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London, UK

# A-CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW:  
MULTI AWARD-WINNING  
WOMAN OF INFLUENCE

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

*My heart was your dream*

# CHEREENA MILLER

British Model ~ Actress ~ Singer ~ Voice Artist ~ Motivational Speaker



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# ABOUT US

A-CHOICES -The African Lifestyle Magazine

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

### **Write for Us**

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

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

*Please send submissions to [achoices@a-choicesmagazine.com](mailto:achoices@a-choicesmagazine.com)*

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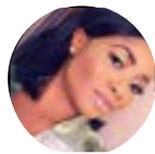
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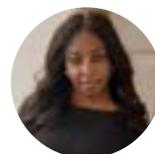
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# EDITOR'S LETTER



Hello,

Welcome to the August issue of A-CHOICES Magazine.

I am delighted to have you again this month. Out of the million magazines out there you choose to stick with us. I do not take it for granted.

I had the privilege to interview the beautiful award-winning singer, motivational speaker and, an immensely talented entrepreneur, Chereena Miller for our August edition as the celebrity feature. Chereena is an English actress, model, and dancer who played a Fort PysoGirl in Solo: A Star Wars Story. Chereena passionately seeks improvement in the lives of young people through her cancer awareness and ways to help those from disadvantaged backgrounds; I hope you find this an interesting read.

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

Thank you.  
A-CHOICES



## AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH CHEREENA MILLER.

## Interview



By:Gbenga Teejay  
Okunlola  
London, UK

### Biography:

I had the privilege to interview the beautiful, actress, award-winning singer, motivational speaker and immensely talented entrepreneur, Chereena Miller. Chereena is an English actress, model, and dancer who played a Fort PysoGirl in Solo: A Star Wars Story.

Miller is also a community activist, self-love confidence expert, a Philanthropist. Chereena passionately campaigns for humanity, especially in the realm of cancer awareness, and seeking continuous improvement in the lives of young people, and those from a disadvantaged background.

### A-CHOICES: Please give a concise autobiography of yourself?

Chéreena: I am a multi award-winning professional artiste, actress, model, and singer who played a Fort PysoGirl in Solo: A Star Wars Story. Chéreena is making her impact in the world of entertainment, and is working hard to achieve her dreams to be a superstar. "Your destiny is your own and journey is unique for you, your life lessons are to strengthen you along the way, your wisdom is your armor that protects you and is your divine compass which keeps you guided and ultimately keep you motivated." - Chéreena Miller

Born in the United Kingdom, with strong Afro-Caribbean roots, achieving top grades at all stages of formal education. I'm the Global ambassador for Positive Runway: Stop the Spread of HIV. Former Runner up for Miss Jamaica UK 2017. The Global Ambassador of the Justina Mutale Foundation.

As a passionate Ambassador and humanitarian, who campaigns for human rights, especially in the realm of cancer awareness, and seeking continuous support for the lives of young people, and those from a disadvantaged background through charitable works and working with the United Nations.

Chéreena continues to be a veritable pioneer in the entertainment industry, community and in her other business ventures with her unwavering focus, to achieve above and beyond by being an authentic leader and an inspiration to people all around the world.

**A-CHOICES:Who was your inspiration or influence to go into the acting industry?**

Chereena: My inspirations are my culture and what stood out to me when I was a young child, they were, strong black women in showbusiness on TV and the people who supported them. I would watch them every chance I could get, every day. I loved how they made me feel about myself and of which I want to replicate and bring joy to others through my acting.

Some of my favourite films and actors Jackson five the American dream Angela Bassett / Monica Calhoun Oprah Winfrey in the "Color purple" Whoopi goldberg "colour purple / sister act 2." Sherl lee Ralph - "sister act 2 / Moesha,sister act 2" Angela Bassett - "what's love got to do with it"

Jada Pinkett smith, Viva Fox, Queen Latifah, Kimberly Elise- "Set it off" to name a few of the many spectacular artists.

**A-CHOICES:How would you describe acting?What is the most memorable screen character you have played?**

Chereena: My techniques is to understand the character, the context & to connect to the emotion, that I believe that is required to bring authenticity for the role.

**A-CHOICES:Do you have a mentor or role model who is helping you along the way in your acting career?**

Chereena: I have many actors who I look up to and respect immensely, I do not have a mentor currently but I that is something I would value very much.

**A-CHOICES:What do you enjoy doing the most television, commercial, live theatre, or films?**

Chereena: I enjoy each stage I am on; the art is owning it every time. My favourite would be live and unfiltered and unedited. I do think commercials are super fun.

**A-CHOICES: What acting technique do you use, if you use any?**

Chéreena: My techniques are method acting. I love to really understand the character, the context of the character & to connect to the character to be able to best portray the real emotion, persona and attitude, that would make the character believable and authentic. Training and learning new methods would be great and something I will continue to do to improve my current and natural talent.

**A-CHOICES:Tell us about some of the challenges you have been faced with as an actress.**

Chéreena: Challenges I have faced is learning to step out of my comfort zone. And to let myself go.

**A-CHOICES:What do you want from a director during a production?**

Chéreena:A positive and trusting connection whereby they can communicate their vision of the character, as so I can best have complete understanding to bring it to life to the best of my ability.

**A-CHOICES:Motivational speakers are gifted presenters that give motivational speeches to large audiences. What makes a great motivational speaker?**

Chéreena: I believe that a great motivational speaker has a strong voice, is enthusiastic and passionate about what they have to say, it is also someone who can gain the attention of their audience and impress upon them new ways of thinking, they can impart and leave them inspired and motivated.

**A-CHOICES:What systems do you use when researching motivational topics?**

Chéreena:The system I use is to choose motivational topics my audience will benefit from, sourced through conversation with clients, mentees, recommendations, networking events, and social media.

**A-CHOICES:How would you ensure your speeches are captivating and informative?**

Chéreena: Being totally authentic, relatable and engaging which is important as is clear communication.



**A-CHOICES:** Can you tell me about a motivational talk where you felt the audience really connected with the subject matter?

Chéreena: Yes, I have spoken on the topics of how to gain self-belief, build resilience and how to stop the imposter syndrome, where I was able to give scenarios and share honestly my experiences and what methods I use to achieve the motivation for myself.

**A-CHOICES:** How would you describe yourself?

Chéreena: As a beautiful person, a kind soul, learning to shine her light brighter every day. Passionate about being a positive influence and sharing my gifts and embracing joy and love, to live and leave a powerful legacy.

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

Chéreena: My typical day includes meditation, taking care of my mental health with exercise, and holistic activities that bring joy; dancing, yoga, cooking, great conversations, studying and self-care, family time.

**A-CHOICES:** What are your favourite beauty products / what is always carried in your purse?

Chéreena: My favourite beauty products are my must haves and products that really stand the test of time.

1. Mascara – Chanel
2. Eye pencil – Pat Mcgrath
3. Eyelash curler – cosmetic store
4. Eye brow pencil - charlotte tilbury
5. concealer – Fenty Beauty
6. blush palette – Fenty Beauty
7. bronzer – cheeks out freestyle cream bronzer
8. make up brushes, smudging, blending – Karen Messam Cosmetics
9. lipstick - ruby Roo – Mac Make up
10. Lip gloss/ moisturiser – Paw Paw
11. Skin and hand moisturiser - urban skin / body shop
12. Skin Hydrator - Fenty Beauty
13. Perfume / Roberta Cavalli

In my purse, I have my Fenty foundation, setting powder, invisimatte instant blotting powder, Charlotte Tilbury tinted brow gel, Ruby roo - matte -lipstick, paw paw - lip moisturiser, mouth wash, and hand cream.



Seamus  
Hostelloe

PHOTOGRAPHY

*Chereena Miller*

**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?**

Chéreena: Learning that owning my decisions is paramount, be fearless and mistakes are needed for growth too.

My values, my morals, are important and they should never change and I must stay grounded. Patience, perseverance, and professionalism are factors I must always adhere to in all areas of my life to maintain, a positive outlook not just for myself but for those in my life.

**A-CHOICES: You passionately campaigned for humanity, especially in the realm of cancer awareness, and seeking continuous improvement in the lives of young people, and those from a disadvantaged background. What inspired you?**

Chéreena: My personal experiences are my inspirations for that: they have made me know the importance of love, joy, and that my visions and dreams are important, and that I can make a positive impact in the world. My inspiration ultimately is joy and how much can I share, experience and be a part of and leave behind.

**A-CHOICES:Who are your favourite fashion designers?**

Chéreena: There are so many fashion designers and houses emerging on the fashion scene, how can you not love them all, I find fashion is what you make it, I could easily share many, many designers, and I certainly do not know them all, so many of the best designers are not known on such a broad scale, so it is nice when I read up and learn of new designers, especially when they are black owned or by women.

Fashion is fun and my favourites are the styles that compliment my body shape for sure. I love couture, and tailor-made fits, as well as loose fitting styles too and of course the classics. Some of my many Favourite designers are Balmain, Burberry, Ted Baker, savage x, Fenty, LaQuan Smith, Nubian skin, Cushnie, Sikss designs, your local dressmaker, Uloani, Baby Phat to name a few.

**A-CHOICES:Do you have a beauty and exercise regime?**

Chéreena: I do! I have to look after the main organ on my body as best as I can. Working out and having a routine creates less mental fatigue.

Cleansing, toning, and exfoliating and steaming daily is a beauty regime was taught to do growing up.

I often exercise and meditate daily because your health is your wealth. It makes you feel great, and I believe fit people have all the best fun.

**A-CHOICES:Have you travelled to Africa before?**

Chéreena: No, I would love too! That is home, the motherland! I need to and I shall! I'd like to explore Africa, do my DNA test, connect with my ancestors, and family. I'd like to live out there in my lifetime, volunteer there and own a house their God willing.

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

Chéreena: My major achievement is never giving up despite any challenges and having the opportunity to work and play alongside the best creative individuals in the world of film and TV: where I can learn, grow, nurture my talents and do what I love.

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

Chéreena: I am most grateful for my life and each day I can live it fully becoming a better person. My spirituality, my faith, my peace of mind, my family and love. I am grateful for who I am and who I am not. Having the ability to know joy, share in joy with others, receive love and be in love with life, my family and friends who are family also.

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

Chéreena: Lockdown – Unfortunately, I enjoyed it. I say it is unfortunate as that was not the case for others. It was bitter sweet, as so many revelations were made, and devastating events took place that I will never be forgotten. I enjoy time alone as much as I do enjoy great company, I currently live in London,UK where I was born, and I can honestly say the weather was the best ever in London during lockdown, so I really loved that, pushed myself to work out 5/6 times a week, I wrote some songs, started baking more, I picked up running long distances and through the use and support of tech and social media, I did my best to stay connected with family, friends and loved ones as much as possible.

**A-CHOICES:Do you get recognised much in public and what sort of reaction do you normally get from people?**

Chéreena: No, not that much, really as I am not that well known of a star however I've had some experiences that have been pleasant, all of which I am grateful for. I often get told I look like Rhi, Rhi, which is beyond cool, because she is a beautiful Rockstar!!

I don't know how I would handle being stopped by a lot of people at one time, I think I might run and see if they would chase me...lol.. I love to joke around, honestly it is beautiful being known for your work and it brings others joy. It warms my heart when my friends and loved ones see my work on the big screen and how much joy it brings to them. Having fans is a big deal and I hope that my work is loved well as much as I love creating and sharing.

**A-CHOICES:What's next for Chereena?**

Chéreena: Achieving major success with my artistry, becoming more established, releasing music worldwide, collaborating internationally, landing bigger roles, where I am challenged and creating more opportunities where I can have fun, share my talents.

Thank you for having me!





## BOXING LEGEND MIKE TYSON SAYS HIS DEATH IS COMING 'REALLY SOON'



By: Bunmi Johnson  
New York Bureau - Chief  
New York, USA

## Sports



**B**oxing legend Mike Tyson says he believes his death is coming “really soon”. Tyson, 56 and a former world heavyweight champion, said “we are all gonna die one day” during a chat with an addiction therapist. Mr Tyson said: “We are all gonna die one day, of course.

“Then, when I look in the mirror, I see those little spots on my face, I say, ‘wow, that means my expiration date is coming close, really soon.’” as he also opened up about his feelings on money. The former world heavyweight champion made the comments on the podcast Hot Boxin’ with therapist Sean McFarland.

Tyson said on the podcast: “Some people want to analyse their success, which is ridiculous. “We’re all going to die one day, of course.” Then I look in the mirror and I see those little spots on my face and I go ‘wow, my expiration date is coming close, really soon, what do you do with that, how do you think about that death thing?’”

When Mr McFarlane said he did not worry about death, the boxing legend replied: “I’m not sweating it, I just want to die consciously.” “I don’t want to die screaming. I’ve heard the last rights of a lot of people - a lot of famous people - and they’re getting ready to die, and they leave this planet screaming.”

He added that “money doesn’t mean s\*\*\* to me” and said it does not provide the security people think it does. “What is security?” he said. “I don’t know. When you put money in your bank and you get a cheque every week and you can live for the rest of your life, is that security?” “It doesn’t mean you won’t catch a disease, or get hit by a car”.

Tyson had his first professional bout in 1985, and went onto hold the record as the youngest boxer ever to win a heavyweight title.

He later served time in prison after being convicted of rape and was released in 1995. The podcast was not the first time that the ex-boxer has spoken candidly about death. During a conference on psychedelics in Miami last year, Tyson revealed he had used Sonoran desert toad venom for psychedelic purposes, saying he felt like he “died” on his first trip.



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## NIGERIAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ACCUSED OF 'FAKE BISHOPS' STUNT



By: Dr. Funmi  
Awoleye-Beckley  
Abeokuta, Nigeria

## Politics

The Ten Commandments tell us not to bear false witness, but this may have been overlooked by a Nigerian presidential candidate when he allegedly bussed in a crowd of fake bishops to suggest he had the support of the country's Christian population. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the ruling party's candidate, has been accused of bringing in mechanics and yam sellers as fake bishops to try to woo Nigeria's Christian population, after he broke a longstanding precedent in nominating a fellow Muslim as his running mate for February's election.

The social media was animated with the presence of men clad in religious robes at the unveiling of Kashim Shettima as Vice presidential running mate to Asiwaju Ahmed Bola Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress (APC). Mr Bayo Onanuga, spokesperson for the Tinubu Campaign Organization in a reaction to the controversy described the attendees in religious robes as 'upcoming bishops.' Most members of the public, however, called them fake bishops.

Nobody really knows if the Bishops were fake, but one thing that was evident at the ceremony held at the Shehu Yar'adua Centre, Abuja was the desecration of the church. After all, nobody needs a WAEC certificate to be a Bishop, but they could have just identified themselves since they chose to attend the unveiling like people going for a church service.

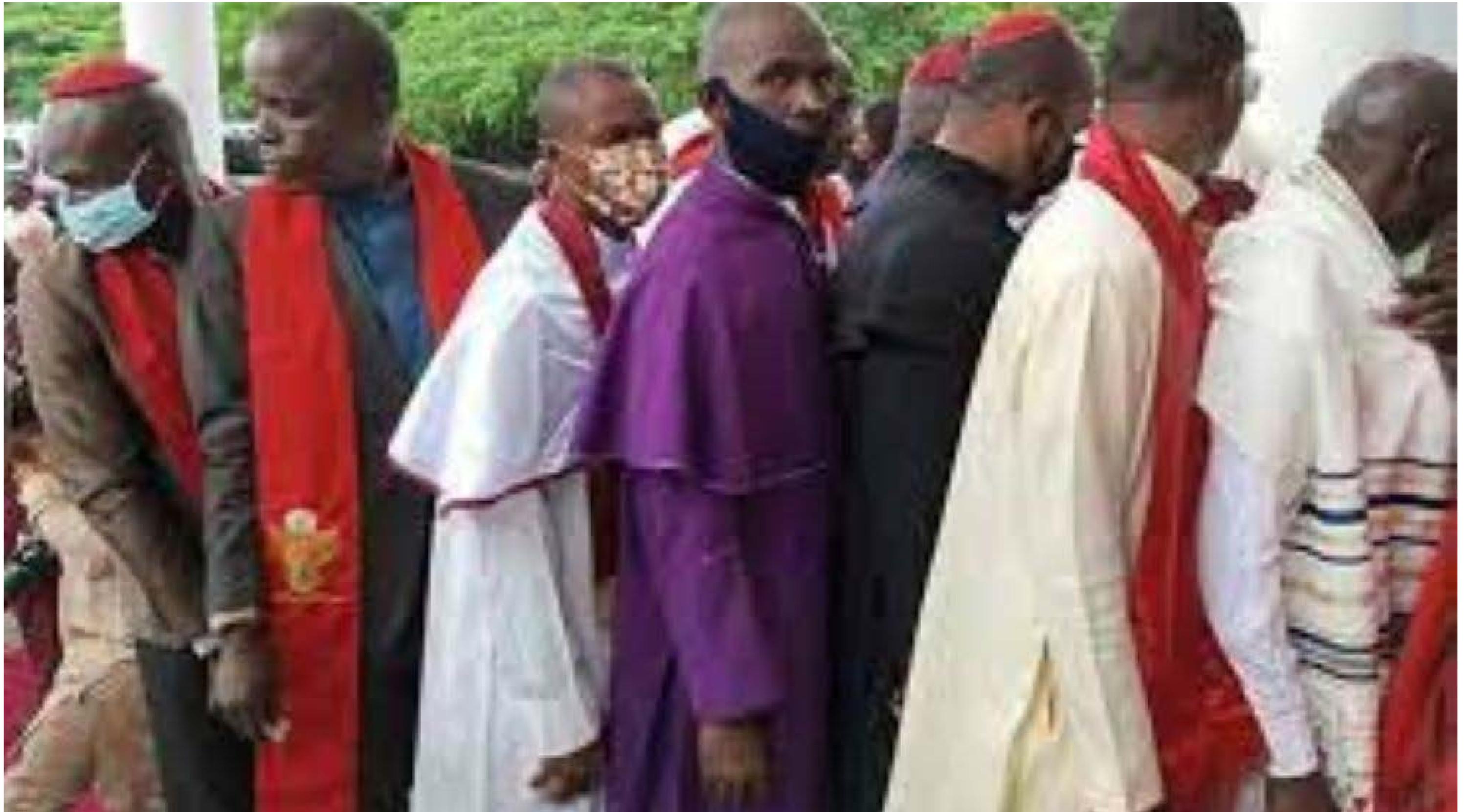
We have seen that clip of one or two of them changing into their regalia by the roadside like casual day job plumbers. They could have travelled from far, through those bandit-infested roads. So, they decided to remain incognito till they reached where they wanted to flaunt their identities. But there was another clip where the commentator mentioned that fees were paid.

This could all be fake news but then, no serious-minded Bishop in Nigeria will need to attend a political meeting in his full regalia without the blessing of the organisers for coming to grace the occasion. After all, Jagaban's wife is a pastor, so she has the capacity to arrange solid Bishops. That's not to say that it's impossible that one shallow fellow amongst the organisers of that event didn't thoughtlessly conjure an abracadabra stunt, because the truth is, if anyone thought it through, only the big name Bishops could have helped. Yes, big religious fishes for the unveiling of master of competence.

Take for instance, if someone had dressed up in religious regalia and marched into the arena with a giant bible, looking like a suave version of the Danfo bar beach prophet, nobody would have called him fake. All the individual needed was to arrive with an entourage, with young men in suits hovering around him, with people bowing and calling him daddy, daddy! The individual wouldn't have joined any queue that would make him look like a church warden. Those other Bishops who dressed up in the car lot brought this problem upon themselves and the organisers. Now everybody thinks they were hired.

How can a Bishop wash his legs in the car park and change in the open? Every masquerade understands these things. Spiritual Costumes are worn in secret. If those folks had been accommodated in Transcorp, and brought to the venue in SUVs, nobody would have asked for their identities. Unfortunately, these 'upcoming' Bishops have gone through a lot. Folks are now bringing out pictures of their small churches to say they are small but not fake. Invariably, nobody would have known that they are 3rd division Bishops.

Third division bishops going to play in the champions league in Abuja, that's the problem. They now look like children wearing their Uncle's shoes. Certainly, Jagaban, a well-known and tested political strategist didn't arrange this. The small game player who arranged this charade must go for deliverance, full stop!! Above all, whether these clergy were fake bishops or not, underscore the fact that religious elements which have guarded our political trajectory for years could be the game changer in the 2023 presidential race. And Tinubu only ignored that sentiment at his own peril!



## UNDEFEATED NIGERIAN BOXER MIRACLE AMAEZE DIES AGED 18 AFTER SPARRING SESSION ENDS IN TRAGEDY FOR LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT



By: Okunlola Kayode F.  
Senior Writer  
Lagos, Nigeria

**A**N UNDEFEATED Nigerian boxer has suddenly died aged 18 after a tragic sparring session. Miracle Amaeze was a light heavyweight rising star in his homeland.

Miracle Amaeze passed away following his tragic sparring session in Nigeria. But reports in Nigeria state he passed away following the horror incident. Amaeze is said to have lost consciousness after two knockdowns during training yesterday morning in the major city of Lagos.

He was given first aid treatment and rushed to hospital but sadly could not pull through and was confirmed as dead in the evening.

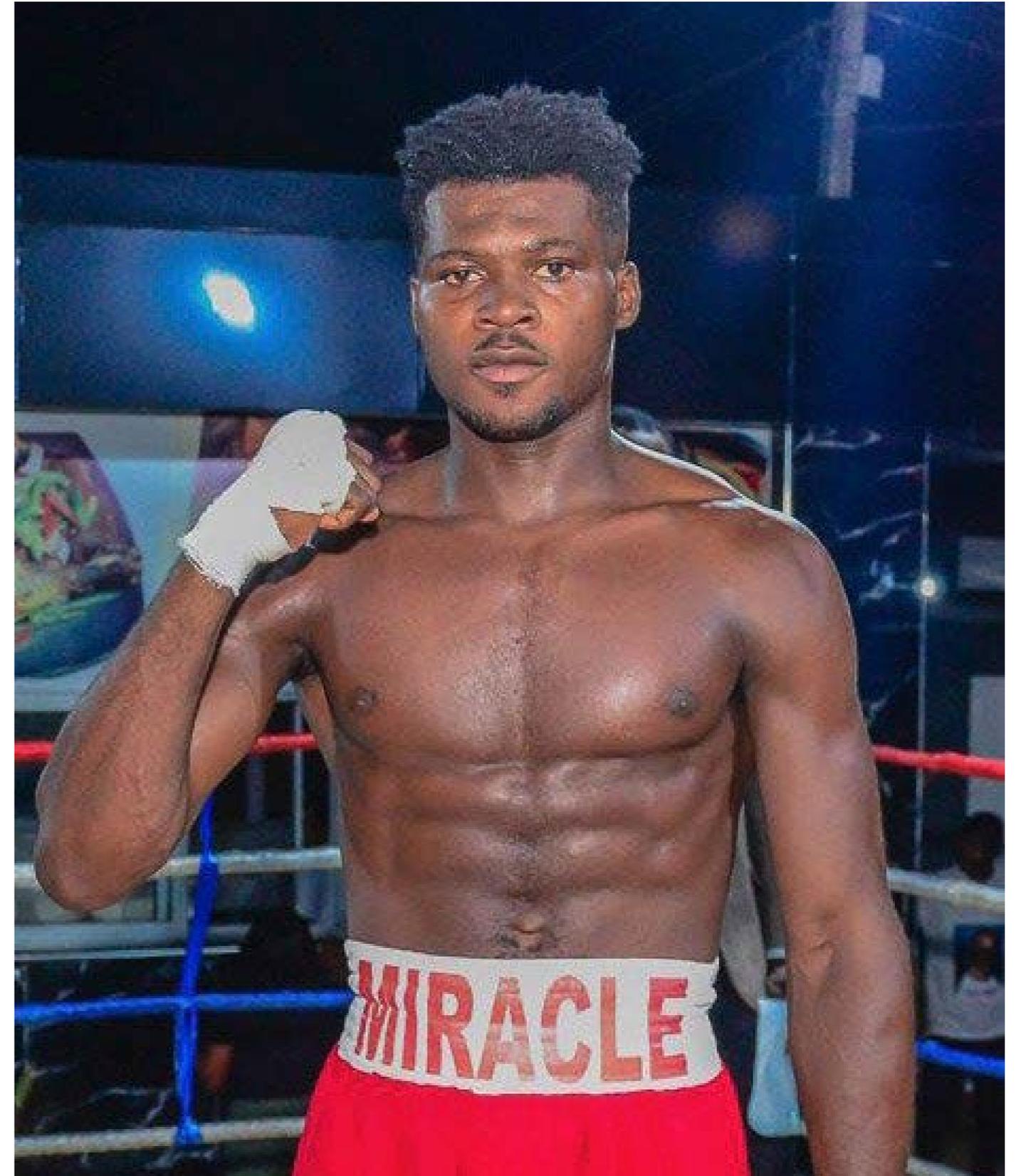
Amaeze had a perfect 2-0-0 record in his professional career and was tipped for boxing greatness by many in Nigeria.

Both of his fights finished with first-round knockouts in his home town, including the second just three weeks ago on July 1. Amaeze's tragic passing comes just weeks after South African lightweight Simiso Buthelezi also died from injuries sustained in the ring.

Buthelezi's blows to the head in his fight with Siphesihle Mntungwa in Durban in June saw him throwing punches in thin air.

After being tended to by ringside physicians, Buthelezi was taken to hospital and placed into a coma.

## Sports



**A** toxic workplace  
Reflections.

'The silver lining is you no longer work there, at least you were only there for 3 months' (Union rep)

A blessing in disguise.

When I first got fired after a long couple of weeks with an employer I would rather erase from my memory I was fuming that they had the guts to treat me in such a despicable manner. However, my union rep is absolutely right the best thing that happened is they let me go so I could exhale, I could be free and be my happy sweet natured, courageous positive self fully again.

To be honest the saddest thing is they let go of me. I should have fired them by quitting. Sometimes we get so caught up in routine and the financial perks we forget there are many other jobs where you don't have to sacrifice your dignity, self respect and most of all your voice. No one should be able to disrespect anyone in a bad manner. The shock to me is at a certain age and even more disgracefully women are bullying women.

I had 3 main female boss culprits and the Hr director is just dire.

I got sent a teams message in a chat with a male Co worker accusing me of being so distracted I couldn't work because she had been watching me for half an hour or more ( in the words of Jesus, take the pluck out your own eye is necessary here) and I had been watching him the whole time. This is the manager who can take 3 days to respond to an urgent email but if its whose watching who, and she's sitting 2 seats away and she cannot be bother to to speak before she watches for 30 minutes or more, then it's all good. That's just one example. Things other people would get away with her and her deputy, the other big sister ' always watching' specifically me would send cryptic emails which where quiet frankly petty and ridiculous.

Then there was the business manager who was disappointed in me because she couldn't type out the correct email address, and she had already cc'd me into an email so I shouldn't have cc'd her when I hadn't done the email because I was covering the account which I told deputy watcher to help me with. Yet surprise surprise she couldn't properly help with that, but if it was watching me she's on the case.

The Hr director was also another interesting one with her fake suspensions, asking for 'proof of my union membership' to apparently help me and telling me its unacceptable to ask clients for feedback. Not to mention she would shout out name pronunciations when she felt I wasn't pronouncing them right.

Then she had the nerve to say clients, suppliers, Co workers and business managers thought I had an inappropriate tone and a bad attitude, you cannot make it up. Look at the pots calling the kettle black. I suppose since Hr director Parades her 15 years Hr experience as if it's an achievement comparable to Einstein, Martin Luther King, Alan Turing ( Father of modern computing) and Julius Ceaser and deputy, ops manager ( I saw you looking at a boy) and business manager think them being managers is an achievement comparable to being a Noble prize winner and Boudicca ( the celtic queen who fought against the Roman empire) so they have the power to do as I say not as I do. The Hr director would cite her 15 years of experience like her crown has been on her head longer than Queen Elizabeth the second.

Humility is a wonderful thing. For a profitable company with clients in sectors that definitely would not appreciate what goes on in their offices and still growing I expected better, but sometimes boy glass door can lie. That 4 + rating must be a joke if you count the turnover, the overworked staff and the firings based on ' bad fits' who don't get along with managers like those above even if their performance is on fire and they build strong relationships with clients and suppliers, just because some managers think they are goddesses and their word is law they have to get rid of any challenge to their bad behaviour.

Even when I was referred by 111 to my Gp for morning, and after Hr's so called suspension she said during suspension I could come in at any time for meetings plus, damn right I said I was coming in the next day when they blocked me off all systems for my pay, but as the day went on as someone who suffers with anxiety my anxiety got worse and the medical professionals said I needed to be referred to my doctor. So I don't know whether the Hr lady thinks she's Hera, wife of Zeus, to make the comment' you said you will be coming in', The 'goddess of knowledge' failed to realise the afternoon is also part of work hours and I could certainly be rescheduled.

However in the end I stood up and managed to get my appointment while still doing my grievance and probation meeting.

I was accused of being a danger to the company but get this she was too busy telling me about how since I haven't worked for two years Acas and my union will even tell me I have no rights for unfair dismissal and that's that to ask for the company, laptop, keys, badges etc after she told me to leave.

That's why my union rep said in the long term would you want to work for such an employer. A girl should had quit!

Anyway as I went through that. My co-workers kept mute. Now some of them don't bother responding to me or send me professional cut off answers. That's another lesson I learned no one at work, no matter how cool you are, will stand up for you, even when wrong is being done.

That's why I'm part of a union. I told the rail strikers when I went to support them. I wouldn't care what anyone says about me in the media that's negative if you lose your job, they won't feed you. If you don't get paid they won't feed you. To be honest your union is the only one defending right now. I'm so glad Acas and my union stood by me.

I'm so lucky otherwise I would have been standing alone against these corrupt people without them. It's good to have lovely friends around you. They've picked me up and carried me. Lucky for me I had people who had my back. I would suggest everyone join a union. I picked one known to be quite active, which believes in strike action when necessary.

There are so many pick the right one for you. I would go with quite a vocal one cause you want an organisation bold to stand behind you. Acas is also amazing and so is the information commissioner if the company doesn't want to deal with your information properly.

A huge weight has been off my shoulders since I left. I didn't realise how stressed and overworked I was. I dealt with so many emergencies over the 3 months with one of my clients and the sad part is I built great relationships with some of them and suppliers and I didn't get to say goodbye, I wonder what's happening to the ones I bonded with.

One of my Coworkers was one of my trainers cause you know miss boss and deputy had their own thing going on. He was always willing to help, unfortunately he was on holiday when the whole thing happened and I couldn't say goodbye. Another co-worker who really helped me when I was stuck was the one I couldn't work when talking to him because 'he's lovely to look at' according to one manager.

Some of the others helped me from time to time but at the end of the day some where too busy with their own stuff which to be honest, they did have a lot on their plate. However if some people want to foster a rubbish environment for people to work in and don't want to listen to feedback people will continue to quit and they will continue to fire so called 'bad fits' aka people they don't like.

I'm proud to be a bad fit for this organisation because if I'm the opposite of those calling me a bad fit. Then I'm one heck of a person!! I never internalised it as me. PS I had a great time at the work party. Thankful to one of my Co workers for the lift. I'm a grateful soul and being. I am shocked at what happened because I expect better from people but hey that's life.

Onwards and upwards, I am going to be getting some therapy. I wrote this to put heal. Thank you reader.

## NIGERIA'S TOBI AMUSAN BREAKS 100M HURDLES WORLD RECORD WITH TIME OF 12.12 SECONDS

## Sports



By: Okunlola Kayode F.  
Senior Writer  
Lagos, Nigeria



**T**obi Amusan broke the 100m hurdles world record with a stunning semi-final time of 12.12 seconds - before taking gold at the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon.

The Nigerian, 25, ran even faster in the final - but her 12.06 was ruled ineligible by an illegal tailwind. The previous record of 12.20 was set in 2016 by American Kendra Harrison.

Jamaica's Britany Anderson took silver and Puerto Rico's Olympic champion Jasmine Camacho-Quinn got bronze.

Amusan, who had already run a new African record of 12.40 seconds in Saturday's heats, said: "I believe in my abilities but I was not expecting a world record at these championships." "I wanted to get out and go. I did what I had to do."

Great Britain's Cindy Sember finished fourth in the semi-final won by Amusan, but qualified for the final with a British record of 12.50, beating sister Tiffany Porter's 2014 mark by one hundredth of a second.

It was one of four national records, excluding Amusan's, run in the semi-finals, with another seven athletes equalling or breaking their personal bests.

"That was a crazy race. I actually thought I was running slow. Tobi was amazing, I can't deny," said Sember, who went on to finish fifth in the final.



GETTY IMAGES

## OJUDE OBA: Festival of colours, glamour



By: Joy Gofwen  
Lagos Bureau -Chief  
Nigeria

## Lifestyle

The Yoruba people are known to be the life of any party. This is why they usually go all out in their full regalia and element when it comes to celebrating any event.

At the just concluded OJude Oba festival held at Ijebu Ode, Ogun State, anyone who is familiar with the event or was at the venue could tell that the Ijebu extraction of the Yoruba race will always add more than colour to any event. Men and women appeared in beauty, colours, glamour, and, splendour to celebrate the age-long festival after a two years disruption by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Defying the rain, women with babies strapped to their backs, children joyfully holding family flags, and men riding horses danced joyously under the rain as they march to pay homage to the Awujale.

Coming from the Middle belt part of Nigeria and experiencing the festival for the first time I could tell and feel how happy the people were from the joy on their faces and the happiness all over the air.

From the colours to the horses, to the sound of the local guns, the songs, and the beautiful display of wealth, even the rain could not stop them from celebrating the return of the age-long festival.

The Ojude Oba festival is an ancient annual festival usually celebrated on the third day after Eid al-Kabir. The people, from all works of life both at home and in the diaspora, come together to show respect and pay homage to the Awujale of Ijebu land.

The festival allows for the Ijebu people to reaffirm their loyalty and allegiance to Awujale. As a sign of respect for the king, the different age grades and families bring gifts to the Awujale as a way of thanksgiving and support.

No one is left out on the day of the festival. Men, women, and children both young and old come out dressed in beautiful and colourful attires for the celebration. The atmosphere could be likened to the joy that comes with Christmas.

The Olori Omo Oba (head of princes) in Ijebu land Otunba Subomi Balogun, who went down memory lane at the festival told newsmen that the Ojude Oba come way back from the colonial era. He said the festival began during the time of his ancestors.

“The Ojude Oba started during the reign of my ancestors, Oba Adesumbo Tunwase, who was the Oba during the reign of the British colonialists. Oba Tunwase allowed the Christians to come and preach in Ijebuland, and even before then, he had allowed the Muslims to also come into the town.

“So in appreciation of the king’s benevolence, the Muslims started going to greet the king after the Ileya festival, and the Christians also joined immediately.”

He also added that before the coming of Islam and Christianity, the Ijebu people were mainly traditional worshippers. However, Islam came to Ijebu before Christianity did. “When Oba Tunwase, my ancestor, my mother’s great grandfather, was on the throne, the British missionaries came to Ijebu and asked for his permission to preach the gospel, and he gave them the go-ahead.

“They also asked to baptise the people and he allowed them. But before then, the Muslim religion had come into Ijebu Ode, maybe through the North. The Muslim religion came first, and not long, Christianity followed.

“Before then, the Ijebu people were mainly traditional religion worshippers. Therefore, Ojude Oba started when Muslims and Christians began going to Oba Tunwase’s forecourt to appreciate him for his kindness,” he said.

However, according to a 2015 article by one AbdulGafar Olawale Fahm of the department of Religion, University of Ilorin, on the history of the Ojude Oba festival, it said the festival has been in existence for more than 100 years.

Oral history has it that the festival began when one of the prominent men in the village accepted Islam and gathered his family and friends to pay homage to the king.

“Ojude Oba which means, “The king’s fore-court or frontage,” could also be translated as “majestic outing.” The Ojude Oba festival in Ijebu Ode is known to the Ijebus as a major festival that brings them together. The native age groups (reg-beregbe), indigenes, their friends, and, associates from far and near throng the palace of the Awujale of Ijebuland for the carnival-like celebration.

“The festival is celebrated on the third day after Id-El-Kabir. Ojude Oba is one of the most glamorous cultural and spiritual festivals in Ijebuland and Ogun State in general. This is a celebration that has traditional, cultural, religious, social, and, military significance. It has been celebrated for more than 100 years. beregbe), indigenes, their friends, and associates from far near throng the palace of the Awujale of Ijebuland for the

“According to oral historical accounts, the festival began when Balogun Kuku, one of the leading personalities in the community accepted Islam. He decided to gather his friends, families, and well-wishers to pay homage to the king for allowing them to practice their religion peacefully (Balogun Kuku, n.d).

“In another account, the festival was said to have started when Imam Tunwatoba led his friends and family members to pay homage to his friend, who was also the Awujale of Ijebuland Oba Fidipote during the Eid-I-Adha festival. beregbe), indigenes, their friends, and associates from far and near throng the palace of the Awujale of Ijebuland for the carnival-like celebration. The festival is celebrated on the third day after Id-El-Kabir. Ojude Oba is one of the most glamorous cultural and spiritual festivals in Ijebuland and Ogun State in general. This is a celebration that has traditional, cultural, religious, social, and military significance. It has been celebrated for more than 100 years.

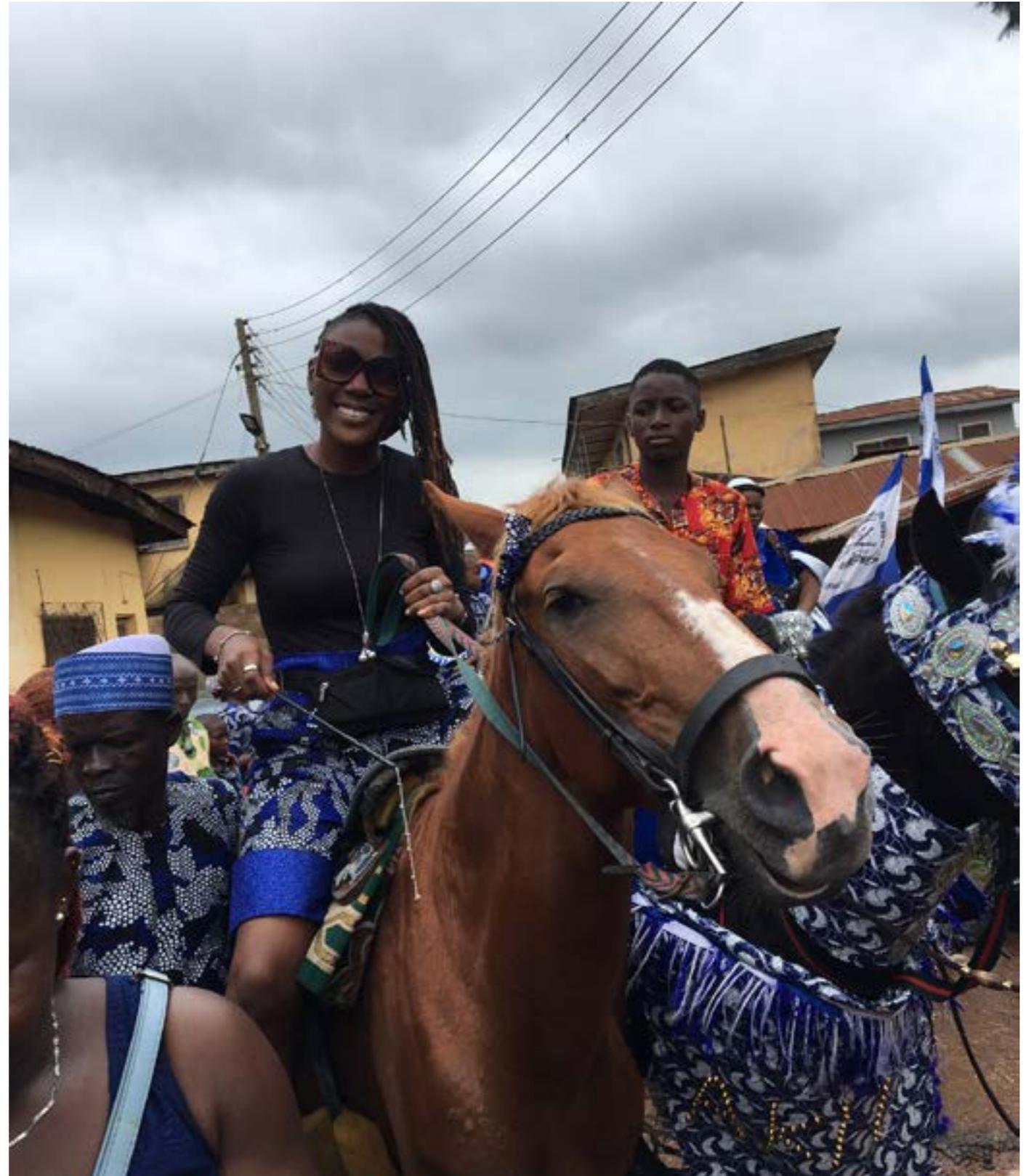
“Imam Tunwatoba thanked the king for being instrumental to the freedom enjoyed by the Muslims in the community to practice their faith in a peaceful atmosphere (Babatunde, 2007). They prayed for the monarch to enjoy a long life, and good health, and for the progress and prosperity of Ijebuland. Since then, what began as a visit has grown in leaps and bound to assume the status of a flagship cultural festival.”

Since the festival is about paying homage and respect to the king, many brands and organisation see it as an opportunity to pay homage to the king and also express their support for his reign by being part of the sponsors of the event.















# Putin offers soothing message to African leaders who fear having to pick sides

By:Albena R. Jones  
London,UK

**M**oscow hopes to provoke the West into deepening its strategic error of forcing African nations to show their allegiance in the new Cold War. Sergei Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, spent this week using Africa to score points against the West on a tour of Ethiopia, Uganda, Egypt, and Republic of Congo.

Mr Lavrov came bearing gifts in the form of nuclear energy development - however unlikely to materialise - to create an image that Russia is expanding into new areas of cooperation beyond its traditional export of no-questions-asked security assistance.

Hewing to Russia's well-worn strategy of creating political capital out of providing cover against the West's value-driven critiques of African leaders, he embraced the Ethiopian government's talking points over the conflict in Tigray and stood by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni's rebuff of his questionable democratic credentials. The visit was clearly intended to convey that Russia's global footprint is expanding and that it is winning the war of international opinion.

But there is also a deeper purpose. Moscow's hope is that it will provoke the West into deepening its original strategic error of forcing African nations to choose its side in the confrontation with Russia over Ukraine.

Russia's expansion in Africa pre-Ukraine was met largely with a collective yawn from the West. Now, as the announcement of an African tour by Antony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, shows, Washington is worried enough to stage its own charm offensive.

## Politics

But claims that the West is losing Africa are hyperbolic. A more accurate critique is that the West misjudged how Africa would react to Ukraine being framed as an attack on the rules-based global order. Rather than rallying Africa to the West, it prompted many in the continent to conclude that they were being enlisted for Cold War redux.



That narrative was born from the UN General Assembly resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine and has been reinforced ever since by the West through multiple forums from financial sanctions to sporting event bans.

Not only do many states in Africa disagree on principle with such an approach, but a vote that says 'you're either with us or against us' in the new Cold War constitutes a huge ask for African countries.

Although Africa is seeking to increase its self-sufficiency, it remains deeply reliant on international aid and investment.

Increasingly courted by international suitors - as a source of resources and for its blossoming consumer markets - Africa recognizes its growing power potential.

But, for the moment, Africa remains in a weaker position vis-à-vis its suitors. To strengthen its hand, Africa needs to court as many nations as possible.

African leaders fear that by being asked to sever ties with an important international partner, Russia, it could be precedent-setting. China would likely follow, and sacrificing that far more consequential relationship is inconceivable for most Africans.

The elegance of Russia's strategy is it leans into Africa's antipathy to a zero-sum choice. In light of the West's isolation campaign, Vladimir Putin wins by simply maintaining (and even expanding) his international partnerships.





## Commonwealth Games opening ceremony: Birmingham puts on captivating opening ceremony.

### Sports

By: Linda R. Jones  
London, UK



**B**irmingham opened its Commonwealth Games in spectacular style with a captivating, hopeful ceremony at Alexander Stadium. Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai emphasised the importance of education in a surprise appearance while diver Tom Daley made a show of support for LGBTQ+ rights as the baton relay concluded.

But the biggest shock perhaps came when a 10m tall animatronic bull came steaming into the stadium as part of a ceremony that celebrated the multiculturalism of both Birmingham and the Commonwealth.

As the parade of athletes concluded, each of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales were warmly received before host nation England arrived in a cloud of confetti to send the volume sky-rocketing with a crowd rendition of We Will Rock You.

The Games are officially open, with events beginning on Friday and more than 5,000 athletes representing 72 nations and territories competing in 280 medal events until 8 August.

In its opening ceremony partly masterminded by Peaky Blinders creator Steven Knight and which organisers said would be watched by more than a billion people worldwide, Birmingham put down an early marker for what it wants to offer the sporting world over the next 11 days.

Malala and Daley were not the only ones to call for social change during the event and a mile out from Alexander Stadium, signs hanging by the road read "sport is just the beginning".

The ceremony alluded to the darker side of the Commonwealth's past, with chains representing those used in the slave trade pulling the giant bull into the stadium.

But it also called for togetherness for a group of nations whose future is becoming increasingly uncertain, with competing nation Barbados already having replaced the Queen as its head of state and Jamaica's prime minister saying it will be "moving on".

Daley has previously spoken out against Commonwealth countries that criminalise same sex relationships and the diver has continued that work in a new BBC documentary.

He brought the cause into the stadium too, with the Olympic champion entering the stadium flanked by activists holding LGBT+ flags as he played his part in the Queen's baton relay shortly before the Games were officially declared open.

The weight of legacy hung in the air before the ceremony even began, as Birmingham residents flooded to the stadium to celebrate their city being at the centre of a global event.

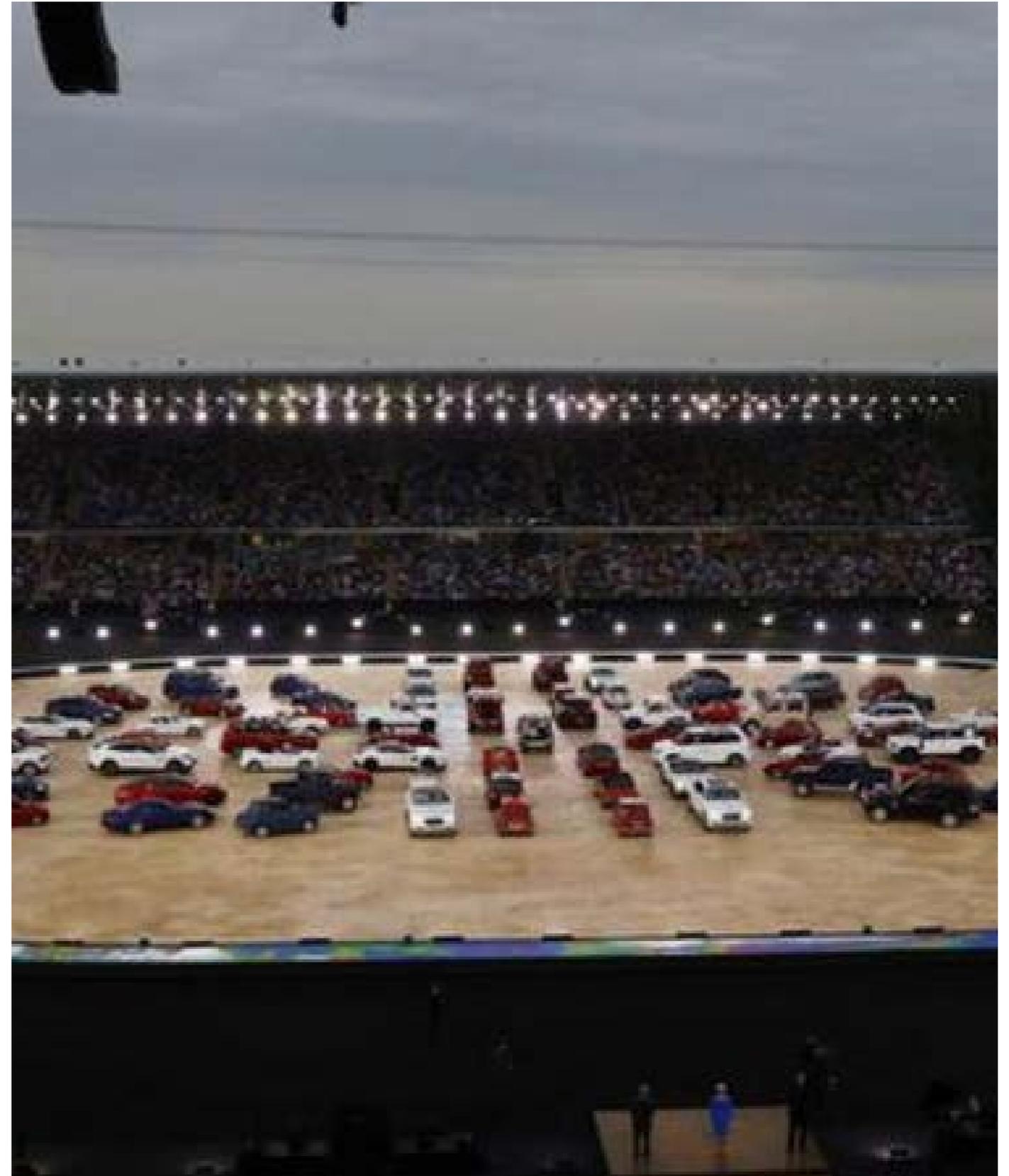
Some have questioned the Commonwealth Games' relevance in an increasingly packed sporting calendar and the £778m cost, but that message did not seem to have reached the many fans queuing to get in before the Alexander Stadium gates opened.

The ceremony, in front of 30,000, began with a call for unity: "In times of darkness, we carry a dream of light that calls us all to gather."

An intense, drum-led opening sequence reached a crescendo and gave way to a host of red, white and blue cars driving into the stadium.

They formed a Union Jack before a classic Aston Martin brought Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall into the arena.

The surrealism of a stadium full of cars was soon supplanted by a four-metre-high puppet of William Shakespeare entering.



## **'White people will be the first target': South Africa's Julius Malema warns of impending 'violence' because 'the poor are getting poorer'**

## Politics

By:Linda R. Jones  
London,UK



**A** South African opposition figure has warned of impending civil unrest in the continent's richest country and likened it to 'an Arab Spring.' The controversial opposition leader Julius Malema spoke of the country waking up one day with 'very angry people that are not going to be reasonable.'

Discontent with the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party in South Africa at all-time high levels due to the social conditions within the country and 'the poor becoming poor,' according to Malema.

When the unled revolution comes... the first target is going to be white people,' Mr Malema told the BBC's Hardtalk programme, adding that the uprising would also target 'black elites.'

The only way to head off the violence was an immediate intervention to raise the quality of living for poor people in the country, according to Malema.

'The violence that is going to happen in South Africa is because the elite is disappearing and the poor are becoming poorer,' he said.

'Therefore there's going to be something that looks like an Arab Spring. That, we are guaranteed.' The only way to head off the violence was an immediate intervention to raise the quality of living for poor people in the country, according to Malema.

But Malema, who has been accused of fomenting racial tensions, denied that it was his own rhetoric that was driving the anger and unrest, calling what had been seen so far a 'picnic.'

'I've engaged in democratic ways of trying to resolve problems in South Africa. Those who are scared of our ideas try to create an impression of very violent people. We are not.

We are not responsible for any single violent activity that has happened in South Africa.'

Malema is a divisive and controversial figure in South African politics often accused of fomenting racial tensions, but he was only echoing the words of former South African President Thabo Mbeki, who issued similar warnings recently.

Malema said there was no national plan to address the poverty, unemployment, and inequality plaguing South Africa and warning that it could lead to violence. Unemployment in South Africa is rife, inflation is at a 13-year high, corruption is perceived to be rampant and the energy sector is troubled.

Protesters have demanded the immediate suspension of South Africa and ANC President Cyril Ramaphosa, the reduction of the fuel price, immediate end to load-shedding (planned electricity blackouts) interruptions and implementation of the living wage and a 12 per cent salary increase for all public servants.

The current President Cyril Ramaphosa has acknowledged a 'difficult time for the country' but in a separate speech said the ANC had a plan to fix things.

But it is questionable whether his words will have any credibility with the 30 million South Africans, 55 percent of the country, who live below the

poverty line, according to the World Bank.

Malema, 41, has been a controversial figure in South African politics, having been convicted of hate speech in 2010 and 2011 for singing the song 'Shoot the Boer', which critics claim celebrates violence against white people.

Prior to 2012 he was a member of the ANC and on the inside of South African politics until his expulsion for his hate speech convictions and fomenting racial tensions.

In 2013 he founded the left-wing Economic Freedom Fighters, which has been accused of fomenting anti-white and anti-Indian racial discord. In 2019 the EFF won nearly 11% of the vote and has 44 seats in parliament.

He was also charged with fraud, money laundering, racketeering and tax evasion over his handling of government contracts. The case was dismissed in 2015 and Malema called them 'politically motivated.'



## They Didn't Teach Us Anything Significant About Ourselves in Schools: Burna Boy Speaks About African Heritage



By: Ibukun Babatunde  
Port-Harcourt  
Nigeria

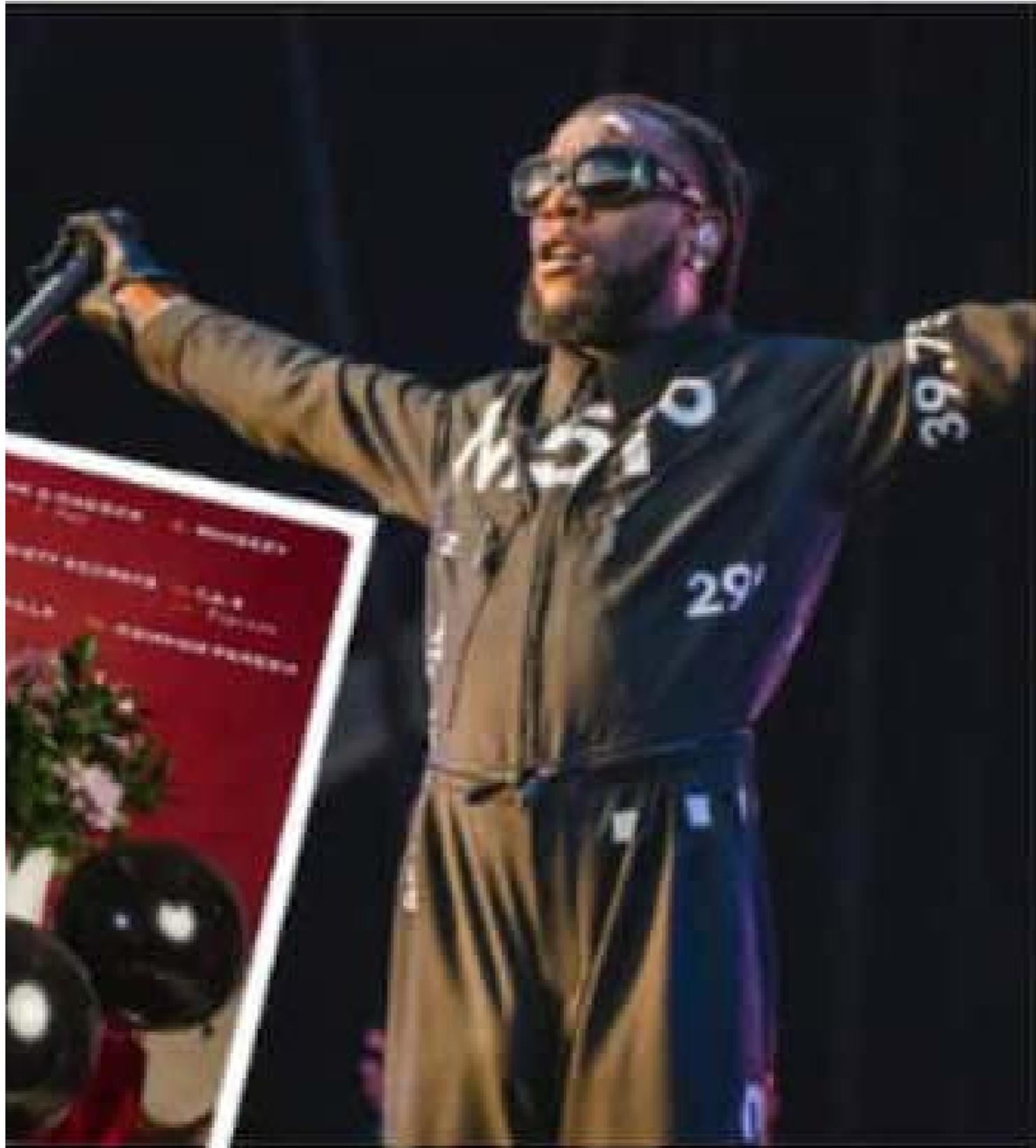
**N**igerian music superstar Burna Boy, during an interview, spoke fondly about the African heritage. The African Giant crooner lamented that schools didn't teach significant things about the continent's culture and talked more about foreign cultures. He also noted that Africans were made to believe that they are slaves when the whites actually met them as kings.

Burna Boy is not cool with how African schools went about teaching children in the continent and talked about the effect of colonisation by the whites. The singer noted that African schools didn't tell people about themselves but rather about the whites, the Queen of England and other things that are not significant to them.

He maintained that the move made an average African child believe that they have no power and are inferior to whites and demanded the truth of Africa's history before slavery.

## Entertainment





## Nigerian-born filmmaker Julius Onah named director of Captain America 4



By: Bunmi Johnson  
New York Bureau -Chief  
New York, USA

## Entertainment

**N**igerian American filmmaker Julius Onah, perhaps best known for helming 2018 thriller *The Cloverfield Paradox*, will direct the fourth installment of the *Captain America* film franchise for Marvel Studios. He most recently co-wrote the Jean-Michel Basquiat biopic *Samo Lives*, which has Luce's Harrison on board to star as the titular artist, and will also direct and produce that pic for Endeavour Content, along with the college admissions thriller *Bad Genius*.

Anthony Mackie is starring in the feature, reprising his longtime Marvel character of Sam Wilson, but not, however, Wilson's longtime alter ego and *Captain America* sidekick, Falcon. That is thanks to the events of 2021's Marvel Disney+ series *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier*, which saw Wilson, after much self-doubt, finally accept the shield and mantle of *Captain America*.

Along with Peter Glanz, Onah is currently developing the drama series *The American Throne* at Universal Content Productions with Esmail Corp producing. That show is set in a reimagined, contemporary America where the nation was founded as a monarchy. Its entirely white Royal Family is plunged into a scorched earth succession battle when it's revealed the late King has hidden a mind-blowing secret: A Black son who is the true heir to the throne.

### "Captain America 4" Creative Team

Onah is officially on board to direct the new *Captain America* film, but the movie's plot is still under wraps for now. In terms of his directing style, Onah has proven he can handle both commercial blockbusters like *"The Cloverfield Paradox"* and indie features.





That means it shouldn't be hard for the a cohesive part of the larger Marvel Cinematic Universe.director to put his own creative stamp on the film while also making it feel like

As for the script, theolm movie is being written by "The Falcon and the Winter Soldier" showrunner Malc Spellman and the show's staff writer Dalan Musson. That suggests the Disney+ show's tone could hint at what's to come in Sam's first big-screen adventure as Captain America.

#### "Captain America 4" Release Date

A release date hasn't been confirmed yet, but given the already crowded MCU release-date schedule for 2022 and 2023, it's likely the film won't premiere until 2024 at the earliest.

## WINDRUSH MAN WAS TREATED SHAMEFULLY, APPEAL JUDGES SAY

By: Edward Collins  
London, UK

## Lifestyle

A man who travelled to Britain in 1960 when he was three, as part of the Windrush generation, was “shamefully treated”, senior judges have said. Hubert Howard was born in Jamaica and died in Britain in 2019, aged 62. He experienced “serious problems” because he could not get formal documentation of his immigration status, Court of Appeal judges said.

A ruling on the latest stage of a citizenship dispute found he had been subject to a “hostile environment”.

At the hearing on Wednesday Lord Justice Underhill, Lord Justice Baker and Lady Justice Elisabeth Laing said Mr Howard’s family had been compensated under the Windrush Compensation Scheme for the “way in which he was treated”.

“Like many others in the Windrush generation, Mr Howard suffered serious problems from being subject to the so-called ‘hostile environment’ as a result of being unable to obtain formal documentation of his immigration status,” said Lord Justice Underhill.

He added that “most seriously”, in 2012, Mr Howard had lost a long-term job as a caretaker after an inspection by immigration officers.

Mr Howard had applied for naturalisation as a British citizen in 2018.

However, Home Office ministers refused his application on the basis that Mr Howard did not satisfy the statutory “good character requirement”.

In 2021, a High Court judge said the refusal of Mr Howard’s application for naturalisation had been unlawful. But the appeal judges overturned that ruling and upheld a Home Office challenge.

Lord Justice Underhill said the appeal decision did not “in any way undermine the recognition that Mr Howard was shamefully treated”.

Lord Justice Baker and Lady Justice Laing agreed.

A Home Office letter explained how Mr Howard’s application had been refused because he did not meet a “good character requirement”, and had been “convicted of a number of criminal offences” and given a 12-month suspended jail term for assault.

Appeal judges said all but one of the offences were “minor”.

They said the assault conviction occurred in 2018, when Mr Howard, who had been seriously ill, became angry with the doctor’s receptionist, attempted to snatch paperwork from her and “in the course of doing so” had “grabbed her finger”.

Mr Howard had brought proceedings challenging the refusal of his application in April 2019, arguing that it was inconsistent with promises made by then Home Secretary Amber Rudd, in a Commons statement in April 2018, about the treatment of members of the Windrush generation.

The decision to refuse had been reviewed by the Home Office in October 2019 – and Mr Howard’s application had been granted “on an exceptional basis”.

Mr Howard, who suffered from leukaemia for several years, died less than a month later. Since then, he has been represented by his daughter.





## Mo Farah's wife on discovering tragic past amid their engagement 'lots of missing pieces'

### Lifestyle

By:Edward Collins  
London,UK

SIR MO FARAH'S wife Tania Nell has spoken of discovering the decorated athlete's tragic past during their engagement. Sir Mo Farah, 39, revealed he had been illegally trafficked into Britain under the name of another child as a nine-year-old and forced into domestic servitude in a BBC documentary. His now-wife Tania Nell has admitted she always felt like there were "lots of missing pieces" to the sprinter's story during their engagement in 2009.

However, Farah says that when he arrived in the UK he faced a very different reality: "I had all the contact details for my relative and once we got to her house, the lady took it off me and right in front of me ripped them up and put it in the bin, and at that moment I knew I was in trouble," he said.

Farah said his children have motivated him to be truthful about his past, saying: "Family means everything to me and, you know, as a parent, you always teach your kids to be honest, but I feel like I've always had that private thing where I could never be me and tell what's really happened.

"I've been keeping it for so long, it's been difficult because you don't want to face it and often my kids ask questions, 'Dad, how come this?' And you've always got an answer for everything, but you haven't got an answer for that.

Farah's wife, Tania, said in the year leading up to their 2010 wedding she realised something was amiss and eventually "wore him down with the questioning" and he told the truth.

Tania shared: "I first met Mo in school, he was always smiling." That is what stood out about Mo amongst the groups of grumpy teenagers. Mo was happy so lucky.

"We were engaged by 2009, and it was during that period of time leading up to us being married that I felt like there were lots of missing pieces to his story. Behind the smile there was something there," she confessed.

The four-time Olympic champion had previously claimed he had left Somalia aged eight to join his father, after his parents made the agonising decision to send three of their six children to London for the chance of a better life.

However, in his documentary, the 39-year-old said that in fact he was trafficked to London by a stranger under an assumed name after escaping war in Somalia. "Most people know me as Mo Farah, but it's not my name or it's not the reality," he said. "The real story is I was born in Somaliland, north of Somalia, as Hussein Abdi Kahin." "Despite what I've said in the past, my parents never lived in the UK."



## Rapper JayDaYoungan dies aged 24 after being 'shot outside home' in Louisiana

# Entertainment



By: Seyi Awoleye  
Los Angeles, CA

Louisiana-based rapper JayDaYoungan has died at the age of 24.

The hip hop artist, real name Javorius Scott, was reportedly shot outside his home on Wednesday night and transported to hospital.

However, Bogalusa Police Department have since informed TMZ that the rapper died of his injuries.

He was initially said to be in critical condition after losing a lot of blood and required surgery.

A second man, who was believed to be a relative of the rapper, was also shot. A police rep told the publication that one victim was rushed to hospital by someone on the scene, while the other, who was described as critically wounded, received treatment from paramedics before being taken to hospital.

Shortly after news broke, a woman believed to be JayDaYoungan's sister, said early reports he had died were false.

She wrote using the Instagram handle @therealkenyajanelll: 'B\*\*\*h shut up y'all don't know that the f\*\*k y'all TALKING BOUT FR.'

'Ain't nobody f\*\*king dead. Stop d\*\*k eating and go read a f\*\*king book.'

In another Instagram story, she added: 'I hate you freak a\*\* Internet a\*\* n\*\*\*as and h\*es and bulls\*\*t a\*\* fake a\*\* h\*e a\*\* blogs, h\*e stop tryna confirm s\*\*t y'all don't f\*\*king know bulls\*\*t a\*\*es.'

The rapper rose to prominence after signing to Atlantic Records in 2017. He has since released several mixtapes and his debut album in June 2020. JayDaYoungan also caught the ear of his music peers, with collaborations including Latto, Lil Durk, Boosie Badazz and Moneybagg Yo.

In December, JayDaYoungan was indicted by a grand jury on a weapons charge and facing up to five years in prison. According to Knoe News, the musician was already under indictment in a Texas county, where he faced state charges of illegal possession of Oxycodone and assault on a pregnant woman.

He was released from jail a month before his death and spoke of being on house arrest in his final Instagram post, shared just hours before the fatal shooting.

The rapper was father to a young son who he often shared pictures of on social media. In one recent post to mark Father's Day in June, he wrote: 'Thanking God for letting me experience today with my favorite [heart] couldn't ask for more but peace? Happy Father Day the real ones.'





## Will Smith releases surprise video apology to Chris Rock months after Oscars slap: 'My behaviour was unacceptable'

# Entertainment



By: Seyi Awolaye  
Los Angeles, CA



**W**ill Smith has shared a lengthy apology to Chris Rock following the Oscars slap drama, earlier this year.

The Fresh Prince of Bel Air actor famously stormed on stage at the ceremony after the comedian made a joke about wife Jada Pinkett Smith's hair. He slapped the Everybody Hates Chris actor before returning to the audience, warning him to 'keep my wife's name out of your f\*\*king mouth'.

In a new video shared on YouTube, the star – who later won his first Oscar for his role in King Richard – spoke candidly about the incident, apologizing to all those impacted, including Jada and their family.

'It's been a minute... Over the last few months, I've been doing a lot of thinking and personal work...,' a message read.

'You asked a lot of fair questions that I wanted to take some time to answer.'

Reflecting on why he didn't apologize to Chris in his winning Oscar speech, he said: 'I was fogged out by that point. It's all fuzzy.'

'I've reached out to Chris and the message that came back is that he's not ready to talk and when he is, he'll reach out.'

'I will say to you Chris, I apologize to you, my behavior was unacceptable, and I'm here whenever you're ready to talk.'

Will also directed his comments to Chris' family, after his mom shared her anger at the situation, and said that it was like he had slapped her in that moment.

'I wanna apologize to Chris' mother,' he continued. 'I saw an interview Chris' mother did and that was one of the things about that moment I just didn't realize, I wasn't thinking about how many people got hurt in that moment, so I want to apologize to Chris' mother.'

'I want to apologize to Chris' family, specifically Tony Rock. We had a great relationship, Tony Rock was my man, and this is probably irreparable.'

'I spent the last three months replaying and understanding the nuances and the complexities of what happened in that moment, and I'm not going to try to unpack all of that right now.'

'But I can say to all of you – there is no part of me that thinks that was the right way to behave in that moment.'

Why didn't you apologize to Chris in your acceptance speech?

'I was fogged out by that point. It's all fuzzy. I have reached out to Chris and the

message that came back is that he is not ready to talk and when he is he will reach out.

'So I will say to you, Chris, I apologize to you. My behavior was unacceptable and I am here whenever you're ready to talk.

'I wanna apologize to Chris' mother. I saw an interview Chris' mother did and that was one of the things about that moment I just didn't realize, I wasn't thinking about how many people got hurt in that moment, so I want to apologize to Chris' mother.

'I want to apologize to Chris' family, specifically Tony Rock. We had a great relationship, Tony Rock was my man, and this is probably irreparable.

'I spent the last three months replaying and understanding the nuances and the complexities of what happened in that moment, and I'm not going to try to unpack all of that right now.

'But I can say to all of you, there is no part of me that thinks that was the right way to behave in that moment.

'There is no part of me that thinks that's the optimal way to handle feelings of disrespect or insults.'

After Jada rolled her eyes, did she tell you to do something?

'No. I made a choice on my own from my own experiences, from my history with Chris. Jada had nothing to do with it. I'm sorry babe. I want to say sorry to my kids and my family for the heat that I brought on all of us.

'To all my fellow nominees. This is a community, I won because you voted for me. It really breaks my heart to have stolen and tarnished your moment. I can still see Questlove's eyes. It happened on Questlove's award.

'I'm sorry really isn't sufficient.'

What would you say to the people who looked up to you before the slap or people who expressed that you let them down?

'There's two things. One - Disappointing people is my central trauma. I hate when I let people down. So it hurts me psychologically and emotionally to know I didn't live up to people's image and impression of me.

'And the work I'm trying to do is, I am deeply remorseful and I'm trying to be remorseful without being ashamed of myself. I'm human and I made a mistake and I'm trying not to think of myself as a piece of s\*\*t.

'I would say to those people, I know it was confusing, I know it was shocking. But I promise you I am deeply devoted and committed to putting light and love and joy into the world.

'If you hang on, I promise we'll be able to be friends again.'

'There is no part of me that thinks that's the optimal way to handle a feeling of disrespect or insults.'

The world was reeling when Will walked on stage during the ceremony in March, after the Chris made a joke about Jada's buzzcut, comparing her to 'GI Jane' - the *Scream 2* actress has previously been open about her struggles with alopecia.

Following the incident, he was able to collect his best actor trophy but failed to mention the slap in his bizarre speech, and did not apologize while on stage.

In the days following the awards, he took to social media to share a statement, which read: 'Violence in all of its forms is poisonous and destructive.

'My behavior at last night's Academy Awards was unacceptable and inexcusable. Jokes at my expense are a part of the job, but a joke about Jada's medical condition was too much for me to bear and I reacted emotionally.'

'I would like to publicly apologize to you, Chris. I was out of line and I was wrong. I am embarrassed and my actions were not indicative of the man I want to be. There is no place for violence in a world of love and kindness.



## **Nigerian street seller beaten to death on road as onlookers stand filming.**

### Politics

By:James Osondu  
Bureau Chief  
Sofia-Bulgaria

**O**utrage has been sparked across Italy after a Nigerian street seller was brutally beaten to death on a busy beach town road. Horrendous footage has been shared showing the fatal attack on married dad-of-two, Alika Ogorchukwu, 39, in broad daylight.

Onlookers reportedly didn't attempt to save the African immigrant as he was struck down with the crutch that he used to walk on Friday.

There are varying accounts of the circumstances, with some suggesting Mr Ogorchukwu had asked for pocket change, and others saying he had told the assailant's companion she was beautiful.

An Italian man named as Filippo Claudio Giuseppe Ferlazzo, 32, has been arrested on suspicion of murder.

He is also suspected of theft after the victim's phone was taken as he was left dying on a street in Civitanova Marche.

Hundreds of people from a local Nigerian community have taken to the streets to demand justice, as reports suggest witnesses called police but didn't intervene physically.

Mr Ogorchukwu had started selling goods on the street after being hit by a car and losing his job as a labourer due to his injuries, the local ACSIM association for immigrants has said.

Around midday on Friday, he was at work when an aggressor grabbed the crutch he used to help with his limp and hit him with it, according to police.

A video shows Mr Ogorchukwu fighting to defend himself as he is wrestled to the ground.



## England's Lionesses roar to victory, beating Germany 2-1 at Euro 2022 final



By:Gbenga Teejay  
Okunlola  
London,UK

## Sports

In front of a record-breaking crowd of 87,192, Kelly's 110th-minute winner secured England the country's first major international success since the men's team won the World Cup in 1966.

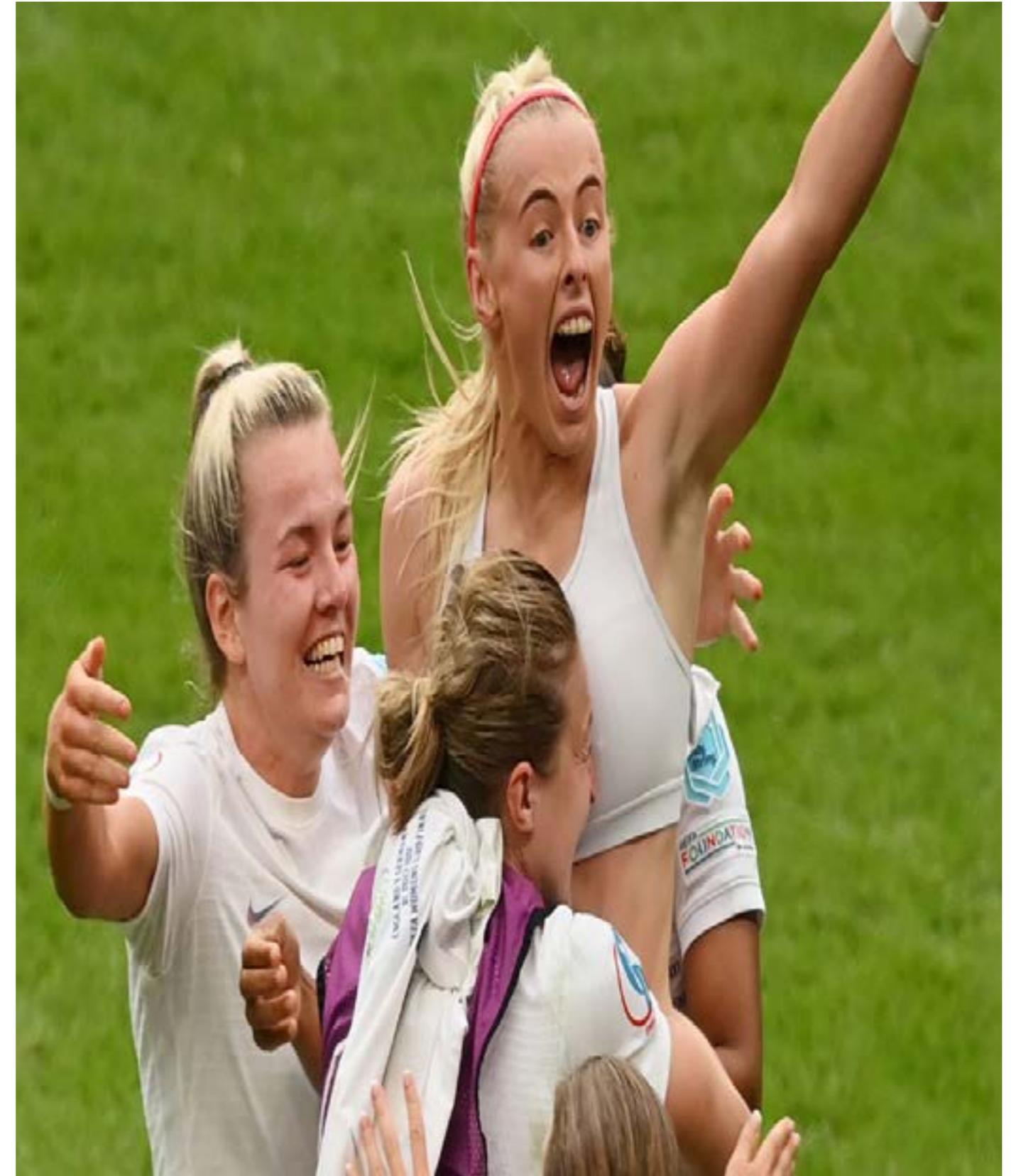
England stuck with the same XI as in every game on their run to the final, but there was a blow for Germany in the warm-up when captain Alex Popp – who had scored in all five previous matches – picked up an injury, forcing Lea Schüller to step in.

The atmosphere was understandably frenzied in the packed Wembley stands early on, especially when Lauren Hemp's cross was met by the head of Ellen White, though Merle Frohms was in the way.

The hosts were having slightly the better of the opening exchanges, forcing a succession of corners, but on 25 minutes Germany seemed set to take the lead from one of their own, only for Leah Williamson to scramble away Marina Hegering's effort from point-blank range. White then raced on to a Beth Mead cutback, but her strike sailed just over.

Striker Tabea Wassmuth arrived for Germany at half-time and she quickly had a chance, pouncing on a loose ball on the left and cutting in before being denied by Mary Earps. Lina Magull also went close and Sarina Wiegman responded by introducing Alessia Russo, who had already notched a record four goals as a substitute in the finals, along with her similarly impactful Manchester United club-mate Ella Toone.

Within seven minutes, Toone struck. Mead was off the pitch injured, leaving England temporarily with ten players, but Keira Walsh's incisive through ball from deep set Toone free and – one on one with Frohms – she held her nerve with a dinked finish.



Germany responded and Magull smashed a shot onto the crossbar, Schüller hitting the rebound straight at a relieved, and grinning, Earps. Her relief was short lived, however, as Magull returned to beat Earps with 11 minutes left, a slick move culminating in Wassmuth providing the assist with a low centre, and the showpiece was now destined for extra time.

The first period of extra-time was a cagey affair with neither side wanting to make an error, but England made the breakthrough with 10 minutes to play. Germany were unable to clear a corner, with Kelly's own shot coming back to her feet inside the six-yard box. She was there again to turn past Frohms and win England their first major trophy.

It was a classic extra-time period - neither side wanted to give anything away. An agonising penalty shoot-out against the Germans looked to be on the cards. But then Kelly - aged just 24 years old - scrambled home the winner to send Wembley into overdrive, with England seeing out the game to write their names into history. "This is the proudest day of my life," said captain Leah Williamson after lifting the trophy. "The legacy of this tournament is a change in society. We've brought everyone together and we've got people at games. We want people to come to WSL games but the legacy of this team is winners, and it's the start of a journey."

England Women manager Sarina Wiegman told BBC:

"We won the cup. It is just unbelievable. I don't even remember what you've asked me! I don't know what's going on!

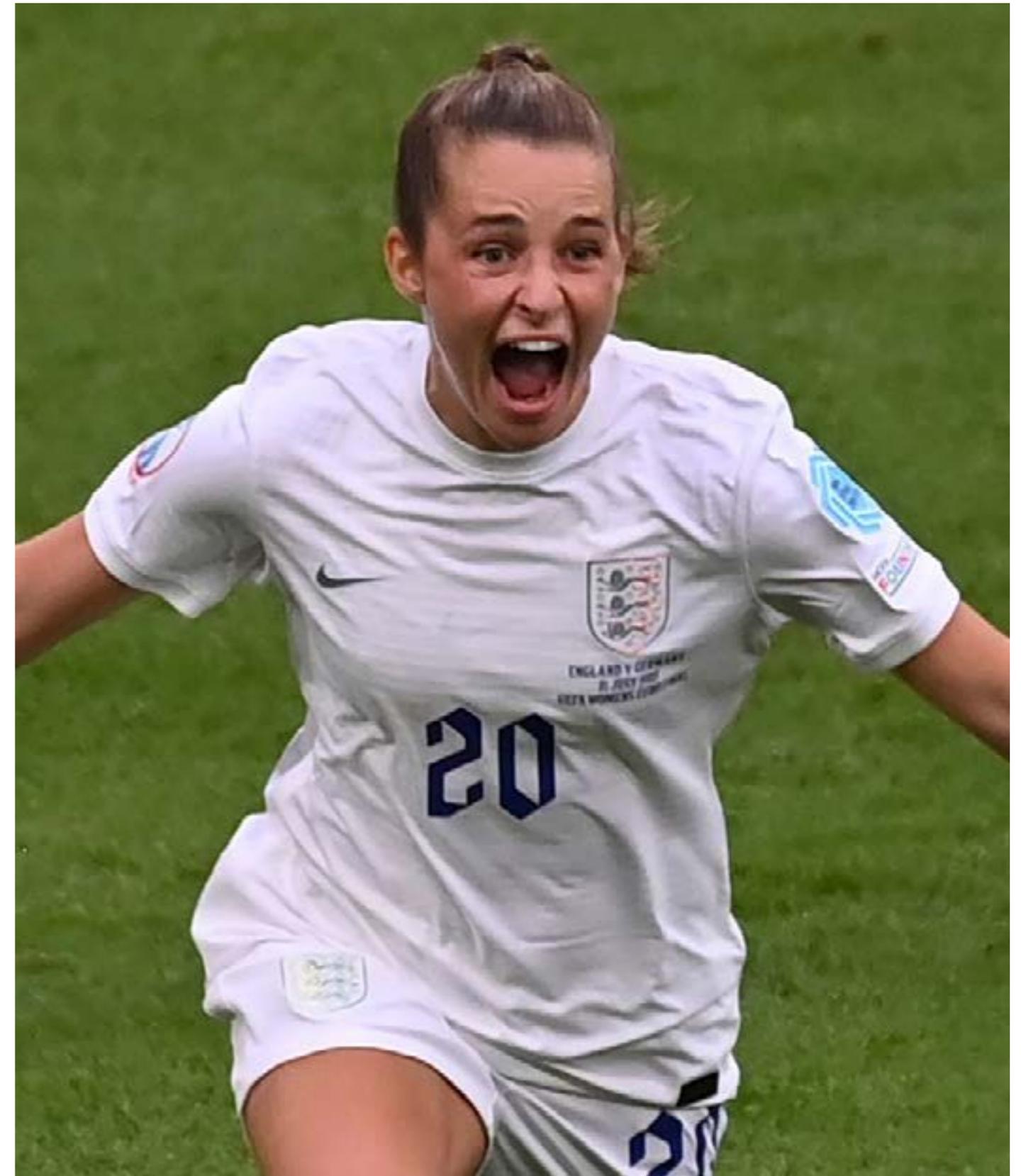
On what makes this team so resilient: "Do you have half an hour? If you really want to become better every single day, that is what you need to do.

"The players have wanted to do it together and we agreed on a couple of things about behaviour, and it wasn't just words.

"We lived it, and this is the result. With Germany it was so tight, and it was a bit of a fighting game, but who cares? "We're European champions.

"I told the players we needed five more minutes as we'd already broken two barriers against Spain and we had to do it again for 15 minutes.

"I don't have any secrets. I just need some time to figure out what's going on. The trophy is pretty heavy - I would know!"







**A-Choices magazine Associate Editor Albena A. Jones receives a prestigious award in Bulgaria!**

**“To be presented with the International Achievements Award at Mrs. Lady of the Year 2022 was an exceptional delight! My gratitude to the organisers Mrs. Universe Ltd.- Megi Savova for the nomination, to Junona FH Sofia for the beautiful evening dress and to my friends and loved ones for the support”! -Albena A. Jones**

**A Big Congratulations from all of us at A-Choices!**



















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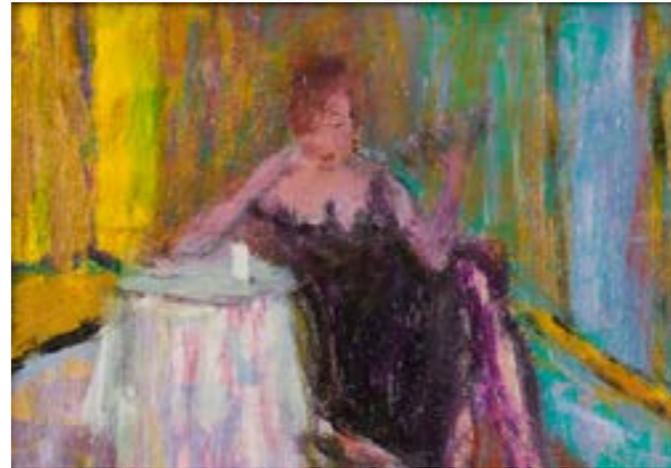
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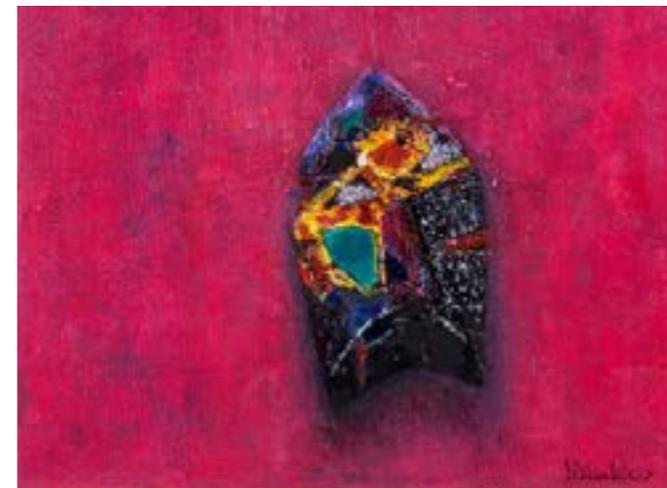
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3. Art and design consulting of the ArtWizard platform. The service comprises personalized advice on what artworks to buy for an office or home interior. The ArtWizard team helps to find the specific artworks that will be affordable and suitable for any interior.
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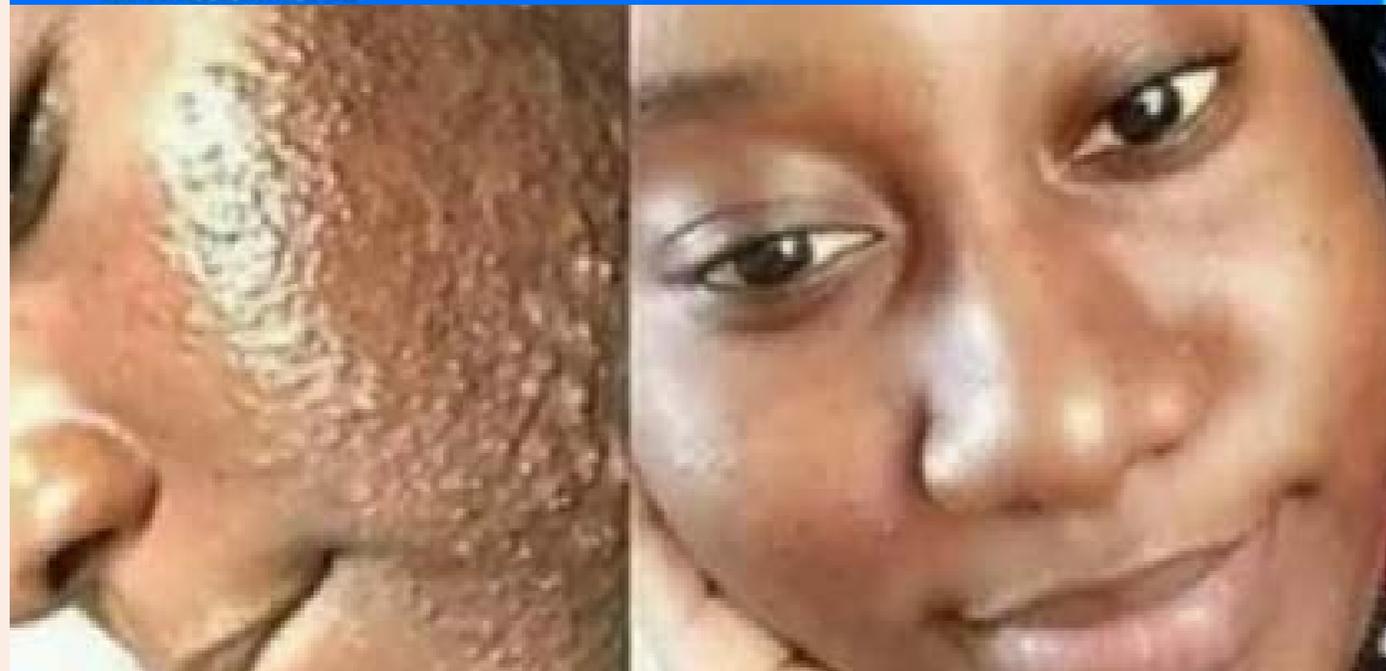


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# HOW TO BECOME A BULGARIAN PERMANENT RESIDENT OR CITIZEN BY WAY OF PURCHASING PROPERTY

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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