

Issue Number .26 SPECIAL EDITION

London, UK

A-CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine

GOODBYE MA'AM

A CELEBRATION OF AN INCREDIBLE LIFE

A-CHOICES PAYS TRIBUTE TO HER REMARKABLE LIFE AND REIGN:
96 PAGES OF ICONIC PHOTOGRAPHS AND LOTS MORE



HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

21 April 1926 - 08 September 2022



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***

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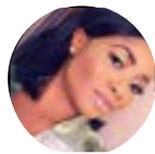
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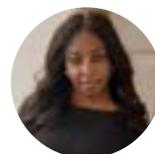
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EDITOR'S LETTER



Never before has a person touched the hearts of so many people, not only in Great Britain, but across the world, for such an enduring length of time. Queen Elizabeth II has been the constant that has held the nation together on so many occasions, most recently during the global pandemic.

The Queen dedicated her life to her people, her familiar presence so reassuring to many. She was part of us all, stitched into the DNA of modern Britain.

She described her faith in God as "the anchor of her life" I hope she is now with her heavenly father. She has run her race well. She was a remarkable Head Of The Church Of England.

It is unsurprising, whether we are royalists or not, that many of us mourn for this woman we likely never had the good fortune to meet. As the news broke of her passing it was hard for many of us to contain our emotion.

Sadly, Queen Elizabeth is someone we will not meet again, but her values and her love of Britain and the Commonwealth will live on in her heirs. Queen Elizabeth II is simply irreplaceable. It will take some time for the nation to come to terms with this huge loss.

Farewell Queen Elizabeth the Second. You were true to yourself, iconic and truly the only one of your kind. Like Elizabeth the 1 before you.

All of us at A-CHOICES wish the queen a peaceful rest as she joins her husband and we pray the Lord uphold the Royal family. We also wish the King a peaceful reign. Long live the king!

Rest in peace, Your Majesty.
Gbenga Teejay Okunlola



Profession: Queen of the United Kingdom

Nationality: British

Biography: The longest-lived and longest-reigning monarch in British history, Elizabeth is the constitutional head of 16 sovereign states and head of the Commonwealth of Nations. In her capacity as British monarch she also ceremonially heads the Church of England as its Supreme Governor.

The eldest daughter of George VI, she became the heiress presumptive when her father acceded the throne following the abdication of his brother, Edward VIII. During World War II, she began to undertake public duties and worked in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. After the death of her father she ascended the throne in 1952.

Her reign has seen immense constitutional changes in Britain. This includes devolution to the regional governments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, Canadian partition, African decolonization and the continuing evolution of the Commonwealth, of which she is the head. Personal tribulations have included the collapse of her children's marriages, a fire at Windsor Castle in 1992, the death of Princess Diana in 1997 and the deaths of her mother and sister in 2002.

In 2017 she became the first British monarch to reach her Sapphire Jubilee.

Born: April 21, 1926

Birthplace: London, England, United Kingdom

Generation: Greatest Generation

Chinese Zodiac: Tiger

Star Sign: Taurus

Died: September 8, 2022 (aged 96)

THE QUEEN: FAREWELL,OUR NOBLE QUEEN



By:Gbenga Teejay
Okunlola
London,UK

As Kings and Queens,world leaders, young and old,poor and rich, paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth on her death aged 96 on Thursday, September 8th, ordinary people in Britain and around the globe paid their own respects to a woman who had been the face of her nation for more than 70 glorious years.

The death of Her Majesty will leave not only the people of Britain bereft,but the world as a whole.She was a symbol of unity and stability. Her legacy is one to last the ages - she was a monarch but she was so much more.A woman who touched generations with humility and humour and with her steadfast duty to family and country.

The Queen has stood strong through it all: countless political upheavals, royal scandals, national tragedies and, most recently, a global pandemic. She has been a constant through the chaos of both national and personal lives. Right to the end, she never wavered in her relentless dedication to duty.

On a rainy London night,thousands gathered outside Buckingham Palace, in central London,some laying floral tributes outside the black iron gates.There were similar scenes outside the queen's Windsor Castle home. Black cabs lined up outside the palace to pay homage to the Queen.

Portraits of Elizabeth were posted on billboard screens in central London's Piccadilly Circus and the city's Canary Wharf financial district, and also across the Atlantic in New York's Times Square. Flowers were laid outside the British Consulate General in New York.

In Berlin, flowers and candles were laid outside the British Embassy, while in Venice "God Save the Queen", the British national anthem, was played outside the Italian city's Festival Buildings.In Paris,the Eiffel Tower went dark at the stroke of midnight in a tribute to the Queen.

It is unsurprising, whether we are royalists or not, that many of us mourn for this woman we likely never had the good fortune to meet.The Queen dedicated her life to her people, her familiar presence so reassuring to many. She was part of us all, stitched into the DNA of modern Britain.

It is said that many years ago, Her Majesty the Queen and her daughter, Princess Anne, were being driven down the Mall from Buckingham Palace in her official car, with no number plate, when a young fresh looking police officer pulled it over. In his haste to book the driver, the rookie had failed to notice the royal insignia on the roof. Ignoring the driver's frantic gestures to warn him that someone important was in the back of the car, the policeman took out his notebook and ploughed on.

In the back, meanwhile, the Queen and Princess Anne, tactfully, slid off their seats onto the floor of the car, so they were out of sight. Finally,the policeman peered through the window at the back seat. He couldn't see anyone.

But the driver was insistent, so he pressed his face against the glass and found himself eyeball to eyeball with the familiar and unmistakable face of his sovereign. In that instant, his dearest wish was granted: he vanished into thin air and was neither seen nor heard of again. The Queen had a delightful and, at times, playful sense of humour - she was a talented mimic, she sang, she danced, she loved parlour games - but that side of her was generally reserved for family and people who knew her well.

After her uncle's abdication in 1939, which thrust her father, the Duke of York, ill-equipped as he was, into the top job, her dream of living quietly as a countrywoman surrounded by dogs and horses, vanished as surely as that policeman in the Mall. From that day on, her life was no longer her own. She would follow in her father's footsteps and say goodbye to so many of the freedoms that we all take for granted. Sadly, Queen Elizabeth is someone we will not meet again, but her values and her love of Britain and the Commonwealth will live on in her heirs.









A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO LONG LIVE THE KING -A WEEK OF TRIBUTES TO QUEEN ELIZABETH II



By:Joy Gofwen
Lagos Bureau -Chief
Nigeria

It is no longer news that Queen Elizabeth II the longest serving monarch of the United Kingdom is dead. The family said she died in Balmoral in a peaceful sleep.

Tributes from family and world leaders have since been pouring in, many remembering encounters with her during her 70 years rule. One of the Queen's former guards recounted to Sky News the fun loving sides of the queen many rarely know of.

The Queen's former protection guard revealed that the monarch was out in the hills near her Scottish castle at Balmoral when two U.S. tourists approached; one of them engaged her in conversation, Richard Griffin now known as Dick said. The tourist inquired from the Queen where she lived and she said London, adding that she had a holiday home just over the hill and had been visiting the area for more than 80 years since she was a little girl. She did not say she was referring to Balmoral.

Aware that the castle was in the vicinity, the tourist then asked her if she had ever met the queen.

"Quick as a flash she said: 'I haven't, but Dick here meets her regularly,'" Dick recounted on Sky News during celebrations of the Queen's 70 years on the throne earlier this year.

The tourist than asked Dick what the monarch was like in person. "Because I was with her a long time and I knew I could tease her, I said 'oh, she can be very cantankerous at times, but she's got a lovely sense of humour,'" Dick said.

Delighted, the tourist then put his arm around Dick's shoulder and asked if he could have a picture of the two of them together. "Before I could see what was happening, he gets his camera and gives it to the Queen and says 'can you take a picture of us?'"

The Queen obliged, and then Dick took the camera and took a picture of her with the pair of tourist.

Dick said the Queen later told him: "I'd love to be a fly on the wall when he shows those photographs to friends in America and hopefully someone tells him who I am."

Meanwhile, the Royal family has paid their tribute to the Queen. King Charles III in his first speech renewed his commitment to a lifelong of service. He praised his mother's warmth, humour and ability to see the best in people.

"Her dedication and devotion as Sovereign never wavered, through times of change and progress, through times of joy and celebration, and through times of sadness and loss."

He announced the new titles of the Royal family; he declared his son William and his wife Catherine are Prince and Princess of Wales, Catherine taking the title last used by Diana William's mother. He also expressed love for "Harry and Meghan as they continue to build their lives overseas."

Camilla his wife of about 17 years becomes the Queen Consort, he said "I know she will bring to the demands of her new role the steadfast devotion to duty on which I have come rely so much."

He concluded with a heartfelt message to his darling mama: "And to my darling Mama, as you begin your last great journey to join my dear late Papa, I want to simply say this; thank you.

"Thank you for your love and devotion to our family and to the family of nations you have served so diligently all these years. May flights of Angels sing thee to thy rest."

Harry and Meghan who were in the UK for charity purpose when concerns for the Queen's health heightened have extended their trip to attend the Queen's funeral on 19 September.



Sharing his personal tributes Harry said “Granny, while this final parting brings us great sadness, I am forever grateful for all of our first meetings from my earliest childhood memories with you, to meeting you for the first times as my commander-in-chief, to the first moment you met my darling wife and hugged your beloved great-grandchildren.

“I cherish these times shared with you and the many other special moments in between. You are already sorely missed, not just by us, but by the world over.” He also thanked the queen for her service and infectious smile. “Thank you for your commitment to service. Thank you for your sound advice.

“Thank you for your infectious smile. We, too, smile knowing that you and grandpa are reunited now, and both together in peace.”

Queen Elizabeth II was the 40th monarch in England; she reigned for 70 years, seven months and two days making her the longest monarch to ever serve in the history of the United Kingdom.

During her reign, 15 prime ministers served under her, she witnessed 14 U.S presidents and seven popes. The Queen had four children, eight grandchildren and 12 great-grand-children.

The Queen loved dogs and owned more than 30 Corgis and Dorgis during her reign and interestingly, most of them were descendants of her first Corgi, Susan, which was given to the Queen when she turned 18 in 1944.

We hope that the transition of power will be met with ease for the new King, King Charles III regardless of the war in Europe, soaring energy cost and the rampant inflation. The King is beginning his reign with a new prime minister who just assumed the role a couple of days ago.

All of us at A-CHOICES wish the queen a peaceful rest as she joins her husband and we pray the Lord uphold the Royal family. We also wish the King a peaceful reign. Long live the king!





















REST IN PEACE, YOUR MAJESTY.



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



Queen Elizabeth II's four children were seen in public together for the first time since her death in Balmoral. King Charles, the Princess Royal, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward were walking behind the Queen's hearse as it made its way towards St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh. Funerals, like weddings, put people back into a family setting. But these royal siblings have had their roles fundamentally changed in the last few days.

Solemn crowds of mourners broke into gentle applause as the Queen's coffin passed them for a final time as it left Edinburgh's St Giles Cathedral to begin its journey to Buckingham Palace.

Anne, the Princess Royal, was in a car following the procession as it travelled a route lined by thousands of well-wishers, along the Royal Mile and beneath the shadow of Edinburgh Castle.

King Charles III was in Northern Ireland on Tuesday, where he said that his mother "never ceased to pray for the best of times for this place and for its people, whose stories she knew, whose sorrows our family had felt, and for whom she had a great affection and regard".

His words came as the chief of anti-monarchy group Republic, Graham Smith, labelled the arrests of protesters a "scandal" and said to expect further demonstrations.

The accession of a new king is a "political act and one that goes to the heart of what is wrong with the monarchy", he said. "It is absolutely everyone's right to protest and speak out on any issue they please and the police must protect that right, not trample all over it."

King Charles has begun a new life as his mother's has ended. He is now the centre of attention, commander-in-chief as well as chief mourner. He has been pushed into the limelight when most people would want to hide away.

The hereditary principle means that as Charles and his heirs move to centre-stage, others in the family are inexorably eased to the edges, no longer the children of the monarch. Distant branches on the royal tree. Rest in peace, Your Majesty.







































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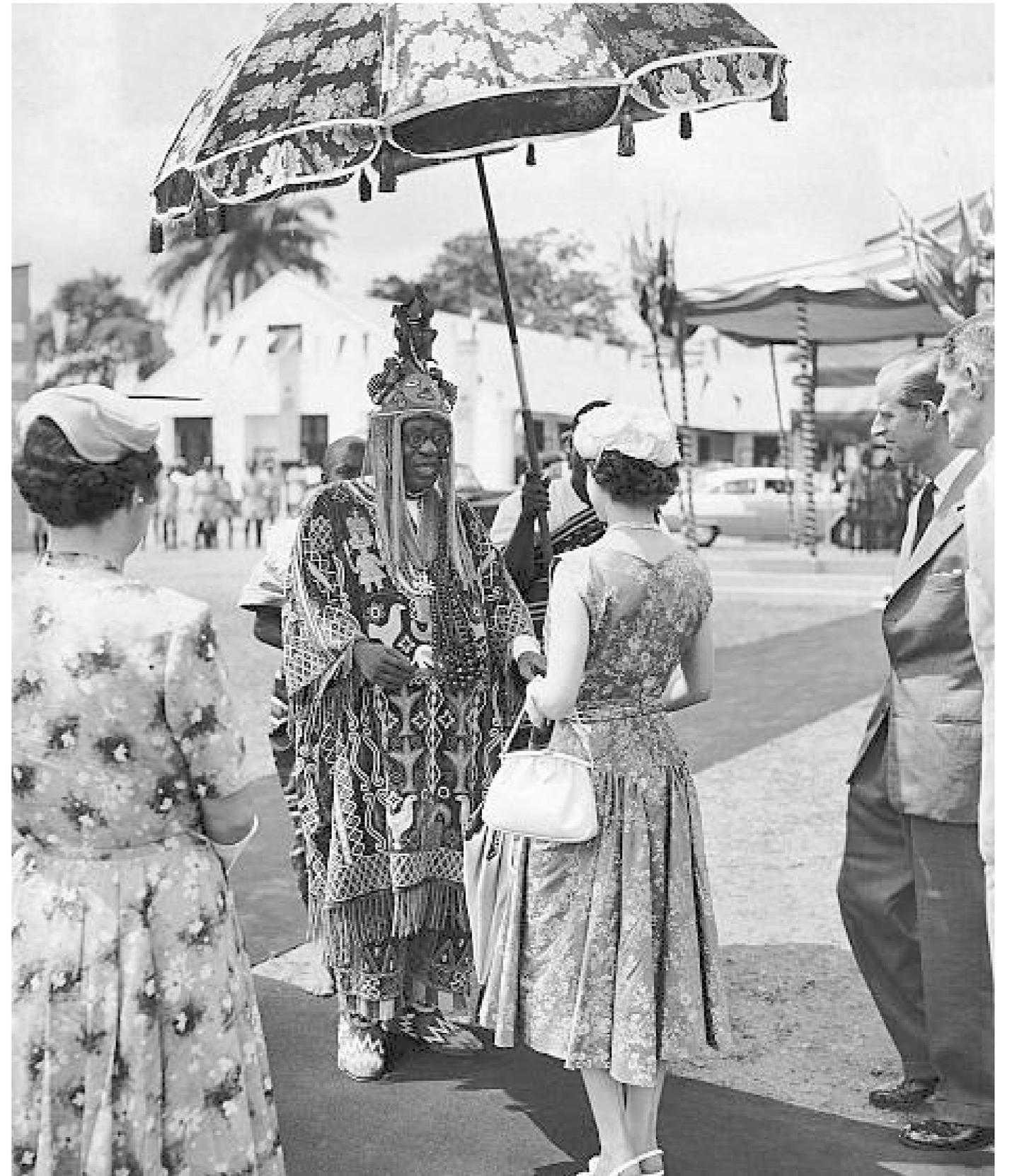


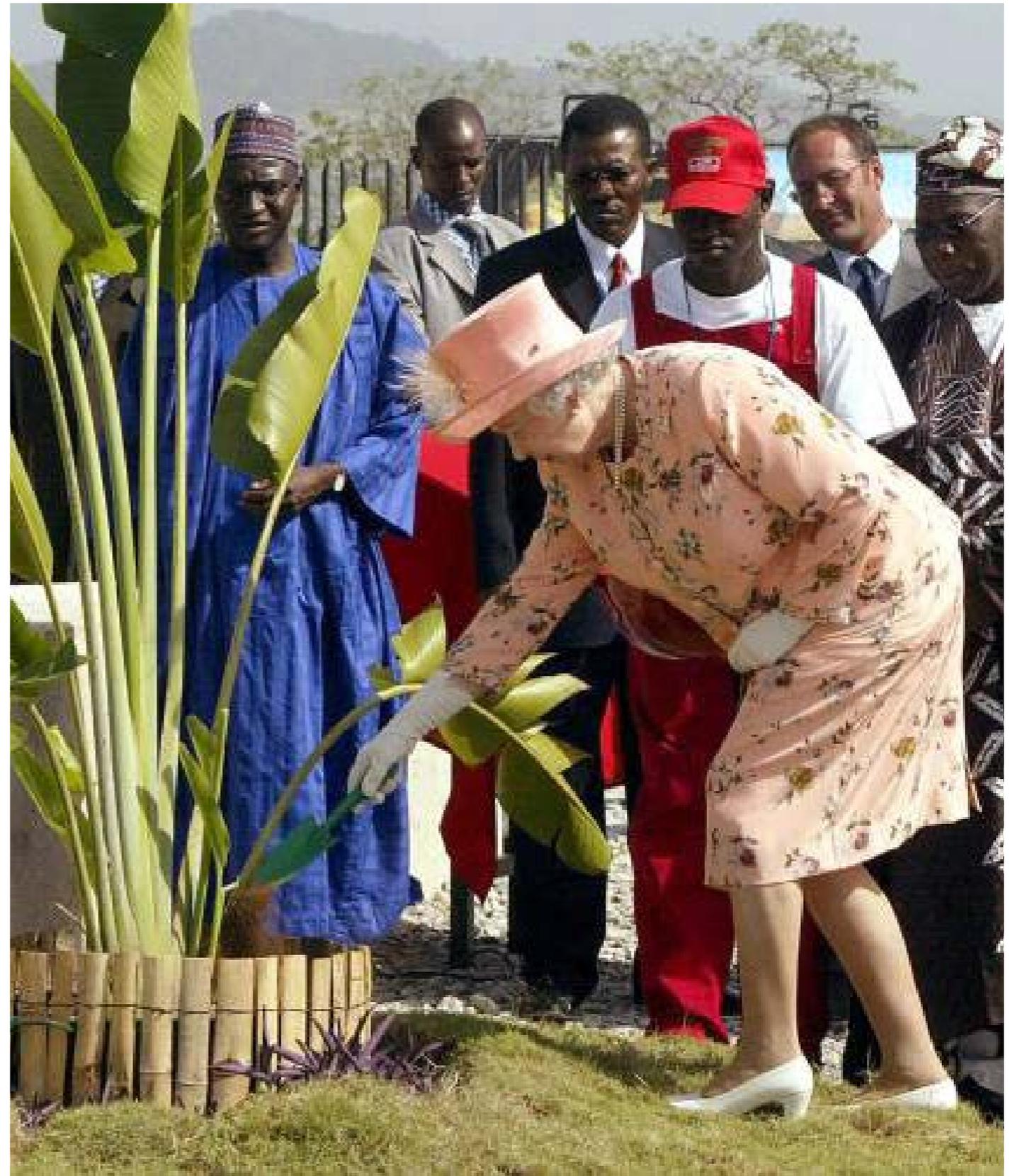
























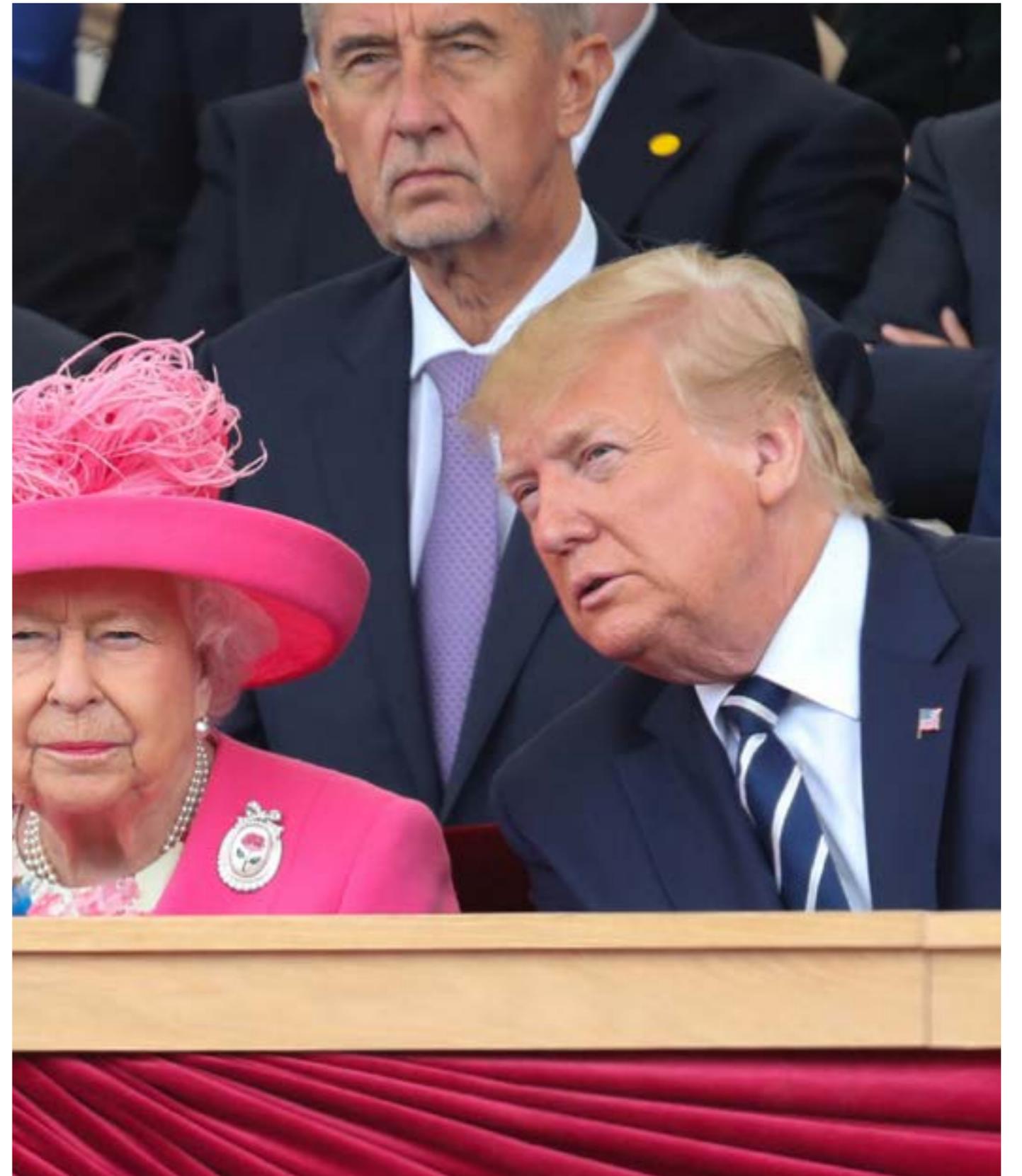






















THE SECOND ELIZABETHAN ERA IS OVER

By: Akosua Darko
Senior Writer
London, UK



Queen Elizabeth the Second is dead, after a 70 year plus rule. 4 years shy of a century of life.

21 April 1926-8 September 2022 Queen Elizabeth The Second.

As Elizabeth the first was, Elizabeth the Second was a woman of substance, intelligence and a woman who united, calmed and put courage in the people no matter what was happening and during turbulent times. She like Elizabeth the 1 wasn't born with the expectation she would become Queen but life had a different plan. After her Uncle Edward VIII got Abdicated, Elizabeth the Second was next in line to the throne after her father George VI. Like her mother Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon was to King George the VI her father, Elizabeth the Second was England's strength, composure and the one who beckoned the English to have courage and stand strong when they stuttered. Grieve indeed is the price we pay for love like she said. The nations are mourning a true queen who took her place as Queen of England at the tender age of 25 and crowned Queen on 2 June 1953.

No matter your thoughts on the Monarchy, Queen Elizabeth the Second stood resolute in World War 2, during the Cold War, through technological and medical advances, through the end of the colonisation era, through modernisation, through the dawn of social media, through the scandals of some of her family members, through a marriage with her Prince Charming Prince Phillip of Edinburgh who died last year on the 9/4/2021. She has lived to see her children, grand children and great grand children. She has seen Great Britain through so many changes in the World and England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Just like Elizabeth's before her she was solid as a rock, with great speeches, humility, wit and sense of duty. You never saw her fumble. She was unshakable.

She described her faith in God as " the anchor of her life" I hope she is now with her heavenly father. She has run her race well. She was a remarkable Head Of The Church Of England. I will leave you with some of Queen Elizabeth the second quotes and I hope it teaches us all to be resolute, live well, unite others, face tomorrow with courage and inspire others with our words.

"It's inevitable that I should seem a rather remote figure to many of you, a successor to the kings and queens of history."

"I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice. But I can do something else. I can give you my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations."

"I know of no single formula for success. But over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration to work together."

"The lessons from the peace process are clear; whatever life throws at us, our individual responses will be all the stronger for working together and sharing the load."

"My husband has quite simply been my strength and stay all these years, and I owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim."

"To all those who have suffered as a consequence of our troubled past I extend my sincere thoughts and deep sympathy. With the benefit of historical hindsight we can all see things which we would wish had been done differently or not at all."

"To what greater inspiration and counsel can we turn than to the imperishable truth to be found in this treasure house, the Bible?"

"I have in sincerity pledged myself to your service, as so many of you are pledged to mine. Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust."

The quote below is my favourite quote of hers and the one I hope we all take to heart.

"The world is not the most pleasant place. Eventually your parents leave you and nobody is going to go out of their way to protect you unconditionally. You need to learn to stand up for yourself and what you believe and sometimes, pardon my language, kick some ass."

Farewell Queen Elizabeth the Second. You were true to yourself, iconic and truly the only one of your kind. Like Elizabeth the 1 before you.



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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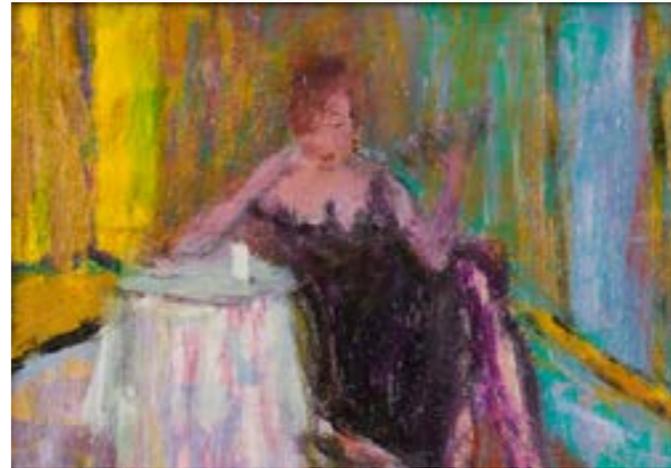
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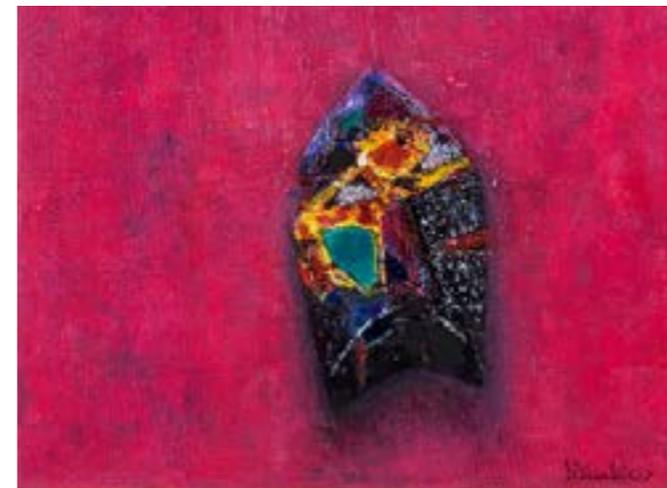
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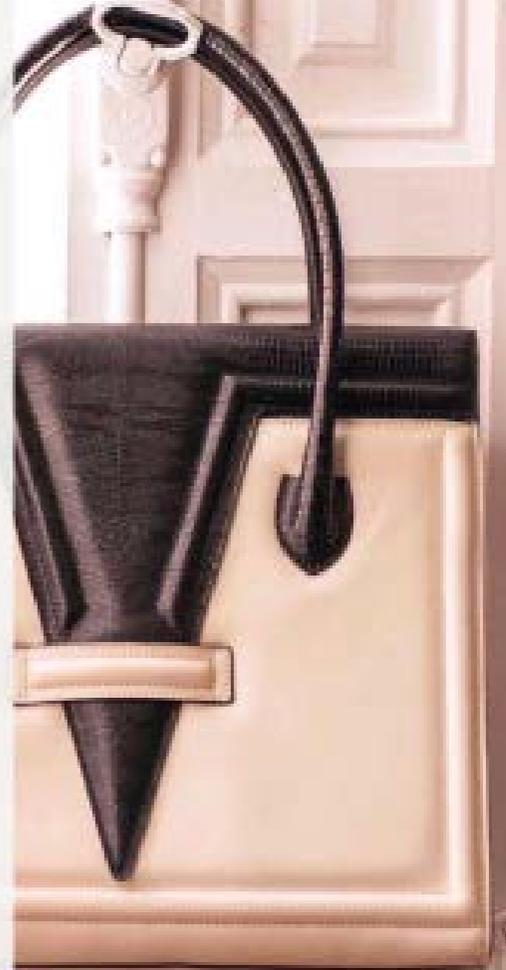
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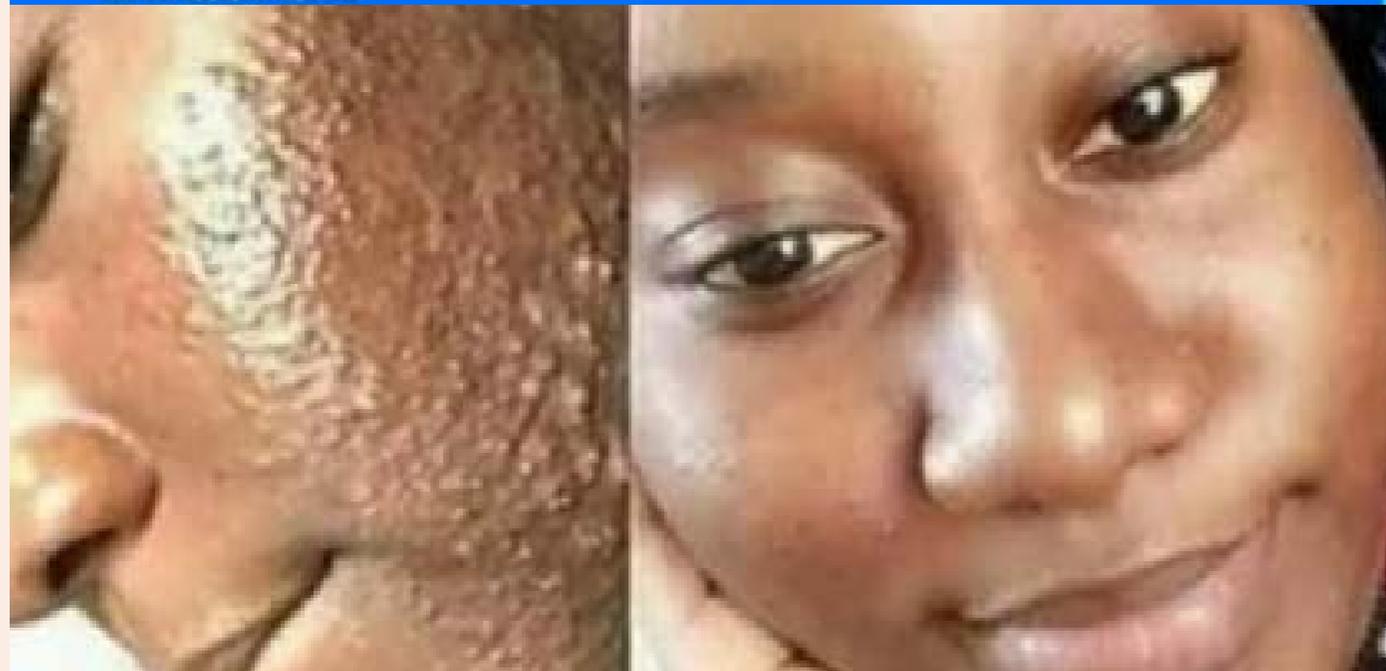


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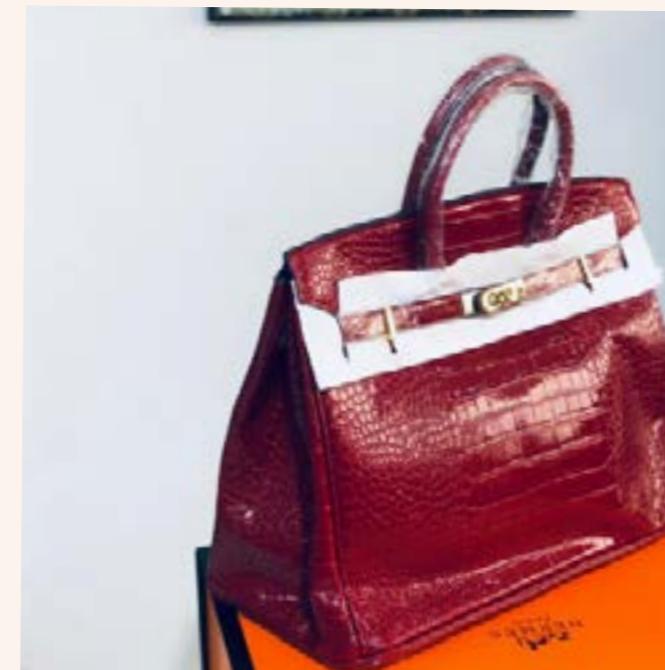
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HOW TO BECOME A BULGARIAN PERMANENT RESIDENT OR CITIZEN BY WAY OF PURCHASING PROPERTY

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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