

# A-CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine



Exclusive  
Interview  
with

Mrs Universe Africa

Finalist 2022

SPEAKS ON SELF IMPROVEMENT, GIVING  
AND PUTTING YOURSELF FIRST.



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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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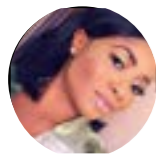
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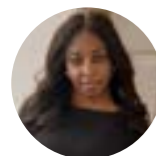
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# EDITOR'S LETTER

Season's Greetings from A-CHOICES MAGAZINE



Welcome to the December issue of A-CHOICES Magazine where we celebrate all that we love about being Africans. It has been a remarkable year for us here at A-CHOICES,we are thankful for how the year went and for the ability to have our publication out every month.

On our last edition for the year,Dercia Josue (Mrs Universe Africa finalist 2022) shares her tremendous journey across the length and breadth of the world when she recently sat with our EU-Bureau Chief,Albena A.Jones,they discussed everything from beauty therapy to her project called Smiles & Hope for Africa and lots more. It's sure an interesting read.

As 2022 comes to an end,I want to deeply appreciate your support and consistency to reading us,we are here because you returned every other month. A-CHOICES would like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and all best wishes for a joyful and successful new year. We'd like to take the opportunity to extend a huge 'thank you' to everyone who has helped keep the magazine running,In particular, thanks go to the volunteers who work tirelessly on the writing,editing, photographing,research and planning,and also to the designer and printers we hire to create such a beautiful finished product.

To our esteem clients,thank you for advertising with us and allow us to carry on our work. Without your patronage,we would not do what we do;we are indebted to you all for your backing and unflinching support.

To my dedicated TEAM,a huge thank you to you guys. Thank you for your hard work,you are very much appreciated! I also want to thank the Lord for His blessings upon me, indeed, I have seen His goodness.

Let me also be the first to wish you a very merry Christmas and a prosperous 2023; we hope to see you next year to enjoy incredible content and grow with us as A-Choices Magazine evolves. Remember you can always advertise with us and also catch up with us on: [www.achocesmagazine.com](http://www.achocesmagazine.com) Cheers to many happy returns. Have a wonderful festive season.

Thank You,

Gbenga Teejay Okunlola

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

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MERRY  
Christmas

And Happy New Year



## Exclusive Interview: Mrs Universe Africa finalist speaks on self improvement, giving and putting yourself first...

## Interview



By: Albena A. Jones  
EU-Bureau Chief  
Sofia, Bulgaria

**W**e had the privilege of having Dercia Josue (Mrs Universe Africa finalist) share her truth, and talk about what she has learnt along her journey. One of the things which stood out is “Nobody owes you anything”. The delectable Mrs Josue recently sat down for an interview with our EU-Bureau Chief Albena A. Jones. They discussed everything from beauty therapy to her project called Smiles & Hope for Africa and lots more.

**A-CHOICES:** Tell us about yourself?

**DERCIA:** Entrepreneur, Lecturer and Beauty Therapist. A wife and mother of two girls, owner and founding member of Beauty by Dercia a mobile beauty Spa that focuses on restoring women’s confidence. Born and bred in Mozambique, Dercia Josue like many other girls grew up running in the streets of Maputo with big dreams of representing her country through a beauty competition. She grew up with her grandmother who instilled in her the gift of giving back.

**A-CHOICES:** How did you get involved in Mrs Universe beauty pageant?

**DERCIA:** I grew up with a dream of one day representing my country somewhere in the diaspora... And last year I came across Mrs Universe Africa pageant which I entered, a life changing and women empowerment program, that led me to represent Africa in Women of the Universe.

**A-CHOICES:** How has the pageant impacted your life?

DERCIA: Well I thought being a wife, a mother and having a career was everything. After the kids all I could care about was the kids and my partner, there was no room to care for myself. The pageant came to remind me that I once had dreams and those dreams are valid, it reminded me to take care of myself, prioritize my needs before others... Which I am incredibly grateful for.

**A-CHOICES: Beside being a beauty queen, what else do you do?**

DERCIA: I am a Beauty Therapist, I own a mobile beauty Spa that focuses on restoring women's confidence. Being a mother of two, I remember not having time to do my nails or even having a foot rub or massage, therefore after completing my studies I realized that there was a gap in the industry and I took the opportunity to help women like me that for various reasons couldn't leave the house, by bringing the services to them. I am also a distributor for alkali water.

**A-CHOICES: What other activities fulfill your life?**

DERCIA: I am a philanthropist. I grew up with my grandmother in a house full of children, which I later learnt that they were not related and from that moment on I understood the power of sharing and giving which is a legacy for my children and the generations to come. In 2020 I embarked on a project called Smiles & Hope for Africa, where I focused on keeping a girl child at school by distributing sanitary pads and toiletries to keep their dignity. I believe that the future of the African continent depends on education therefore I distribute school material to ensure that children in disadvantaged communities have access to education.

I also knit blankets and distribute them to the homeless in winter time. Once a month I cook and distribute food for the homeless. During the pandemic I was able to help families with food parcels. All the activities give me great pleasure, there's no better feeling than to see a face of someone receiving a place of food, that smile is priceless. This work has been done in South Africa, Mozambique and Malawi.

**A-CHOICES: How do you feel as a global representative of Africa?**

DERCIA: Very excited but at the same time nervous, as I carry the weight of not only a country but the entire continent in my shoulders, it was a big responsibility which I carry with pride and respect. I was excited about meeting people of different countries, cultures and languages. The interaction was amazing and I learned a lot.

**A-CHOICES: How do you achieve balance about your personal life, work and charity activities?**

DERCIA: It's difficult to achieve balance but the most important thing is your support system. I have a very supportive partner that believes in me and supports my visions and ideas, he is behind me 100% and that's the key. When it is work time I focus on work and when it is family time I give my 100%. I even switch my phone off if I have to. Once a month I do my charity drives in which I get my daughters involved as I teach them the importance of sharing and giving back.

**A-CHOICES: What are your plans going forward?**

DERCIA: I would like to continue reaching out to other African countries through my organization to promote the importance of education, continue creating awareness to women about domestic violence and mental health issues, which we experience on a daily basis and often most of us don't even realize.

**A-CHOICES: How did you overcome the challenges throughout the journey?**

DERCIA: Coming from Mozambique, and growing up with many difficulties and insecurities, I had to teach myself to be very positive, to always see the good no matter how bad the situation is.

I believe that we are on this earth for a reason, and we all have a purpose to fulfill. And sometimes our plans will fail so that God's purpose can prevail. So these beliefs are the ones that have carried me throughout the difficult and challenging times.

**A-CHOICES: You said a quote the other day that still stuck with me a bit. You said 'nobody owes you anything?'**



DERCIA: Absolutely! The day I came across that post, it was a life changer. It says, 'no one owes you anything.' It actually came to me at a point in my life where I think I was depressed, anxious, everything. I just had these two little babies. I had my kids very close, they were both little. I was breastfeeding and it was quite difficult. And then the fact that I'm in a foreign country, I don't have a family that I can call and say, please come and help me with this one. I remember I used to wake up every morning and tell myself that no one owes me anything. And at the end of the day again I used to sit before I go to bed and tell myself that no one owes me anything.

I had to start implementing that at home. Because I know having children isn't easy. Sometimes I used to expect my husband to do so many things for me that he didn't feel that he needed to do. So I had to wake up every day and tell myself it's okay he doesn't owe me to do this. If he does it, it's great, but if he doesn't do it, it's also okay. We have so many expectations from people; we're expecting them to do things for us or to behave in a certain way. It's our responsibility to make ourselves happy, I can't expect that you'd come into my life and make me happy.

I remember after all of that, I said to myself, listen I need to learn to communicate better, I need to learn to know my values and my worth and people must know who I am, what I am to be able to understand me.

**A-CHOICES:** Let's flip it slightly, where does the ability to ask for help come in? Because I think it's quite important that you should also have the courage sometimes to ask for help if help is required.

DERCIA: Absolutely, we think that we are these superheroes that we can do it all but we can't do it all. So yes, we need to ask for help. People are there for so many reasons. And that's where you are able to create that connection and be able to build with others because at the end of the day, I like to believe that we are all a community, we are all one so we must be able to help one another. That's what will make the world a better place. And that's why there are people in different fields of life so that I can say I need this person to do this for me. I need that person to do that for me because people have different gifts and skills and once you know your own lane of work or gift or whatever in life, I know that if I'm in

a situation like this; I'll need Kailyn to help me.

**A-CHOICES** :What's your message to the readers?

**DERCIA** :Don't lose Hope,your dreams are valid. You can do and be anything you want, as long as you have focus and determination.















## **NAIRA REDESIGN – A CASE OF 'SEE FINISH'**



By: Joy Gofwen  
Bureau Chief  
Lagos

**O**n 26th of October 2022, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) announced its decision to redesign the 200, 500 and the 1000 naira notes. The CBN governor Godwin Emefiele said the redesign is in accordance with Section two (b) of the CBN Act 2007.

The apex bank said currency management has continued to face daunting challenges in recent times and have continued to grow with consequences for the integrity of the bank and the country.

The primary challenges the bank noted were, significant hoarding of banknotes by members of the public with statistics revealing that over 80 percent of currency in circulation are outside the vaults of commercial banks. Worsening shortage of clean and fit banknotes and increasing ease and risk of counterfeiting which is evident with security reports.

The CBN believes that the increased development in photographic technology and advancements in printing devices has increased the rate of counterfeiting which is now done with ease and predominantly with the higher denominations of N500 and N1000.

According to global standards, the Central Bank is to redesign, produce and circulate new local legal tender every five to eight years yet the naira has not been redesigned in the last 20 years, the CBN revealed.

The CBN further stated that, "On the basis of these trends, problems, and facts, and in line with Sections 19, subsections a and b of the CBN Act 2007, the management of the CBN sought and obtained the approval of President Muhammadu Buhari to redesign, produce, and circulate new series of banknotes at N200, N500, and N1,000 levels.

## Politics

"In line with this approval, we have finalized arrangements for the new currency to begin circulation from December 15, 2022. The new and existing currencies shall remain legal tender and circulate together until January 31, 2023 when the existing currencies shall cease to be legal tender."

Nigerians have expressed divergent views on the redesign of the naira notes, while some are insisting it is long overdue, others feel it won't make any significant difference. Taking to their different social media accounts to express their stance on the announcement made by the apex bank, some believe it is another avenue for government officials to launder more funds.

Nigerians anticipated the said redesign as they wondered what the new design would look like while hoping that the CBN would not use photos of any current government official. They went further to create amateur notes with photos of some comedians to mimic the pending redesign.

Meanwhile, the CBN had said it would release the newly redesigned note to the general public from December 15, 2022. "In line with this approval, we have finalized arrangements for the new currency to begin circulation from December 15, 2022. The new and existing currencies shall remain legal tender and circulate together until January 31, 2023 when the existing currencies shall cease to be legal tender."

However, President Muhammadu Buhari on Tuesday, November 23, 2022 unveiled the newly redesigned naira banknotes at the presidential villa ahead of the release in December.

Was there a redesign? No. There was rather a repainting. The features of the old notes remained untouched. What the CBN did is a typical case of 'see finish'. See finish is a Nigerian slang for over familiarity, when you become too familiar with someone or a thing, abuse is most times inevitable because you already know the reaction that would come.



One Feranmi on Twitter with the handle @feranmi captured my thoughts exactly, "I am just wondering what this government takes Nigerians for, because how can you just pour ink on naira notes and claim that you have redesigned it and even dragged the President into the charade of shame.

This is not a redesign; it's a colour change. All design, font type and position are the same. Please if I'm wrong, a professional designer should correct me. All I can see is colour change."

On second thought, could we be overreacting? In its press briefing, the CBN governor said the redesign is according to global best practice, could it be that when it comes to the CBN and issues surrounding banknotes the term 'design' is entirely a different thing?

Just as Feranmi noted in the tweet, every feature including the font size of the banknotes that were 'redesigned' did not change. I think the federal government and the CBN needs to educate us on what redesign means in the banking and minting sector in order to save us the stress next time.

But we have been bothered about the redesigning, oh; sorry I mean recolouring or repainting, anyone you prefer; we have not discussed how much it cost the CBN to change the colours of these bank notes.

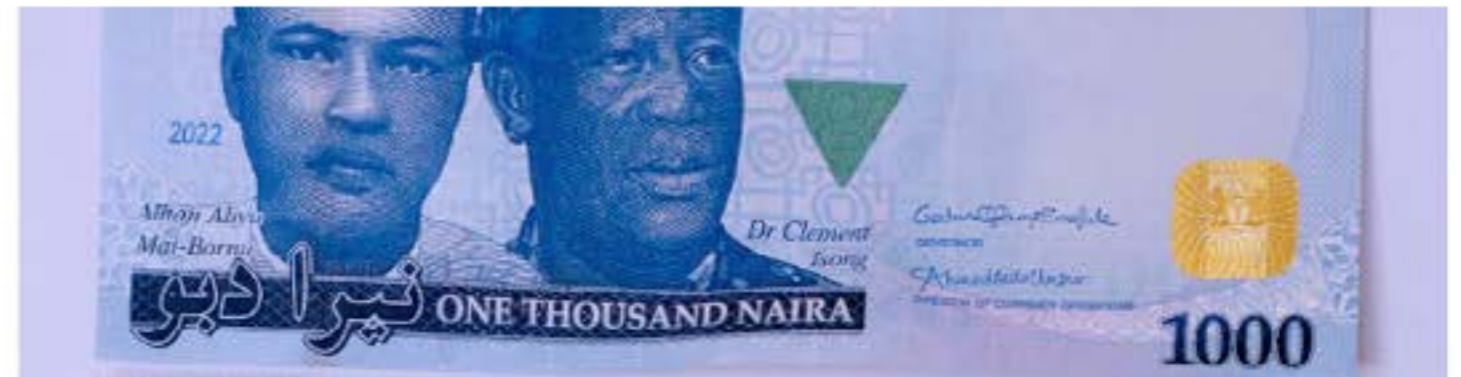
I think we need to divide ourselves by two, the first half will continue to help us understand redesigning according to the CBN, while the second half will inquire how much it cost the CBN to change the colours of the naira notes.

I think Nigerians deserve to know if the ink for the recolouring was imported or not and how much it cost the apex bank to make this change. But again, the ministry of finance had earlier distanced itself from the said redesign. The Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning Zainab Ahmed said the CBN did not carry her ministry along in its plan to and roll out new N200, N500 and N1000.

“We were not consulted at the ministry of finance by the CBN on the planned naira redesigning and cannot comment on it as regards merits or otherwise,” the minister told Senators at the senate chamber. Who then do we ask for the budget of the ‘redesigning’?”







₦2000

Central Bank

2000

Of Nigeria

Two  
Hundred Naira



2000

₦2000



## THIS IS THE STORY OF MARTA

# Lifestyle



By: lyobosa Amadin  
Bureau-Chief,  
Spain

**A** young vibrant girl, born into a noble family in the city of Benin city, Edo State of Nigeria. Her mother was a trader and her father was a truck driver who had to work far from home.

At the age of 9, Marta's maternal uncle was brought into their home to live with Marta and her family. Marta lived a happy life or so she thought until she turned 10 years old, when her nightmare, insecurity and fears came into play in her life.

On a fateful day, Marta woke up in the middle of the night to use the restroom, she noticed her inner thigh was sticky, she thought she had peed while asleep. When she was done, in the process of cleaning herself up she noticed a massive discharge coming out of her.

At first, she was scared but she calmed herself down saying "i think this is puberty knocking at my door" unfortunately, this scenario continued until she was 12 years old.

Scared of what was going on and not having a mother daughter talk she approached her close friend at school regarding her situation. She asked her friend if she had the same occurrences in her life. Her friend whose mother was a medical doctor made her understand that at that age it was not normal to have such a large number of discharges Marta had said she experienced.

It doomed Marta that something strange was happening to her at night. After which she constantly had terrible nightmares and found it difficult to sleep, this then affected the once A student. Her grades started dropping drastically, worried that her life was shattering before her eyes. She decided to get long naps during the day and stay awake at night.

Marta desperately wanted to know what was going on with her body and because she only noticed the presence of the discharge when she was up in the mornings or when she went to use the toilet at the dead of night.

At 03:00 am on the eve of her 11th birthday Marta was deeply troubled, she wondered why her situation was the way it was. Afraid that her life has changed forever, battling with insomnia, she got a break when sleep showed its strength. When she was about to close her eyes, her uncle, hoping that Marta was fast asleep, snuck into her room, pulled his pants and forced himself on the little girl.

Marta tried to scream but her uncle gagged her and deprived her of calling for help. When he was done having his way with her, he threatened her that if she ever told anyone what has transpired that she would no longer have a home, care and love of her parents. He also told her how she would be slut shamed and would be driven out of school which will make her life completely useless. The once happy and vibrant girl became withdrawn and less active, she lost trust for people, at a time she felt suicidal. Till date Marta lives in fear and is scared of men.

Parents must watch their children and family members closely because amongst families there are pedophiles who live with their young victims at home. Parents must also learn to have a close relationship with their children so they would be free to discuss their day to day activities and worries.

## MAN JUMPED FROM BEDROOM WINDOW IN EXETER TO ESCAPE POLICE

By: Linda R. Jones  
Senior Writer  
London,UK

**S**haun Roberts tried to speed away from police in a car but crashed into railings. Roberts has been jailed for drug offences.

A drug supplier jumped out of the window and tried to run away when police raided a house in Exeter. Shaun Roberts made several trips delivering heroin and cocaine from London to the South West.

But when police executed a warrant at an address in the city he leapt from a bedroom window in a futile bid to escape. He tossed wraps of heroin in the garden as he ran but was arrested at the scene and his involvement was linked through DNA, car movements and phone evidence.

Roberts was part of a county lines gang operating from a base in Arena Park in 2018 but has only just been sentenced at court for conspiracy to supply class A heroin and cocaine. Two co-defendants are still to be dealt with.

Prosecutor Mr Peter Coombe said Roberts made seven return trips to Devon from London in May and June of 2018 using a hire car. He also visited Newquay in Cornwall. Police executed the warrant after seeing suspicious drug dealing activity involving a number of people and known local users.

After Roberts' arrest police linked him to 11 wraps of heroin and 52 wraps of cocaine found in the bedroom. There was also more than £1,000 in cash.

When police analysed his phone they found bulk messages advertising drugs for sale had been sent. The prosecutor said Roberts had control of the phone and a prominent role in the operation.

Crime

Roberts, aged 25, also admitted a charge of dangerous driving relating to an incident in Birmingham when he 'panicked' and tried to outrun police but ended up crashing against railings.

Mr Tristan Chaize, defending, said Roberts, of Greyhound Road, London, was just a courier acting under the instructions of others. Judge Timothy Rose said the offences were too serious for a suspended sentence. He disqualified him from driving for 18 months.



## **PAUL POGBA'S MOTHER SPEAKS: "THIS AFFAIR TORMENTED HIM. HE DIDN'T TELL US RIGHT AWAY THAT HE HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED"**

By: Andrew Collins  
Senior Writer  
London, UK

**Y**eo Moriba, mother of French super star Paul Pogba, sat down with TF1 to discuss the pending alleged extortion case her sons have found themselves wrapped up in. Mathias Pogba was jailed in connection with an alleged plot against his brother Paul as covered by GFFN.

In the interview, transcribed by L'Équipe, Yeo Moriba talked about Paul's recovery stating, "Paul is starting to recover little by little psychologically."

She detailed the aftermath of Paul's alleged kidnapping and how affected he was. She stated that, "This affair tormented him. He didn't tell us right away that he had been kidnapped. Nobody knew, his brothers weren't aware either."

It was clear from her responses that she felt for both of her sons as any mother would. Even with the allegations against her son Mathias, she defended him saying, "Mathias was manipulated, threatened... I'm worried about him."

The World Cup winner's mother claimed that Mathias' alleged actions were done under duress. She explained in detail, "He acted under threat, he is not like that. I know him. I can swear. Before leaving for Guinea, I spoke with him once.

I told him he shouldn't do the videos, but I felt he was taken aback. Mathias is nice. For me, my two sons are victims and that torments me . . . I'm worried about him. He's my son. He doesn't know banditry."



## **WILL SMITH KNOWS YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM AFTER SLAP: 'I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND'**

# Entertainment



By: Seyi Awoloye  
Los Angeles, CA  
USA

**W**ill Smith has responded to criticism over his new film being released so soon after he slapped Chris Rock at the Academy Awards in March. Will Smith has acknowledged that his fans may not be “ready” to watch him on screen in the upcoming film “Emancipation.” The drama is the 54-year-old’s first project following his controversial slapping of Chris Rock at the Oscars earlier this year.

It marks his first project to be released since the controversy at this year’s Oscars ceremony, when he stormed on stage to confront Chris Rock over a joke regarding wife Jada Pinkett Smith. He subsequently announced his resignation from the Academy, while bosses confirmed he would serve a 10-year ban from all Oscars-related events.

Asked about some people’s feelings that they would struggle to watch the new film so soon after the incident, he told Jake Hamilton on his Jake’s Takes YouTube Channel: ‘I feel like that’s the type of thing that you would say before you sit in the movie theatre.

‘I think the work that [director Antoine Fuqua] has done, and all of the artists involved with this film, I would hope that the importance of the story and the importance of Peter rise above those feelings and emotions.’

He described the period since the Oscars as ‘difficult’, but urged filmgoers not to ‘penalise’ the rest of the cast and crew who have worked hard on the project.

He added: ‘It certainly has been a difficult last few months. And I would just hope that these spectacular artists who have come together on this project, I would hope that they would not be penalised for a few horrific moments of indiscretion on my part.’

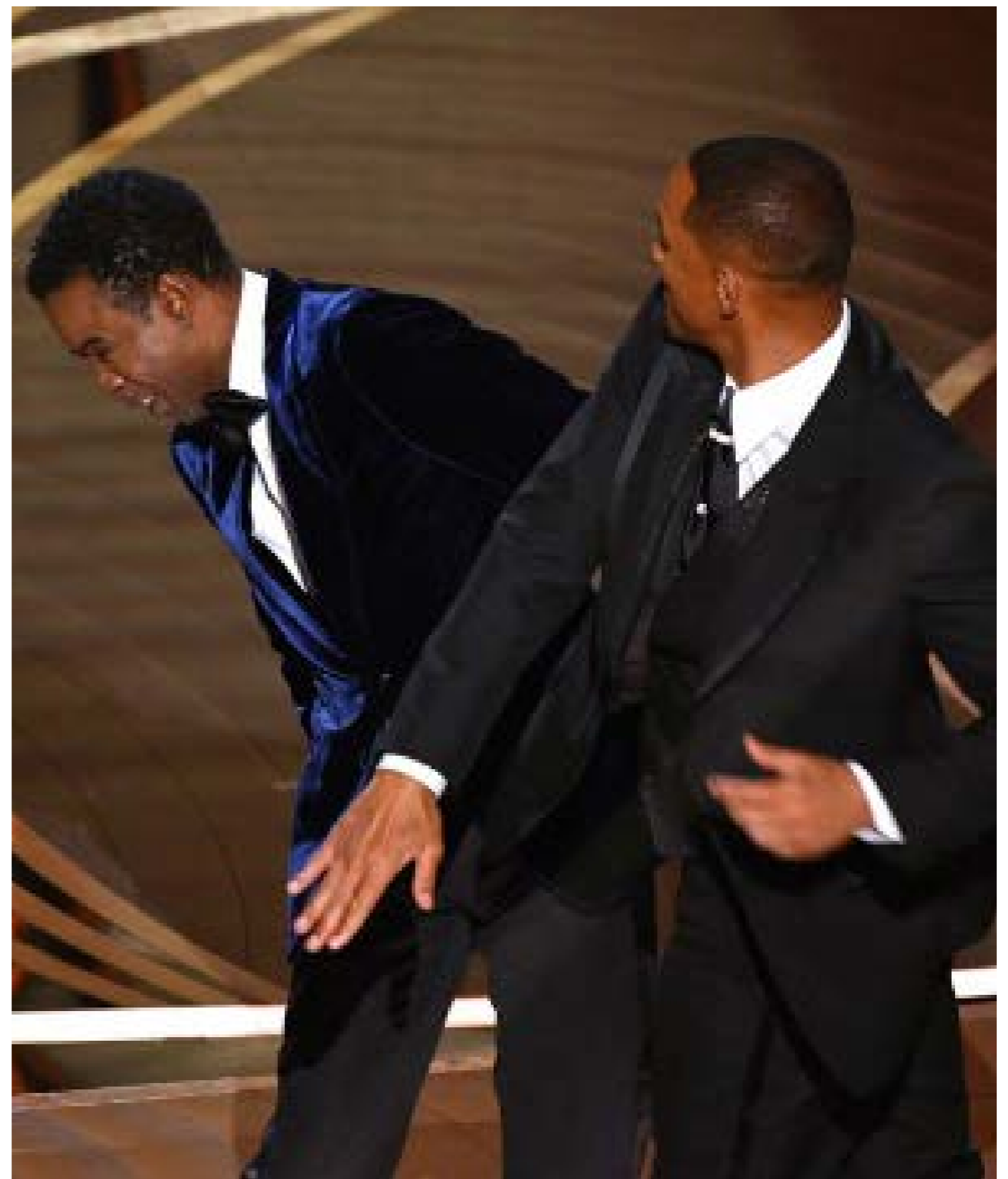
Meanwhile, Will also reflected on his experience working on the movie, and the lessons he learned from his character.

‘It was interesting that the playing of Peter led into this last few months of my life. There was a new idea that came through, the ability to have an open heart in hell, is the only way to be here,’ he said.

That is the giant, spiritual lesson that I took away from Peter. It’s the lesson of all of our holy books. Can we have an open heart in hell? For me, when I look at Peter and when I see humans who have learned how to do that, that is the north star for me.

That’s the sound of the cannons that I’m following. I will purify my heart and purify my mind and purify my actions, to the point that I can sit comfortably with my heart wide open in hell.’ is set to premiere in cinemas on December 2, before landing on the streaming service on December 9.

In an emotional teaser, Will – who stars as Peter – could be seen being wheeled away in a cage as he is told: ‘You walk the earth because I let you. I’m your God now.’ ‘Give thanks to God,’ he tells his family. ‘The Lord is with us. What can a mere man do to me?’





## 'LEAVE MEGHAN ALONE!' STORMZY RAPS ABOUT DUCHESS IN MOVING SONG

# Entertainment

By:Linda R. Jones  
Senior Writer  
London,UK



Stormzy appears to rap about Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex on his new album as he pleads for people to leave her alone. The 29-year-old rapper released his third album *This Is What I Mean* recently, and one track in particular has caught the attention of listeners.

Stormzy has offered his support to the Duchess of Sussex with his song, *Please*, sending a strong message as he called for her to be “left alone”. The rapper, who hails from Croydon, also appeared to reference Meghan Markle’s estrangement from her father Thomas Markle. Michael Ebenezer Kwadjo Omari Owuo Jr., known professionally as Stormzy, released his highly-anticipated new album, *This Is What I Mean*, on Friday.

The 29-year-old has already caused a stir as he urged people to “lower their tone” when he addressed Meghan.

Stormzy sings: “Please could you lower your tone, please could you get off my phone and please leave Meghan alone.” I said please leave Meghan alone, it cuts deep that deep when your house was never your home.

“You want to speak but it’s best that you don’t, under pressure we fold, best believe we’re protecting your throne.”

In the emotional track, the rapper appeared to reference Meghan’s fallout with her dad Thomas, comparing it to his own relationship with his dad. The rapper said he was willing to forgive him for abandoning his family. He sings: “Please Lord give me the strength to forgive my dad because he is flawed and so am I, so who I am to not ... to not forgive a man who tries.

“I see his soul, I know it cries ...”

Back in 2018, in the lead up to Meghan’s wedding to Prince Harry, her father found himself at the centre of a scandal involving staged paparazzi photos. Following a health condition, he ultimately ended up having to skip the wedding. Since then, Thomas has spoken out on numerous occasions about his estranged relationship with his youngest daughter and has asked why they have yet to reconcile.



## THE LONDONER CHOSE TO SPEND HIS YOUTUBE FORTUNE PAYING OFF HIS PARENTS £40,000 OF DEBT FROM TWO BUST OFF LICENCES

**A**rjun Yogan has taken full advantage of the surge in popularity of anime. A millennial YouTuber who used to struggle to make ends meet now earns £30,000-a-week from his videos.

Straight after graduating university in 2017, Arjun Yogan worked for Direct Line in his boyhood bedroom at his parent's house in Ilford, London.

He had to give up half of his modest salary to help pay off his parents' £40,000 worth of debt after two of their corner shops went bankrupt.

The 27-year-old data analyst had "no money" and saw no way out of poverty for both him and his parents - that was until he began uploading videos more frequently to his anime YouTube account.

Arjun Yogan was earning a modest salary at Direct Line before he hit the big time "I didn't have any big ambition to create a YouTube channel that would make me rich at that point," he said.

"It was just about getting £600-a-month off it, so I could afford to rent a box room in Bromley.

"By that point, my mother was ill and my dad was her carer, so neither of them could work and I needed to support them. They were on benefits and life was hard. "I couldn't see the point in working constantly but still having no money, so I knew I had to find alternative revenue streams.

"I've loved anime since I was a kid after I got hooked on Dragon Ball Z when I was seven and I used to draw my favourite characters.

Yogan said he started the channel at university where it remained fairly dormant.

"Initially, I used to give these to friends and family but I set up a YouTube channel at university and had kept it ticking over in the background.

## Lifestyle

By:Linda R. Jones  
Senior Writer  
London,UK

"It wasn't really making me any money but I knew there was a huge appetite for anime and I thought I'd try and cash in on that."

Once he finished uni, he spent much of his free time focussing on the channel, slogging away until 2am every day creating content and seeing his following grow to 130,000 subscribers.

By that point, he was earning the same amount as at his job Direct Line so he quit.

He can now afford lavish holidays and drives a new BMW

"It was exhausting and I was burning the candle at both ends with no guarantee it would pay off," he said.

"But I have always had a passion for anime and so in some ways it didn't feel like work. It was more of a release from the rat race.

Since leaving the job in December 2018, Arjun has cleared his parents' debts entirely and gone on to build an even larger following with his channel attracting more than 30 million views in two years.

He has also swapped the boxroom for a two-bed penthouse apartment in south London and even drives a £50,000 BMW, thanks to his 800,000 subscribers.

"I am earning currently in excess of £120,000-a-month now from YouTube, sponsors and Patreon earnings combined," he said.

"Even though I could be living a lavish lifestyle and jet setting all over the world, a lot of that doesn't interest me.

"I just see it as superficial and fickle.

"Instead I have been saving and investing the large majority of it.

"I might spend it one day but I can't see the point of wasting it on things that mean nothing."



## NIGERIAN LADY WINS COOKING CONTEST IN ITALY.



By: Okunlola Kayode F.  
Senior Writer  
Lagos, Nigeria



## Lifestyle

**T**racy Eboigbodin, a Nigerian woman from Benin City, took Italy by storm as she emerged winner at the recent 11th series of MasterChef, Italy, an international cooking show.

Eboigbodin took Italy by storm as she emerged as the winner in the recent following the negative reputation often attributed to Nigerians in Italy as traffickers in drugs and human beings.

The Italian embassy in Nigeria, in collaboration with the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission and Fraser Suites, celebrated Eboigbodin at the seventh edition of the annual week of Italian cuisine in the World, which was held in Abuja, Nigeria recently.

Eboigbodin, who embraced her passion for cooking worked as a waitress in Italy; a job she did for about 15 years before proceeding to culinary school. She ventured into the international cooking competition replicated in over 60 countries after moving to Italy 17 years ago.

Eboigbodin explained that she refused to be limited by the stereotype of being a Nigerian and a woman from Edo State, as they are often linked to prostitution and trafficking.

She bemoaned that people focused more on the negatives than the positive impacts made by Nigerians.



## SAMMIE OKPOSO DIED IN HIS SLEEP, DIDN'T SLUMP – MANAGEMENT

# Entertainment



By: James Osondu  
Bureau Chief  
Sofia, Bulgaria



Hillary Vincent, the project manager of popular gospel singer, Sammie Okposo, has denied the viral reports that the singer slumped in his Lekki, Lagos, residence on Friday morning, November 25, 2022. Many media outlets reported that after he allegedly slumped, he was rushed to the hospital, and was pronounced dead on arrival.

However, in an exclusive interview with Sunday Scoop, Vincent said, "It is not true that Sammie slumped and died. That report is false. At the right time, the family will set the records straight. But, I can tell you authoritatively that he did not slump. Rather, he just did not wake up from his sleep.

"As regards the funeral arrangements, the details will be made known by the family. But right now, they are still in grief and mourning the departed singer. The singer was best known for songs such as Welu Welu, which was on his first album, Unconditional Love.

Na only You was another popular song which was contained in the album No More Drama. The album featured other gospel singers such as Kefee, Essence, Ige Samsong and Soji Isreal. Another of his songs, Sing Hallelujah, was released in 2019, but it has continued to make waves, especially in gospel circles. In 2020, he released Chukwu Ebube, a contemporary afrocentric worship that featured Micheal Stuckey.

Shortly before his death, he had held the Sammie Okposo Praise Party in Lagos on November 4, 2022. A day before his death, he had posted a throwback video of the concert on his Instagram page. In the video, he could be seen leading the congregation in an intense praise and worship session.

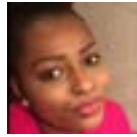
Meanwhile, tributes have not stopped pouring in for the singer. A veteran actor, Richard Mofe-Damijo, posted a video of both of them together. He added the caption, "This was exactly a month ago in the US. We spent two weeks together and fellowshiped as men. Ate, drank and, as I'm known to do, teased you. Toks or Jedi, would drive you to me and we would spend the entire day together."





## STUNNING PHOTO OF CELESTINE BABAYARO SURFACES

## Sports



By:lyobosa Amadin  
Bureau Chief  
Spain

**C**elestine Babayaro, who was declared bankrupt in 2011, has resurfaced and looks like his doing well The appreciable former Nigerian international has bounced back from tough times, as he was pictured with family members Having featured 27 times for the national team, Babayaro announced retirement as a free agent in 2010 Follow Sports Brief on Twitter for more trending and breaking news! Former Nigerian international Celestine Babayaro has been spotted in a lovely picture in the company of his family members. The former Chelsea left-back remains one of Nigeria's finest defenders, having featured in 27 matches for the national team between 1995 and 2004.

Babayaro's whereabouts have been unknown for several years amid concerns that he was chased by creditors after being declared bankrupt. According to a report by Chronicle Live, it was gathered that 'Cele' had lived at an address on Laleham Road in Shepperton, Middlesex.

In 2011, his neighbours expressed fears that the former player was struggling and had fallen on hard times because the upkeep of his £475,000 property had slipped. A neighbour who lives on the same street as Babayaro said: "You can tell money's difficult because the home used to be maintained really nicely, but now it's a bit of a mess.

"You can see where the conservatory is starting to fall down, and the garden is completely overgrown. They came and asked to borrow my lawnmower, but I had to say no because the grass was too long and would have broken it." Now 44 years old, Babayaro was seen in a lovely picture shared by his brother Emmanuel who is equally an ex-international. To the delight of football fans, the former Newcastle United star looks radiant, suggesting he has survived the tough times.





## MADONNA, 64, SHARES RARE FAMILY PHOTO WITH ALL SIX OF HER CHILDREN - ON THANKSGIVING

### Lifestyle



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

**M**adonna was all about family on Thanksgiving. The 64-year-old Rebel Hearts singer was seen with all six of her children to celebrate the annual holiday at her home in New York City. The children are Lourdes, 26, Rocco, 22, David, 17, Mercy James, 16, and twins Estere and Stelle, 10. 'What I'm thankful for.....,' wrote the hitmaker whose Erotica single was recently released for its 30th anniversary.

Madonna wore a black dress that was so low cut it flashed her black lace bra. She added black stockings and pointy black boots with black gloves. The ex-wife of Sean Penn wore her reddish hair in small waves down her chest as she had on makeup with bleached eyebrows.

The Dick Tracy actress also had on several necklaces and rings. Meanwhile daughter Lourdes went for a more simple look, wearing a plain black corset with black loose trousers. Mercy had on a black dress with military boots and a diamond necklace. David wore a light blue high neck top with a handkerchief around his head, glasses and a necklace - while Rocco looked smart wearing a grey and black checked suit with a tie and loafers.

Madonna adopted David back in 2006 when he was just 13 months old, along with her ex-husband Guy Ritchie. After seeing him unwell with pneumonia at an orphanage in Malawi that she had helped fund, the couple began his adoption. Speaking about her son's love for fashion on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon recently she said: "He can put on any outfit and look swag as you know what. It's really irritating. He wears my clothes and looks better in them. He can even wear a dress and look butch."

Further in the interview, the singer said that, like his mother, David is also working on his own music. She said: "He's going to end up being one of your guests." Madonna then went on to say he's got 'everything' to be a star.

Fallon went on to agree, replying: "He's got it. He's got magic. He's funny, he's charming, he's athletic, he's a good-looking dude." Aside from David, Madonna also adopted daughter Mercy James from Malawi back in 2009, followed by twins Stella and Estere in 2017, when they were both four-years-old.







## Ayra Starr Slams 'Miniskirt' Critics

Singer, Ayra Starr, has said that she doesn't care about the opinions of critics, who have been bashing her over a skimpy outfit, she wore during a recent performance.

Ayra Starr, whose real name is Oyinkansola Aderibigbe, had earlier shared photos of herself in the same outfit on Friday and captioned them, "The audacity."

Going live on her Instagram page later, Ayra Starr said in Pidgin English, "I no send you."

Singing her rebuke, she said, "I'm only going to say this once, I no send your...I go wear my miniskirt anywhere I want, anytime I want, anyway I want. So mind your business. 'Cos you see me, your opinion, I go use am write song. E no matter to me."

Credit: Twitter| gistpalava



## TOBI AMUSAN NAMED IN 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL AFRICAN WOMEN IN 2022



By: Okunlola Kayode F.  
Senior Writer  
Lagos, Nigeria

**W**orld Champion, Tobi Amusan is consistently rubbing shoulders with big names in the continent, her latest recognition being listed in Avance Media 100 Most Influential Women in Africa.

The sprint hurdler is named alongside singer-songwriter and performing artist Tiwa Savage, and the Director General of the World Trade Organisation, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala.

Amusan was named in the sports category for her incredible historic feats this year, which she became the first Nigerian and African woman to run a World Record (WR) and win a World title in the 100mH, at the World Championships in Oregon.

She also successfully defended her Commonwealth Games 100mH title, running a Games Record (GR) of 12.30s, and became the first Nigerian woman to win two Diamond League titles, first in 2021 and then this year.

The ranking of the 100 Most Influential African Women, is to highlight and celebrate the brilliant accomplishments of 100 women from Africa, who are individuals of distinguished personalities in their field of work.

## Sports







## Okey Bakassi Reveals Some Interesting Facts About Burna Boy.

# Entertainment



By:Dr.Funmi  
Awoleye-Beckley  
Abeokuta,Nigeria

**O**kechukwu Anthony Onyegbule popularly known as Okey Bakassi, a Nigerian stand-up comedian and actor has made certain interesting revelation about music star, Burna Boy.

Burna Boy whose real name is Damini Ebunoluwa Ogulu, is a three-time Grammy nominee and has won other notable awards.

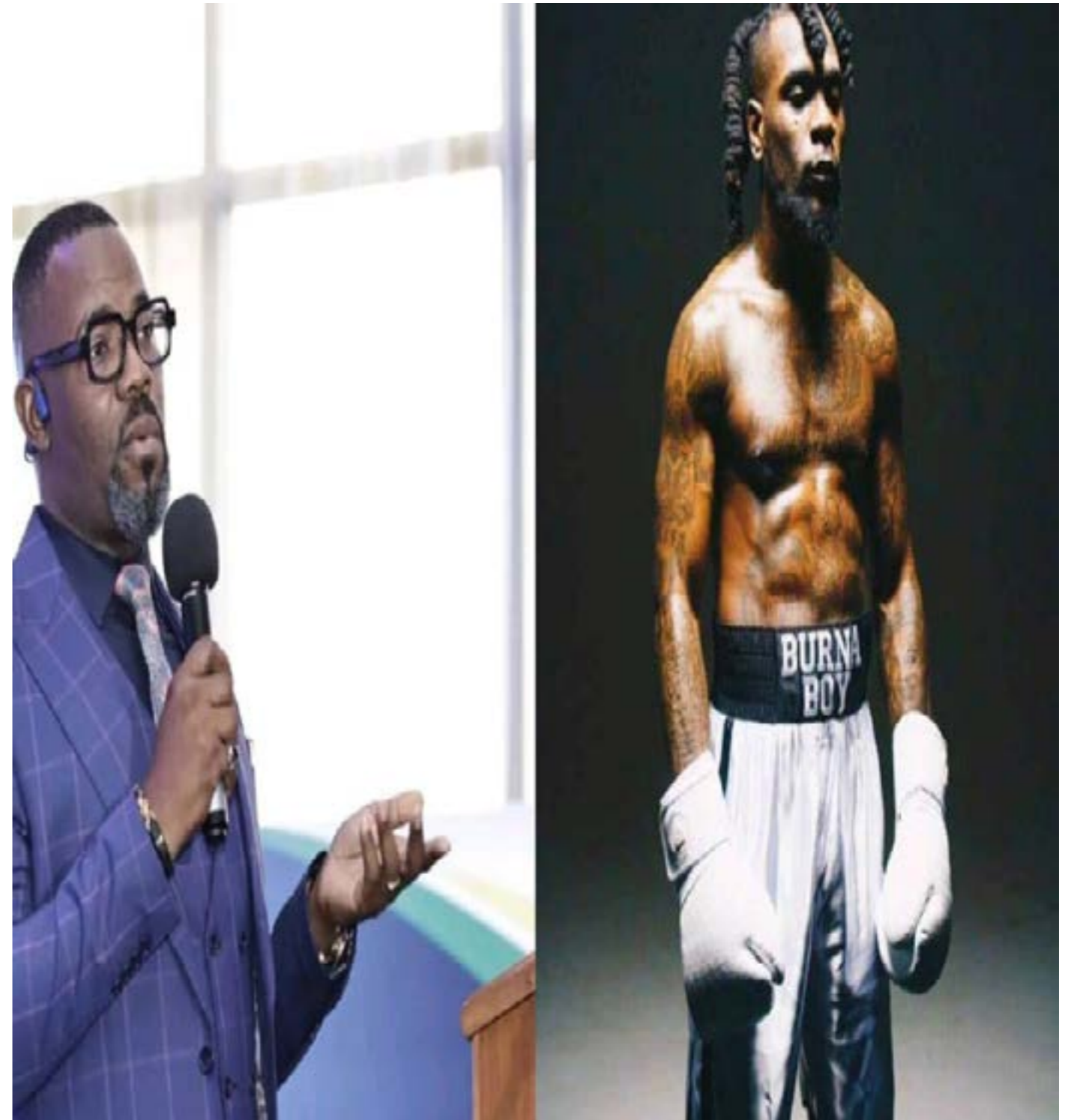
According to Okey Bakassi, he managed to work with Burna Boy about a decade ago and was initially concerned about his personality; however, he has grown to make Nigeria proud through his musical choices.

The comedian made this known via his Instagram page on Thursday, where he shared Burna Boy's image and captioned it: "We worked together, almost a decade ago on the Globacom tour. His talent was obvious, looked shy off stage but had so much presence on stage. I was initially worried about his personality because, in my 30yrs on stage I've seen so many promising talents decline due to personality issues."

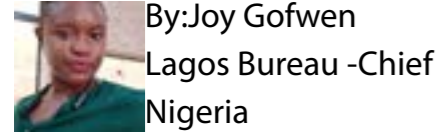
"Today, I just want to celebrate @burnaboygram for his accomplishments, for putting himself and Nigeria on the world entertainment map.

Burna Boy becomes the first African artist to have 4 songs reach number #1 on Apple Music (All genre) in at-least 10 countries in a single year."

Recall that Burns Big had a few days ago, bagged another nomination for the prestigious Grammy Awards in two categories – Best Global Music and Best Global Music Performance.



## NOLLYWOOD LOVE BIRDS



# Entertainment

**N**ollywood star actors, Frederick Nnaemeka Leonard and his colleague, Peggy Ovire Enoho commonly known as Peggy have been a delight to fans as they first revealed they have been dating and set to wed as they release their pre-wedding pictures.

The love birds took to their individual social media handles to release their pre-wedding photo with the wedding hashtag – #MeetTheLeonards.

The loved-up couple used the same caption as they shared the photo on their respective Instagram pages they wrote, “Better than I was, more than I am... and all of this happened by taking your hands and letting God lead.”

The couple, who recently got engaged, had their traditional wedding in Warri, Delta State on the 19th of November in a star stud ceremony. During the ceremony, Peggy gave a powerful speech reaffirming her love and submission to her husband she said “I get on his nerve and he thinks I’m taking him for granted, baby I am just a woman, we can be silly sometimes but I love you, I will respect you.

“You would always be the crown on my head; you would be the man I ask for decisions before I make it. To everybody you have fought my case for; I will fight your case for you. Thank you for waking up in the morning and say let’s pray, Fredrick as much as you look good, you make me want to love God more, Freddie doesn’t stop praying..”

The beautiful actress went on to state that she met Frederick when he had nothing but she knew he was going to become somebody and that was why she waited this long for him.

She went on to send a message across to all the ladies out there, urging that they should learn to be patient with their broke boyfriends because they would eventually make it.

Before now, the duo has had an on-and-off thing going, leaving fans

guessing about the actual state of things. Their relationship dates back to 2015 when Frederick confirmed they were dating.

However, in 2017, Ms Ovire denied romantic affiliation with the actor. In an interview, the former beauty queen said that Mr Leonard is her friend who encourages her.

“In the entertainment industry, it is tough to find someone that would look out for and advise you. He does all that for other people in the industry and me, like my brother.

Contrary to what was reported, I have never been married in my life, and I have never even introduced any man to my dad. I am still single.”

However, in October 2022, the couple confirmed they were in a relationship after Leonard took to his Instagram page to celebrate Peggy on her birthday.

The traditional marriage between the couple who had dated for seven years was graced by Nigerian celebrities, family and loved ones who all came out to show some love Frederick Leonard and his beautiful actress wife.

Ovire hails from Ughelli in Delta State, Nigeria. She was born into a family of six children of which she was the last born child of her parents. Ovire was born in Lagos state where she has now been living for the most part of her life. Ovire attended Itire Nursery and Primary School in Surulere and AUD Secondary School which is also situated in Surulere, Lagos State. Ovire for her post secondary school education enrolled in Delta State University, Abraka but eventually would complete it at Ambrose Alli University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Banking and Finance.

Ovire before her debut into the Nigerian movie industry Nollywood, began her career as a model as she described in an interview with The Punch print media house.[3] She further explained her first ever movie was one produced by Uche Nancy.[3][8] Ovire’s movie career came into limelight with her role in the TV series titled Husbands of Lagos. Ovire claimed the TV series brought her notability and she had become recognizable outside of her home country Nigeria.[3][6] she was part of the cast crew in Rising Sun alongside Ifeanyi Kalu.





## EX-MR UNIVERSE, SLAMI IFEANYI SHOT DEAD IN ANAMBRA



By: Dr. Funmi  
Awoleye-Beckley  
Abeokuta, Nigeria

## Crime



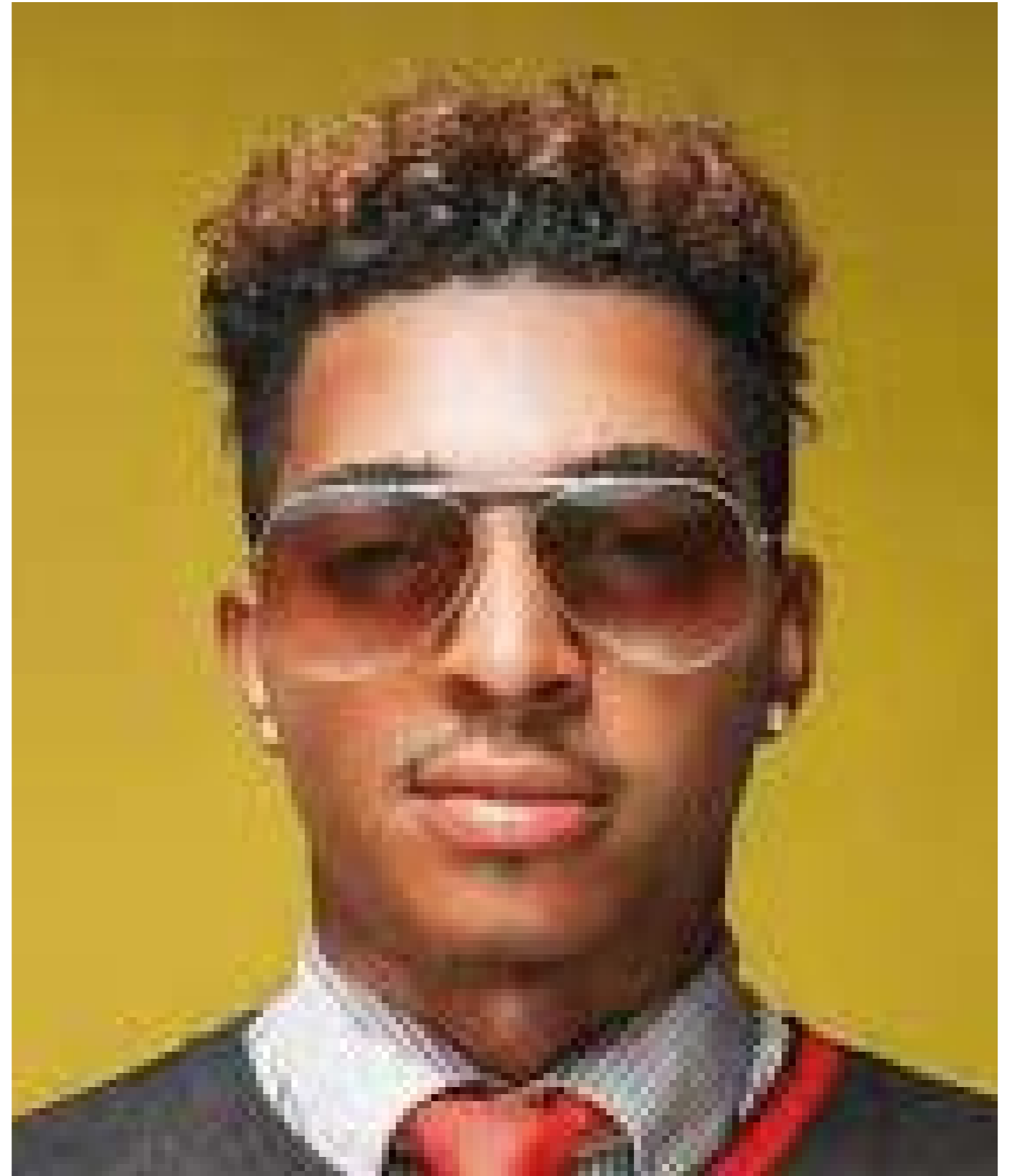
**A** former Mr Universe, singer and actor, Slami Ifeanyi has been shot dead by yet-to-be-identified gunmen in Umubere in Akwa, capital of Anambra State on Sunday morning.

It was learnt that the 31-year-old songwriter was driving in his newly acquired vehicle when he was attacked and killed.

According to reports, the 31-year-old model was driving alone in his newly acquired Lexus 330 when he was attacked and killed at Umubere, Akwa area of the capital. The lifeless body of the deceased could be seen hanging from the car in a pool of his blood in a video on the internet on Tuesday.

Reacting to the brutal killing of Ifeanyi, one Itz Macarthy, a digital director, said it was shocking and painful. He wrote: "Dear Slami Ifeanyi am just so shocked and pained getting the news of your demise. I remember the first time we met at a club in Awka. "You simply welcomed me at your table and shared drinks. Meeting you further at shows, you were so simple, despite your talents and physical endowment.

"Well, we cannot question God when certain things happen. As it pleased him to call you so abruptly, may it please him too to welcome you into his bosom. Jee nke oma ezigbo!"



## KEVIN JOHNSON MAKES NO FINAL WORDS AND REFUSES LAST MEAL

## Crime



By: Seyi Awoleye  
Los Angeles, CA  
USA

A convicted murderer refused to give a final statement and turned down the offer of a last meal in the hours before his execution on Tuesday as protests continued against his sentence. Death row murderer Kevin Johnson gave “no statement” and declined a final meal before his execution for killing a police officer.

The 37-year-old was given the lethal injection on Tuesday evening at the state prison in Bonne Terre, Missouri after he was denied a last minute appeal by the US Supreme Court.

His 19-year-old daughter was also refused permission to watch the execution as in Missouri witnesses need to be aged 21.

Johnson was handed the death penalty for the 2005 murder of officer William McEntee from Kirkwood Police Department, who he targeted in a revenge killing after alleging he did not do enough to save his 12-year-old brother’s life.

Johnson’s legal team did not challenge his guilt, but claim racism played a role in the decision to seek the death penalty and in the jury’s decision to sentence him. In addition to refusing to provide a statement, a non-mandatory element of the procedure before execution, Johnson also refused the offer of a final meal.

In a first for modern executions in Missouri, Johnson was not alone in the execution room, and was joined spiritual advisor Reverend Darryl Gray at his side. The two men are reported to have spoken until the drug was administered. The Reverend read from the Bible as Johnson shut his eyes, with his body movement ceasing shortly afterwards. After he was executed, he then continued reading from the

Bible and praying while patting Johnson’s shoulder. Recalling the scene in the execution room, he said: “We read scripture and had a word of prayer.

“He apologised again. He apologized to the victim’s family. He apologised to his family. He said he was looking forward to seeing his baby brother. And he said he was ready.”

Johnson’s 19-year-old daughter Khorry Ramey had pleaded with authorities to witness the execution – but state law prohibits anyone under 21 from observing the process.

His sentencing had prompted protests in the days and hours leading up to his execution, with many supporting the lawyer’s assertions of racism and opposing the use of the death penalty.

A group of around 30 people could be seen protesting outside the Governor’s Mansion in Jefferson City, Missouri on Tuesday.

Some of those in attendance held up a large sign that read “Stop State Murder” while Capitol police guarded the gateway to the mansion.

A similar sized group was also seen in St Louis, where a demonstration is staged outside the Civil Courts Building.







## **SHANQUELLA ROBINSON: MURDERED BY FRIENDS ON A GIRLS TRIP.**

By: Akosua Darko  
Senior Writer  
London, UK

**T**LC sang the song what about your friends, will they stand their ground will they let you down again, what about your friends are they gonna be low down, will they ever be around or will they turn their backs on you.

Some of us have had some awful friends so aren't really surprised that so called friends could do this. The story hit so hard because I see a sweet, naive, innocent, beautiful girl who had two businesses going well, a boyfriend who loves her. She actually paid for most of the trip to celebrate two of her so called friends birthday. In a previous video it shows her walking around trying to make conversation, and the rest of them are unbothered. She reminds me of little me, in a group with fake friends, who liked to see me cry so they could laugh. The things those girls did to me were totally uncalled for. That girl who was beating her senseless Dejanae Jackson, said she is tired of her shit, madame pay for your own holiday then!

The secondary school girls, would run away from me, tell me not to speak to them, threaten me, exclude me, join with other people to make fun of me, called me sensitive and weird. Then say I wasn't tough enough. Poor girl didn't even want to fight back like little me, they taunted her to fight back and she said no.

The way they were acting it seems this isn't the first time they are doing this to her, they are too comfortable. Unfortunately until I gained confidence, I wanted to be so accepted by these girls I would continue to hang around with them.

They had the audacity to ask me to help them with their school work, for favours etc. These type of people are leaches they have no remorse, even till this day only 2 of those girls have shown remorse.

Most of them are still evil. Talking about want to talk to me, hell no! I had some friends in university just the same. One told me she was jealous of me after I'd been kind to her. The other was talking about beating me up, another was talking in a group chat about wanting to harm me with another so called Christian wannabe psychologist and the men in the chat found it funny. People are sick. Unfortunately for them I stopped being trusting in secondary school and God is with me.

We need to teach young women people who aren't nice to you don't deserve your company or kindness period. This is happening to much, either they kill you or they make you feel so bad you kill yourself or don't believe in yourself to hit your potential.

I wouldn't call her fake friends hyenas or wilder beasts because female hyenas stand for each other in their click, they defend each other, so do wilder beasts. Lionesses defend each other in the pride ! Its only female rats and chickens who behave like this, cowards and vermin.

I finally found my first real friends in 6 form, I'm still friends with most of them till this day, they uplift me, accept me and treat me well. I also found some good friends at uni and as time went on. My friends don't insult me, my friends don't treat me badly, they don't exclude me and they don't hurt me. Those who try that end up in the bin and blocked.

I don't believe in there's friends for everything and watch yourself around certain people. If you have to watch yourself, cut them off. They ain't money! They ain't God! They ain't a house! What are they but negative poisoning demonic magic dust coming to ruin your life.

Rest in peace to this beautiful girl and may her death be a lesson to us.

Since her murderers are so gangster they beat to death someone who can't fight back. Let see how tough they are in prison with tough people. The FBI is on it and they have a 92 percent conviction rate.

The so called friends sickenly also recorded the evidence. They couldn't call an ambulance, they actually left her and flew back to America and told her mum she had alcohol poisoning.



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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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