mums Upfront where she discusses being a Black parent and issues surrounding inequality. The mum-of-one says that the officer could have dealt with the situation differently and that lessons haven't been learned since the Child Q case, when a 15-year-old girl was strip-searched at a school in Hackney by police while on her period.

The Londoner said: "Clearly nothing has been learned. Following the Child Q case, the fact that this is a male police officer trying to handcuff a 15-year-old child who is clearly in distress. You have adults that are standing there that are asking and saying, 'you have not stated on what grounds you are stopping and searching her'. It should not be common practice for children to be handcuffed whilst being stopped and searched.

"What he could have done is walked away from that situation, de-escalated it and then attended the school the next day with the body cam footage to show the school and asked to identify that child, and then speak to her and ascertain exactly what they were doing."

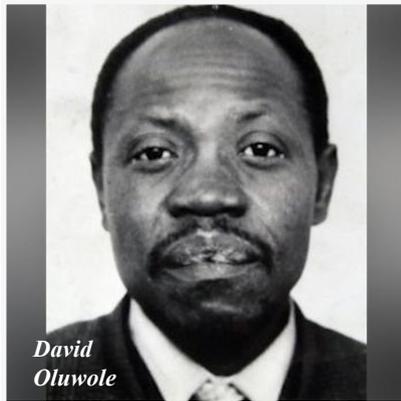
She says she believes the children were worried about the 15-year-old girl as they attempted to intervene on the stop and search. Carina said: "Of course they want to make sure she's okay. Given that this is off the back of Child Q, of course people are going to be worried and they want to make sure that she's okay."

WHO DAVID OLUWALE WAS, HOW HE DIED AND THE LEEDS POLICE RACISM LINKED TO HIS DEATH

Memorials to David on Leeds Bridge have twice been torn down hours after their installation

David Oluwale's death in 1969 led to the first prosecution of British police for involvement in the death of a black person

A blue plaque commemorating the heartbreaking death of David Oluwale was stolen hours after it was installed on Leeds Bridge in an act police are treating as a hate crime.



David Oluwale

A temporary memorial to David was taped in its place. A few hours later it was vandalised.

You'd think by this swift, brutal response that David was a controversial figure, like say, slaver Edward Colston. David Oluwale was not.

David was a controversial figure, like say, slaver Edward Colston. David Oluwale was not.

He was a poor Nigerian immigrant looking for a better life in "The Motherland" of Britain which he had learned to revere at school. Instead, he suffered unimaginable discrimination and abuse before he was "hounded to death" by racist police officers protected by a prejudiced justice system. Here is David's story.

David Oluwale was born in Lagos, then the capital of Nigeria, around 1930. His father, who worked in

the fishing trade, died when David was around seven years old.

Aged about 19, he stowed away on the SS Temple Bar, a cargo ship bound for Hull. Work in Lagos was scarce – David earned a few pence collecting golf balls at a colonial golf course, according to a friend – and could not afford the fare.

Smoked out of his hiding place amid boxes of groundnuts, David was handed to the authorities when the ship docked in Hull. He was jailed for 28 days as a stowaway under the Merchant Shipping Act but as a citizen of the British Empire he was allowed to stay in Britain.

He served his time at Armley Prison and Northallerton Prison before heading to Leeds. David had trained as a tailor in Lagos and believed he would find work in the city.



David did find jobs and places to live in Leeds although neither lasted long. Racial discrimination in 1950s Leeds closed many doors to him. Some of

his former colleagues said David, nicknamed "Yankee" for his love of westerns, could be stubborn and insubordinate which didn't help in a Britain then heavily weighted against Black people.

He did, however, make friends with a few West Africans living in Leeds at the time. One described him as "a quiet man" and "always happy and smiling". Another said he was a "good conversational-

however, said the policeman hit David with his truncheon which may have caused permanent brain damage.

Back in Armley Prison, a medical officer observed David acting strangely. He was taken to St James's where he was described as "loud, excitable and terrified". David was sectioned and transferred to the city's infamous High Royds psychiatric hospital in



ist... always making jokes and could be the life of the party".

But three years later, David would enter an horrible spiral of poverty, crime, severe mental illness and abuse. In 1953, he was jailed for assaulting a police officer and damaging a police uniform following a row over a bill at the King Edward Hotel. Friends,

Menston.

David was detained at High Royds and sedated using chlorpromazine, known as a "liquid cosh". He was released from High Royds in 1961 having never received a single visitor.

Institutionalised and damaged by his time at High

Royds, David found a job and somewhere to live but it was short-lived. His friends described him at the time as "nervous, twitchy, slow, shuffling [and] laughing for no reason".

He drifted between London and Sheffield but always returned to Leeds. Unemployed, David became homeless and in 1965 he was charged with assaulting two policemen who caught him entering a derelict house where he had previously slept.

Back again in Armley Prison on remand, a prison psychiatrist found David "very paranoid about the police whom he accused of ill-treating him, stealing his money and persecuting him".

He was sent back to High Royds in November 1965 where he remained until April 1967. David returned to Leeds where he lived on the streets around Kirkgate Market and occasionally in hostels. Discrimination at the time meant David and other Black men were barred from such places

It was thought to have been around April 1968 when David first encountered Sgt Kenneth Kitching and Insp Geoffrey Ellerker, two Leeds policemen who would systematically make his already miserable life a living hell.

According to accounts, the officers would grab David from the street in the middle of the night – another policeman saw Kitching urinating on David as he lay in a shop doorway– and take him to Millgarth police station for a beating. On one occasion, Ellerker kicked David in the groin so hard his body lifted from the floor, one witness said.



The officers would, according to accounts, make David do what they called "penance" forcing him to kneel before them and kicking away his arms causing his head to smash into the pavement. Sometimes they would drive him miles from the city centre and abandon him hoping he would leave Leeds – but he always returned because it was his home. Having dumped David in Middleton Woods at 3.30am, the officers are said to have joked David would "feel at home in the jungle".

The last time David was seen alive was probably on April 18, 1969, when a bus conductor saw a short (David was 5ft 5in), scruffy man being chased by two police officers down an alley close to Leeds Bridge. He was screaming and clutching his head. David had earlier been beaten with truncheons in the doorway of John Peters Furniture store, Lands Lane.

Another witness, a local petty criminal, said he had seen two policemen beat a small, "dark man" unconscious and kick him into the river. David's bruised body was found 2.5 miles downstream,

near Knostrop Weir, 16 days later. He was buried in a flimsy coffin, stuffed with old phone directories, in a pauper's grave with nine other people at Killingbeck Cemetery. The service was attended only by Fr Martin Carroll from St Anne's Cathedral, undertakers and gravediggers.

An inquest recorded David had drowned and there were no suspicious circumstances. Leeds police officers closed ranks and for Kitching and Ellerker, they probably believed it was over.

But a scrupulous police cadet, Gary Galvin suspected Kitching and Ellerker were behind David's death. Rumours of David's beatings were flying around Millgarth around the time Ellerker was sacked and jailed for covering up the death of Minnie Wein. The 69-year-old was hit and killed by the drunk driver of an unmarked police car – alleged to be Supt Derek Holmes – on a pedestrian crossing near the Skyrack pub in Headingley.

Scotland Yard launched an inquiry into David's death and Kitching and Ellerker were charged with manslaughter, perjury and GBH. But British justice wasn't exactly blind when the pair came to trial.

Racist terms were found on police paperwork relating to David yet racism was never mentioned during the trial. Witness statements which didn't fit the negative image of David as portrayed in court were excluded from the trial. Indeed judge Mr Justice Hinchliffe said during the trial: "It is accepted on all hands that [Oluwale] was "a dirty, filthy, violent vagrant".

The judge directed the jury at Leeds Assizes Court to acquit Kitching and Ellerker of manslaughter although the pair were found guilty of his assault. Ellerker was jailed for three years while Kitching received 27 months.

Justice was not served but it was the first successful prosecution of British police officers for in-

volvement in the death of a Black person. David's unimaginable, unmerited suffering caused a public outcry but the case faded from the public sphere until 2007 when police paperwork detailing the case was declassified under the 30-year rule.

The case exposed some of the most appalling racism, brutality and corruption in British policing as well as an institutionally prejudiced justice system.

Books, plays, a charity dedicated to David's memory and hopefully a new plaque on Leeds Bridge will ensure neither he nor the injustice he suffered is forgotten again.

GABRIELLE UNION AND HER HUSBAND DWYANE WADE PUT ON A LOVED-UP DISPLAY AS THEY WALK HAND-IN-HAND WHILE HEADING OUT FOR DINNER IN NYC

By: Bunmi Johnson
New York, NY

Gabrielle Union and her husband Dwyane Wade put on a loved-up display as they stepped out for dinner in New York City, on Saturday.

The couple were all smiles as they were captured walking hand-in-hand while leaving the Mark Hotel in the Big Apple.

The *Bring It On* star, 49, looked effortlessly chic in a white ruffled midi dress with a zebra printed on the front, while she also sported a stylish pair of knee-high boots.

Gabrielle looked radiant as she opted for a dewy makeup palette, while scraping her dark tresses into a single braid.

Meanwhile Dwyane, 40, looked effortlessly cool in a quirky blue denim jacket and white t-shirt, teamed with brown trousers.

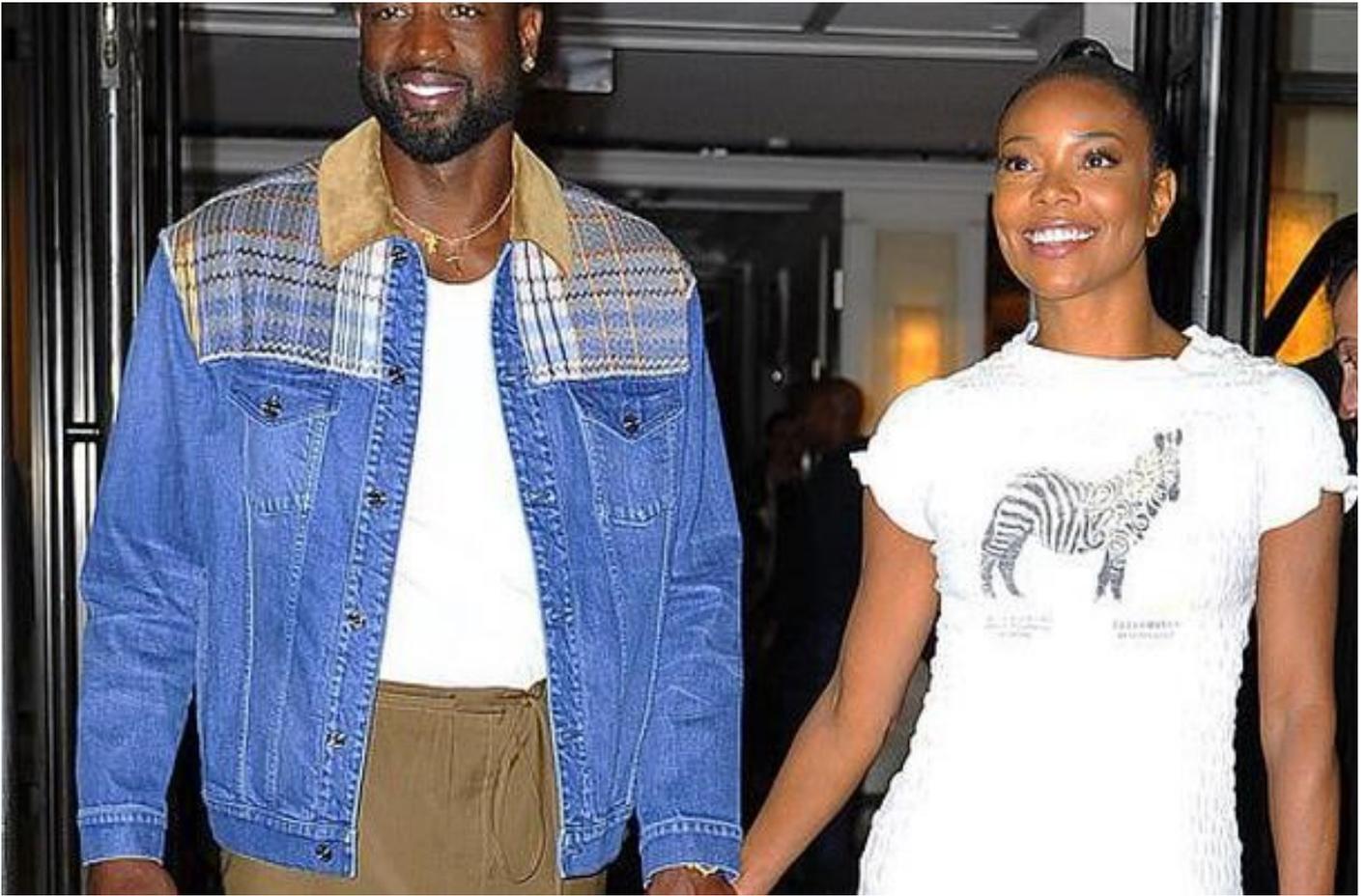
The former NBA star sported a pair of fresh white trainers and accessorised with a gold chain.

The smitten couple lovingly looked at each other before enjoying a lavish date night in the city.

Gabrielle and Dwyane initially met at a Super Bowl party in 2007 and established a close



Gabrielle & Hubby



friendship soon afterwards

The happy couple eventually began dating and made their relationship known to the public in 2012.

The two separated the following year, although they reconciled and became engaged that December.

2023: GPMI BEGS SENATOR AKPABIO TO VIE FOR PRESIDENCY

He has shown capacity and the ability to connect with people. Global Peace Movement International, UK has called on the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Godswill Akpabio to contest for the 2023 presidential race.

GPMI said its decision to call on Akpabio to join the race was based on his landmark achievements in governance in various spheres of human endeavours.

In a press statement issued on Monday signed by Dr. Mike Uyi in London said Akpabio would build a formidable Nigeria if given the opportunity to pilot the affairs of the country.

Uyi said Nigeria is in dire need of a transformational leader who can maximize the agricultural sector and scuttle the menace of food insecurity and a man that has the zeal to interpret the root cause of insecurity in Nigeria for sustainable public order.

“The minister has left enduring policies and legacies as the student union leader of the University of Calabar, Commissioner of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Akwa Ibom State, governor of the state for eight years, Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and as Minister of the Niger Delta Affairs”.



“We the Nigerians fully represented here attributed our desire for you as a president because of your landmark achievements in governance spanning from your prominence and remarkable achievements”.

“Despite poor economy and general disaffection in the country, quality education for children, restructuring of the refineries to full capacity, provision of quality and adequate infrastructures and others are still possible in Nigeria if Nigerians vote for Akpabio in the coming Presidential election”.

Uyi further stated that when the Niger Delta militancy was at its peak, Sen Akpabio was one of those patriotic Nigerians who braved the odds, stepped into the ring and found this win-win solution that has held the region at peace till today.

“He has demonstrated his political sagacity in recently meeting with a Niger Delta warlord and finding a peaceful way to calm frayed nerves. Nigeria needs a leader who is proactive and has problem-solving skills”.

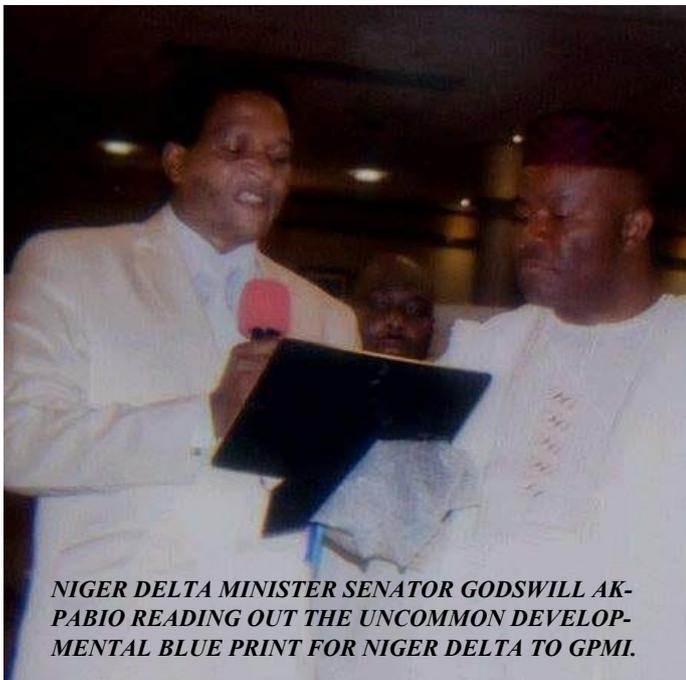


“When he was sworn in as governor, he declared that Akwa Ibom will no longer be known as a state where people come for houseboys, maids and cooks, that he will return the indigenes to their pride of place. He delivered by embarking on a massive free education programme in both primary and secondary schools, enacted a law to make it illegal for parents not to send their children to school and then gave incentives to headmasters and principals”.

“Everyone knows there is a synergy between quality education and security because though national security is the first duty of every government, education is its foundation. Senator Akpabio clearly knows how to tackle these head on and resolve them very quickly”

“What we need now as a nation is someone in the mould of Godswill Akpabio who can heal the land and lead the nation in 2023 as a president and commander in chief of the armed forces. He has shown capacity and the ability to connect with people from the North, East, West and South of this country”.

“We believe in a healthy, strong, vibrant and energetic young man like Akpabio who will be ready to hit the ground running from day one if elected president”.



According to Uyi, GPMI is inspired by Sen Akpabio’s power of vision and capacity to keep his promise.

'HOW ALAAFIN OF OYO DIED'

By: Okunlola Kayode F.

Senior Writer

Lagos, Nigeria

The Alaafin of Oyo, Lamidi Adeyemi III, passed on after complications associated with prostate enlargement, according to a family source, saying that the 83-year-old monarch had recently said the condition was going to claim his life.



Alaafin-Oyo

The monarch passed on at the Afe Babalola University Teaching Hospital in Ado Ekiti, the capital of Ekiti State, a facility he had previously visited at different times for treatment. The proprietor, Afe Babalola, was a close friend and honorary chief of the late Alaafin.

The source said the monarch had for “several years managed” the prostate enlargement condition but with age, the difficulties increased recently, causing severe urinary problems.

“I know what will kill me, I know this prostate problem will kill me,” the source quoted the late monarch as saying. The source, who asked not to be named as he has no permission to brief journalists, said the monarch spoke with him in late March.

The source said the monarch told them the regular exercise that he was known for and the food choices had helped him to manage the condition for a long time.

“He said that with age, his ability to fight (manage the condition) was reducing and that the condition was severely worsening,” the source said.

Meanwhile, multiple palace sources said the monarch recently had a domestic accident, which caused him a hand injury. The affected hand had to be bandaged. And when he had to make a public appearance when the Oluwo of Iwo, Adewale Akanbi, visited him on April 10, he used his cloth to cover the affected hand, the palace sources said, a matter that was confirmed by a royal.

Apparently, the accident aggravated his condition,



Alaafin of Oyo, Oba Lamidi Olayiwola Adeyemi III

since 1968 when Alaafin Bello Gbadegesin Ladigbolu II, passed on. Oba Adeyemi succeeded Alaafin Gbadegesin in 1970 but his formal coronation ceremony took place in January 1971.

Rites

Ajokidero and other Islamic clerics performed the funeral, Janazah, prayers at 12:35 pm outside the Aganju Forecourt.

After the Islamic prayers, the late monarch's remains were taken back to the palace where traditionalists held final rites behind closed doors.

His body was later brought out into the main hall where he had received visitors when he was alive.

and he was then later moved to the Ado Ekiti hospital where he was placed on admission.

“On Thursday, his condition was stable, and he made a few calls to tell those close to him that he was getting fine,” our source said. “But around 4:30 or 5 p.m. on Friday, everything changed. The



person that was with him (an aide titled Osi Efa) called and said we should be praying because he had stopped responding to treatments.

“The battle for his life started while those of us aware of the situation were scared but praying. But very late on Friday, or perhaps in the earliest hours of Saturday, he had his last moment and plans began to bring the remains home in an ambulance.”

Oyo had not witnessed the passing of a monarch

WHY ETO'O SLAMMED RONALDINHO AFTER MISSING OUT ON FIFA BEST PLAYER AWARD



Bunmi Johnson
Bureau-Chief, New York
NY, USA



Eto

Ronaldinho

Cameroon legend Samuel Eto'o once took a dig at his former Barcelona teammate Ronaldinho after missing out on the FIFA Best Player of the Year award back then. Brazilian superstar Ronaldinho was voted the best player of the year in 2005, with Cameroonian legend Eto'o completing the top 3. Samuel Eto'o, who was not happy to lose out to Ronaldinho, said he would have been crowned the best player if he was a Brazilian. Samuel Eto'o is rated as one of the best strikers to ever play for Spanish giants Barcelona.

The ex-Cameroonian international joined the Catalan giants in 2004 from Spanish club Real Mallorca, where he finished as the club's all-time leading top scorer with 54 goals. The prolific striker established himself as a fans favourite during his trophy filled time at the Camp Nou, together with Brazili-

an star Ronaldinho and Portuguese playmaker Deco.

Samuel Eto'o's time in Barcelona coincided with Ronaldinho, who joined the Blaugranas in 2003. They developed a strong partnership and helped Barcelona to win their first La Liga title for the first time in six years in 2005.

That year, the pair mounted the FIFA podium, with Ronaldinho finishing first in the FIFA Player of the Year race. Chelsea legend Frank Lampard was voted the second best player

that year and Eto'o came in third place. Eto'o, however, did not agree with the outcome of the award ceremony and compelled to point out his belief he would have been crowned the best player if he was a Brazilian. In an interview with L'Equipe in 2006, as quoted by Tribuna, Eto'o said: "If I were called Eto'ozinho, I would be a hundred times more recognised." "I do not complain when they in FIFA say Samuel Eto'o is the third-best player in the world. I still consider myself the best," the Cameroonian added.

The 2004/05 season was Eto'o's best at Barca. He scored 33 goals and delivered 10 assists that term. He won three La Liga titles and two Champions Leagues for Barcelona between 2004 and 2009, before moving to Inter Milan ahead of the 2009/10 campaign.

DAVIDO'S 17TH JUNE TORONTO SHOW ALREADY SOLD OUT FEW HOURS AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT

Ibukun Babatunde
Port-Harcourt
Nigeria

30 BG boss, Davido has sold out all tickets for his Toronto, Canada venue for his We Rise By Lifting Others North American Tour.

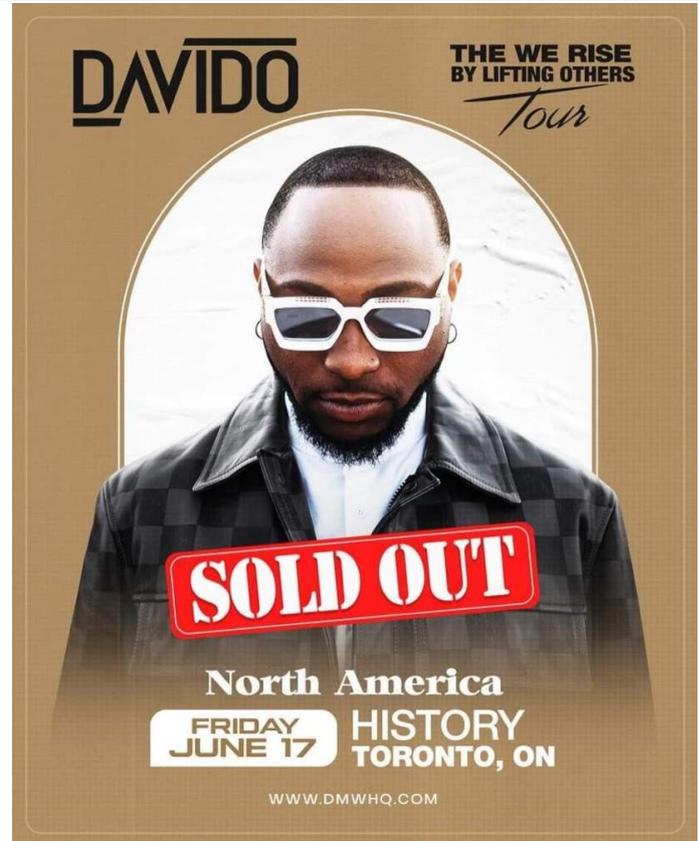


Few hours after Davido announced his shows in North America, the one scheduled for 17th June at



the Toronto History event centre has been sold out already. The venue has a capacity of 2,500.

Hard working Nigerian artiste, David Adedeji Adeleke, popularly known as Davido has fully packed shows in major



North American cities with mega shows scheduled for June, 2022.

This tour is dubbed, “We rise by lifting others” and it is dated to start from 16th and ends at Los Angeles on 25th June.

Davido revealed this tour is just a little package he has for his fans in North America before the release of his next studio album.

'WHY MUST THE LAWS BE TWISTED FOR ONE INDIVIDUAL?' - INSIDE DROGBA'S DIVISIVE IVORIAN FA ELECTION CAMPAIGN



By: Okunlola Kayode F.
Senior Writer
Lagos, Nigeria

As with most FAs, the FIF election is not an open one. Only presidents from top-flight clubs and two lower divisions – D2 and D3 – are allowed to vote.

“Drogba would win the election in a landslide if fans were allowed to vote,” Rash N'guessan, a producer at Radio Cote d'Ivoire Sport, tells GOAL. “But, that is not the case now. He has to deal with people who do not swoon over his popularity.”

That is not all. To be eligible to run for the top post, a prospective candidate must fulfill certain stringent criteria, the strictest being the endorsement of at least one of the interest groups.



The former Chelsea striker is one of three candidates running for the FIF presidency but his candidacy has caused incredible controversy.

Many in Cote D'Ivoire hailed Didier Drogba's decision in 2020 to snub an administrative role at his former club, Chelsea, in order to enter the Ivorian Football Federation (FIF) presidential race.

It was widely seen as another act of patriotism from the former Elephants captain, who is calling for a “thorough reform” of the nation's football set-up, with a particular emphasis on the the domestic sector.

However, his message however resounds more with ordinary football fans than the major stakeholders of the sport.

They are: the Association of Ivorian Footballers (AFI), the Association of Former Footballers of Cote d'Ivoire (AAFICI), the Coaches Commission, the Referees Commission and the Doctors Commission.

An aspirant needs the stamp of at least one of these groups in order to validate his candidacy.

That was the hermetic defence the former striker could not breach for months, leading to the suspension of the electoral process by FIFA, the scrapping of the incumbent FA and the naming of a normalisation committee.

“It is hard to explain but many people have the feeling that FIFA and CAF (Confederation of Afri-

can Football) are smoothing the path for Drogba because of his reputation in football. Why should the laws of an election be changed because a candidate failed to meet them?

“The body’s former president, Sidy Diallo, voted twice with those laws. Why must they be twisted or reviewed now because of one individual?” says Kone Ibrahim, a contract lawyer and former football coach.

However, many locals were astounded to realise that the most popular personality of the nation could not obtain just one endorsement needed to push through his bid.

It remained a talking point for many months in many quarters, including the country’s presidency.

The most astonishing part was Drogba’s failure to clinch the support of the Association of Former Footballers of Cote d’Ivoire (AAFICI), of which he is a member and honorary president. The association,

which endorsed Drogba’s rival, came under fire for not supporting one of its own.

However, in a statement, former Tottenham midfielder, Didier Zokora, who is also a member of AAFICI, gave their side of the story.

“Nobody is against Drogba. He caused all the woes for himself. Imagine, as a member of our association and honorary president, Drogba has never at-

tended a meeting with us, even when he is in town,” Zokora said.

“Initially, long before the election issues, we met Drogba and asked him to run for the post in order for us to be well represented. He declined saying he had other priorities.

“And then we turned to work with another candidate. We had been preparing his campaign for the past three years.

“Suddenly, Drogba emerged, saying he wants to run for the seat. He did not even inform us or solicit our blessing. We heard it in the news,” he said.



FIFA and CAF claimed that the Ivorian FA election rules were contradictory, notably Article 47, which imposes an endorsement from the interest groups, mandating the newly installed Nor-

malisation Committee to carry out its review.

After months of tortuous talks with several clubs, most of whom were averse to any form of modification, the Committee, headed by Dao Gabala Marriam, achieved a consensus that allows a candidate to get endorsement from any FA recognised entity, even clubs.

However, standing in the way are two opponents capable of preventing the talisman from being elected.

Drogba is running against two former FA vice presidents – Sory Diabate and Idriss Diallo. Each of them boasts of more than 25 years of experience in domestic football.

Drogba's detractors claim the two-time African footballer of the Year lacks the technical knowhow of local football.

However, Drogba's campaign, tagged 'Renaissance', believes opponents of the 44-year-old are shying away from the "real debate".

"What do they mean by experience in domestic football?" Drogba's campaign manager, Eugene Diomande, tells GOAL.

"Did that prevent Kalusha Bwalya from doing a good job at Zambia's FA? Did it stop Cameroonians from voting Samuel Eto'o who has started off very well?"

"Look, they know Drogba has the best programme, thus they are afraid all the clubs' chiefs would vote for him even with eyes closed."

Drogba has promised to improve football infrastructure – stadiums and training facilities – across

the country to allow clubs play in optimum conditions. Much of that process, though, is already under way anyway, as the country prepares to host the Africa Cup of Nations next year.

He wants to double annual subsidies given to clubs in the three upper divisions.

Each Division One club normally gets 75 million CFA francs (£115,000/\$150,000), but Drogba says

they will get 150m (£230,000/\$300,000) each under him.

Division Two clubs will take home 40m (£62,000/\$80,000) each, instead of 20m (£31,000/\$40,000), while Division Three teams will be given 30m (£46,000/\$60,000) each instead of 15m (£23,000/\$30,000).

That's not all from the former Olympique Marseille ace. He wants to offer a brand new bus to each club in all three

divisions to ease their logistical challenges.

The type of bus he promises costs around \$200,000 (£155,000). There are a total of 77 clubs in the three leagues.

Where would he get the funds from? Drogba reiterates that he has the backing of local and international partners, without mentioning any names.



He says he will use his pedigree to secure headline sponsorship for the top flight and the other leagues. There have been no sponsors since 2010.

He also promised to tackle the issue of poor player salaries. Most of the clubs pay their players less than 50,000 francs (£77/\$100) per month, with many owing months in arrears.

Drogba assures that his plan to professionalise the leagues would improve salaries, but some observers have little faith in that possibility.

"Drogba has one of the best programmes but I am afraid," says sports journalist Max Ake. "Most of what he has promised would go to the purses of club owners, who decide what to give to their players.

"The players, who are the main actors of the sport, might not get anything worthwhile at the end of the day. It is not a new thing here."

It has been difficult for journalists to determine who amongst the three candidates is leading in the polls ahead of the vote due to a confidentiality code of conduct imposed by the organisers.

However, the lucky candidate will have other issues to deal with once at the helm of affairs.

The Elephants have been woeful in international competitions since their 2015 Africa Cup of Nations triumph. Ivorian clubs have been performing very badly for more than a decade now in continental competitions, while attendance at domestic league games has completely dried up.

Ivorians no longer show interest in their clubs. There have been reports of mismanagement of grants from the government and Fifa to the Ivorian FA. The incoming chief will be greeted with a full plate.

On Saturday, April 23, in Yamoussoukro, Cote D'Ivoire's political capital, Drogba will have the prayers and wishes of millions of fans across the country as a small group of people decides his fate and future in the sport.

TERRY CREWS ADMITS HIS 2020 BLACK LIVES MATTER TWEETS WERE A MISTAKE



By: Seyi Awolaye
Los Angeles, CA USA

At the height of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, advocates and opponents made themselves known on social media. The internet battleground of opinions regarding social justice saw everyone from average users to some of the biggest celebrities in the world speak up and share their thoughts.

One celebrity whose opinion on BLM caused a bit of controversy was Terry Crews, who released a series of tweets that caused many to question his allegiance to the movement.

Crews and his controversial comments

The first controversial tweet he shared read, "Defeating white supremacy without white people creates black supremacy. Equality is the truth. Whether we like it or not, we are all in this together."

A few weeks later, Terry tweeted another message, "If you are a child of God, you are my brother and sister. I have family of all races, creeds and ideologies. We must make sure #blacklivesmatter doesn't

turn into #blacklivesbetter."

However, the actor defended his words and followed them up with more statements in which he

doubled down on his views. "Any black person calling me a c-n o and uncle Tom for promoting EQUALITY is a black supremacist [sic] because they have determined

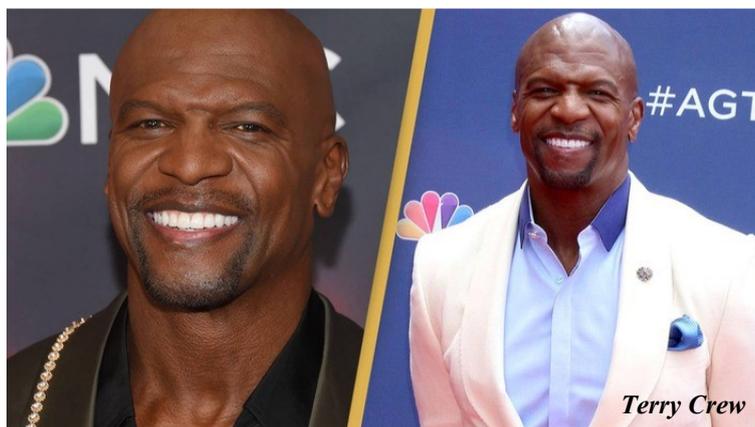
who is black and who isn't," he tweeted.

But now, Crews admits the timing of his tweets was a mistake

"I just wanted peace. And I guess it goes back to my approval. It goes back to my need for approval, it went back to that," Crews said. "And again, it was a mistake. It was a mistake to tweet that out at that time."

"The need is for us as a people to actually come together and really, really be what we need to be to this country, because it's our country. This is our country," Crews said. "We died and fought, and I'm not giving it away. This is our inheritance."

Despite apologizing for his earlier statements, Terry has not deleted any of his 2020 tweets.



EXCLUSIVE: BOXING LEGEND LARRY HOLMES SAYS THERE SHOULD BE A 'SIZE LIMIT' ON HEAVYWEIGHTS



By: Seyi Awolaye
Los Angeles, CA USA

Former world champion Larry Holmes has called for a size limit to be introduced to boxing after watching 6ft 9inch Tyson Fury establish himself as the best heavyweight around.

Holmes, who stands at 6ft 2inches, held the WBC title that is currently in the possession of 'The Gypsy King' from 1978 to 1983 and became a legend during that run when he beat Muhammad Ali in 1980.

During his time away from the sport, things have changed and as of late it's been the bigger men who've dominated the heavyweight division.

Right now, Fury is the biggest and best boxer in the division having handily dealt with America's best Deontay Wilder during their trilogy of fights.



Larry Holmes

Holmes fears that the US can no longer compete with the UK at heavyweight as they are undersized when compared to the likes of

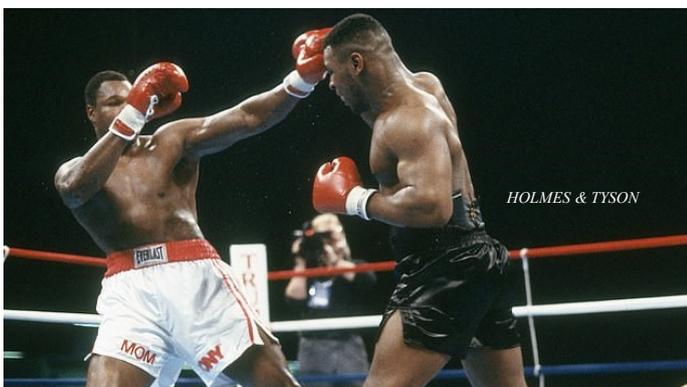
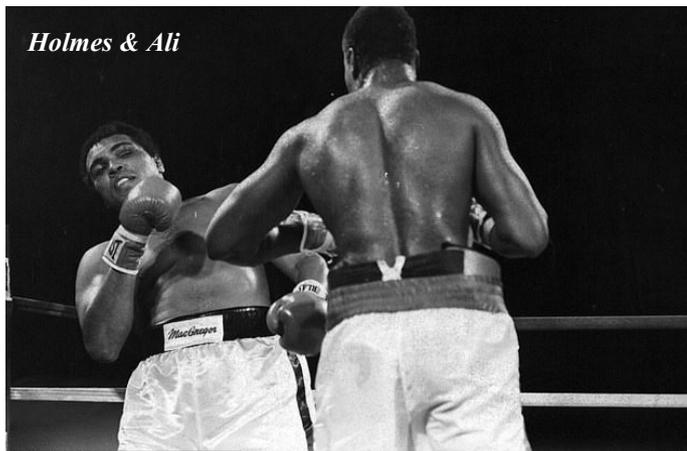
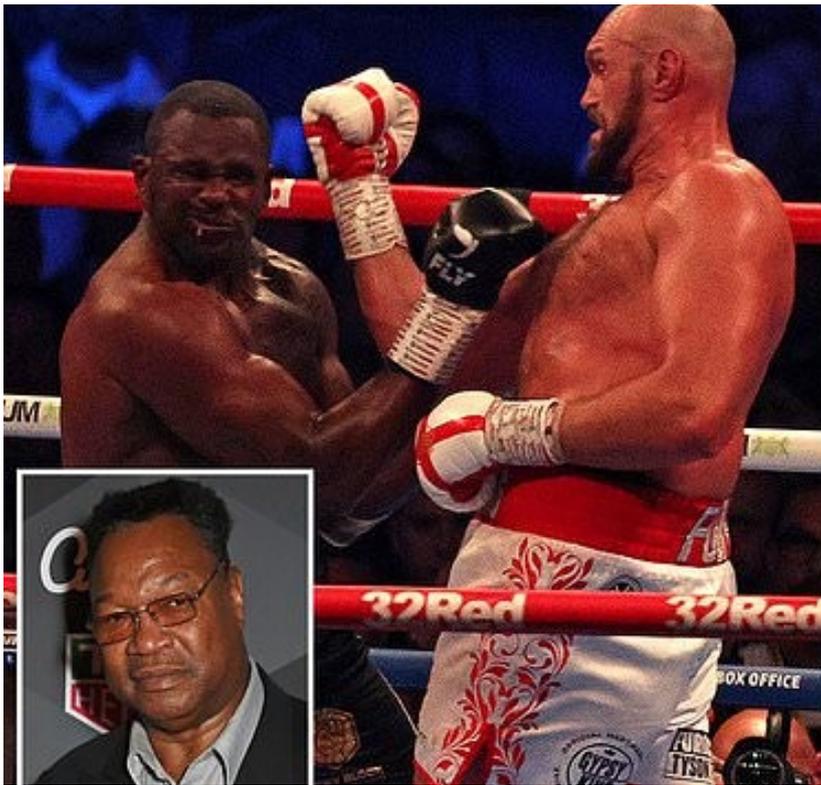
Fury and former two-time unified champion Anthony Joshua.

"American guys are little now," he told the Daily Mail. "Those guys coming from over there (UK), they seem like they're giants! They are big boys and they are making something out of themselves."



The 72-year-old is so desperate to end the British dominance at heavyweight, that he hilariously proposed a new law be introduced that would see Fury and Joshua kicked out of the division.

"There should be a law or a limit on the size you can be. Maybe 6ft 5 max," Holmes joked. "These guys are growing man. I don't know what they are eating but they are eating something that is making them grow."



Despite Holmes' concerns about sheer size becoming the main factor at heavy-

weight, former cruiserweight king Oleksandr Usyk currently holds three of the four major belts.

The Ukrainian was considered by many to be undersized heading into his September 2021 fight with 'AJ' but he silenced the doubters with a flawless unanimous decision win over the British giant.

The heavyweight duo are expected to rematch for the WBO, WBA (Super), and IBF titles on July 23.

MEGHAN MARKLE'S MOST INFLUENTIAL DRESS REVEALED - AND IT'S STUNNING

By: Linda R. Jones
London, UK



Meghan Markle always looks great, whether glammed up or rocking a more casual look, such as a T-shirt and jeans. But the Duchess really

suits a beautiful dress, and she's worn many classic looks over the years.

Now new research has revealed which of Meghan's iconic looks is the most popular with royal fans – based on the number of online likes and searches by people hoping to pull off a similar look.

Unsurprisingly, the top spot was taken by her simple and beautiful 2018 wedding dress, designed by Clare Waight Keller for Givenchy and worn with Queen Mary's Bandeau Tiara.

According to Dalston Mill Fabrics, this was the most-searched of any dress Meghan has ever worn, and we can see why. Elegant and understated, it was the perfect royal wedding gown, causing searches for the 40-year-old's style to jump by 3606%. Royal fans clearly love to see the mother-of-two in neutrals, as the second most popular outfit was a cream belted dress, also by Givenchy.

Meghan wore the lovely outfit to accompany the Queen to Cheshire shortly after her wedding, where the pair opened the Mersey Gateway Bridge and Chester's Storyhouse Theatre.

The Duchess' third most loved dress was a silk maxi dress from Figure that she wore to visit Fiji in October 2018. Meghan accessorised the look with Castañer wedge espadrilles and a chic updo.

Also popular were Meghan's yellow Brandon Maxwell midi dress, worn at a reception to mark the Culmination of the Commonwealth



Prince Harry & Meghan

Secretariats Youth Leadership Workshop, and her Aritzia Babaton Maxwell Dress, which she wore to the One Young World Summit Opening Ceremony at The Royal Albert Hall in October 2019. The impeccably-dressed royal also looks superbly stylish in more relaxed dresses, as she proved in one of her favourite frocks, a Carolina Herrera belted denim number.



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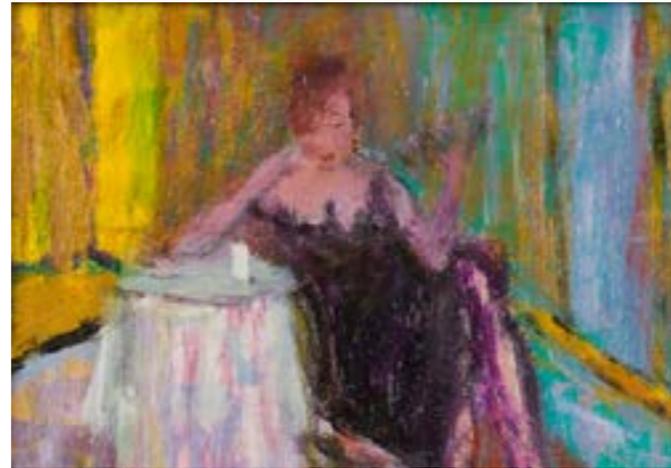
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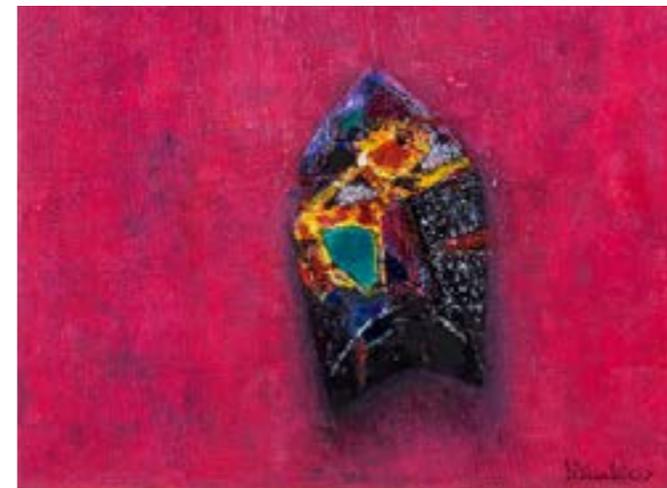
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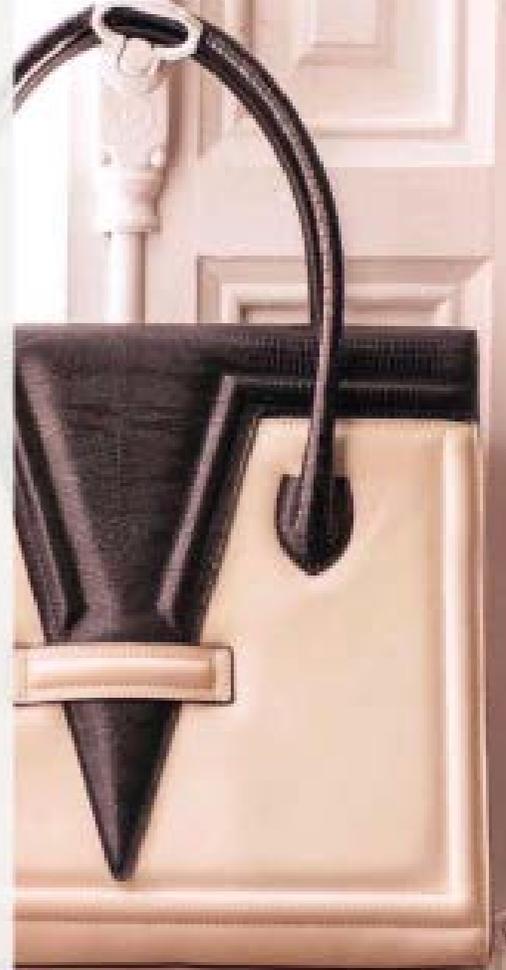
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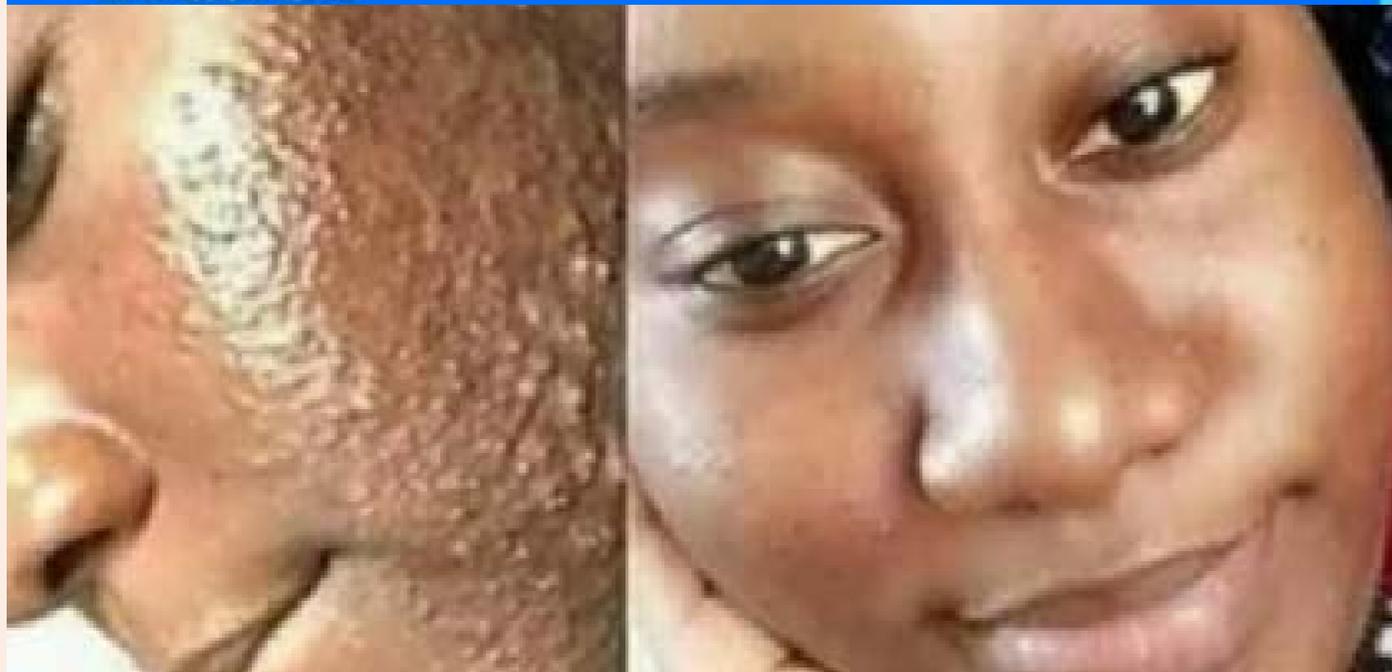


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HOW TO BECOME A BULGARIAN PERMANENT RESIDENT OR CITIZEN BY WAY OF PURCHASING PROPERTY

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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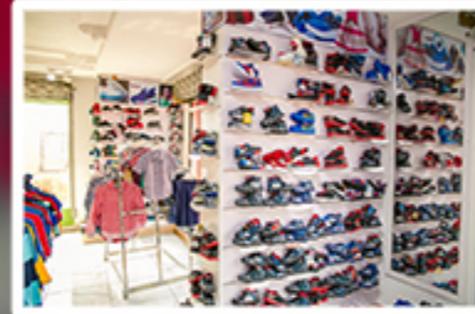
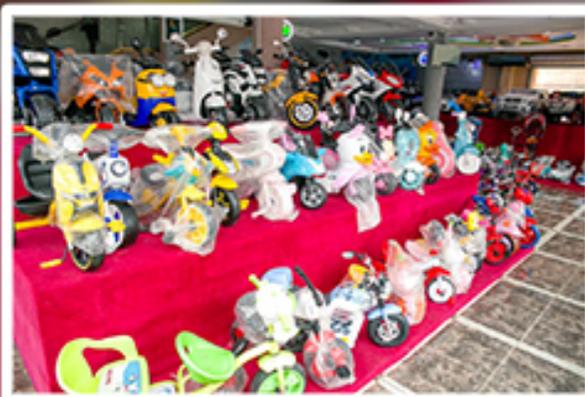
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