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London, UK

# A-CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine

Exclusive  
Interview

*with*

Charlotte Francis

-Empowering little princesses  
to become Queens

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



# CONTENTS

- 01 Cover Page
- 03 About Us
- 04 Meet the TEAM
- 05 Editor's Letter
- 06 Exclusive Interview with Charlotte Francis - *empowering little princesses to become Queens*
- 15 Remote work, hybrid work and office shared spaces
- 19 CBN: New Year, new spending policy
- 23 This is why Rita Marley moved to Ghana
- 25 Bob Marley's grandson Joseph Mersa Marley dies aged 31
- 26 Pele bids family farewell in shocking video
- 28 Paul Pogba's brother Mathias released from prison but banned from contacting ex-Man Utd star
- 30 Child murderer Jon Venables 'could walk free from prison IN WEEKS
- 32 Fat Joe declares Tems 'Free Mind' Song of the Year
- 33 How Davido co-wrote Chris Brown's 'Under the Influence'
- 34 Ex-defender launches his own Football in Thailand
- 36 Hotel room used by Lionel Messi in Qatar to be turned into a museum
- 38 Pele or Maradona? Debate will continue raging over who was greater
- 40 Pele: Brazil legend dies aged 82 after battle with cancer
- 43 Fancy Acholonu say sorry after she serve Alexx Ekubo 'breakfast'
- 45 Raheem: Court remands killer cop til January 30
- 47 Polygamos dad with 102 children tells 12 wives to go on pill as he struggles to cope
- 50 Cristiano Ronaldo 'signs mega deal with Al-Nassr' worth £350 after ugly Man Utd exit

# ABOUT US

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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

## 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 or blogged.

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

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# MEET THE TEAM



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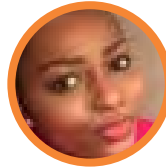
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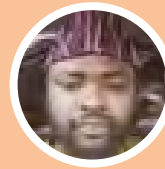
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# EDITOR'S LETTER

**H**appy New Year and Welcome to the January issue of A-CHOICES Magazine where we celebrate all that we love about being Africans. I hope everyone had a lovely holiday season, and while you are about to dig into 2023, I wanted to send you very hearty New Year's wishes from everyone here at A-CHOICES Magazine.

On the cover of this edition is Charlotte Francis, a maths teacher, founder and creator of Biankha and Friends. Charlotte was inspired to take the entrepreneurial route in creating her dolls when her daughter fell out of love with her natural hair after starting school. Ms. Francis wasn't able to find a suitable black doll to empower her daughter so decided to make her own. Charlotte's doll company aims to empower young girls to embrace who they are, know their true history and have high aspirations. It's sure an interesting read.

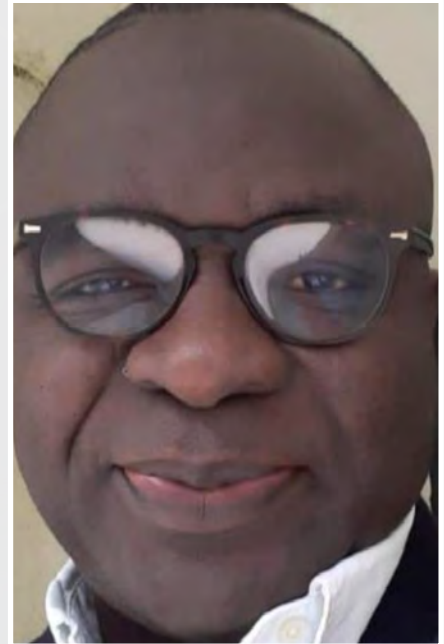
Don't forget you can advertise with us as we promise to deliver. You can catch up with us at [www.a-choicesmagazine.com](http://www.a-choicesmagazine.com) for exclusive interviews with celebrities, exciting articles and lots more. This is a magazine where we celebrate people, lifestyle and African Achievers.

**Gbenga TJ Okunlola,**

Publisher/Editor in Chief,

**A-CHOICES**

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



# Exclusive Interview with Charlotte Francis

## - Empowering little princesses to become Queens



By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola  
London, UK

**C**harlotte Francis is a maths teacher, founder and creator of Biankha and Friends. Charlotte was inspired to take the entrepreneurial route in creating her dolls when her daughter fell out of love with her natural hair after starting school. Ms. Francis wasn't able to find a suitable black doll to empower her daughter so decided to make her own. Charlotte's doll company aims to empower young girls to embrace who they are, know their true history and have high aspirations.

**A-CHOICES:** Charlotte, we'd love to hear your story and how you got to where you are today both as a maths teacher and founder of Biankha and Friends.

**CHARLOTTE:** Looking back, I really believe our journeys are destined because none of what I've achieved was on 'my life plan'. I qualified as a secondary maths teacher in 2009 after completing my degree in psychology and deciding that I definitely wanted to work with children as that was where my passion was. I kind of fell into teaching and within a few years had become Head of my department, which I currently still am. I am very



passionate about empowering young girls and I guess being the person I wish I had growing up, hence why five years ago I also started a mentoring group called 'The Young Queens Project' at my school where I offer a safe space for the young women in my care, where we discuss topics such as healthy relationships, financial literacy, breaking generational cycles, planning for the future, black history and much more. It was very obvious for

me that many of these girls are hurting/ damaged due to deep rooted self identity issues that weren't addressed in their formative years.

In 2016 my usually confident 5/6 daughter returned home from school and began expressing a dislike to who she was. She mentioned things such as 'why can't I be white?' and 'I don't like my hair, I want it straight and yellow'. As her mum I instantly questioned where I had gone wrong and after contacting my daughter's school with little support from them I knew I had to take matters into my own hands.

I made a lot of changes at home such as putting up art work to celebrate black women and their natural hair, I diversified her books, we attended events



celebrating afro hair and I enrolled Cali into a pan African school which she adored. I also naively went to some toy shops to purchase some black dolls and diverse toys, but couldn't find any that represented my daughter and celebrated natural afro hair. Feeling slightly disheartened, we left the toy stores and went to the cinema to watch Moana and what happened during that screening I can only describe as divine communication. I was bombarded with images and ideas about what I needed to do moving forward and they were so strong that as soon as we returned home I had to put pen to paper so that I didn't forget anything. Cali asked me 'Mummy what are you doing?' My reply was 'We are going to create our own black dolls and mummy is drawing them'. Cali asked whether she could help, so we sat down together and sketched our first dolls.

It took two years of research, design, manufacturing meetings before we had our final product in our hands. We named our doll Biankha after the Egyptian 'Ankh' to incorporate black history into who she is. I run the company with my now 12 year old daughter and we have since expanded our product line with school accessories, merchandise and are mid production with a pilot episode for an animation series centred around Biankha.

It has been very clear to me that if we heal/ prevent from the early years then our young people stand a better chance of reaching their true potential. This starts with their self worth, identity and sense of belonging. This is what Biankha helps with.

**A-CHOICES:** What's a typical day like as a maths teacher?

**CHARLOTTE:** Being a maths teacher in summary is hard! Lol! IT truly is the most draining, but rewarding job and you truly have to have the stamina and tenacity to get through each day. No two days are the same and in one school day you are often required to be teacher, parent, coach, counsellor, nurse, disciplinarian, social worker, feeder and so much more, whilst giving outstanding, engaging lessons, whilst ensuring every child makes progress in your lesson despite the many external factors at play. My day also doesn't end when I leave the school premises because I then go home to work on my tutoring business and Biankha brand. It is literally non stop and not uncommon for me to be working 13- 16 hour days.

**A-CHOICES:** Describe your job in five words?

**CHARLOTTE:** Busy, stressful, rewarding, emotional and testing

**A-CHOICES:** What part of your job gives you the most satisfaction?

**CHARLOTTE:** With teaching the part that gives me the most satisfaction is hearing from students that have left me to hear their gratitude and the amazing things they go on to achieve. Also the little things you can do day to day for those students that have a very tough time outside of school. With my tutoring role, I get so much satisfaction from hearing that students 'now get it' and that their confidence has grown ten fold. Feeling like I have assisted in that is an amazing feeling.

With my Biankha brand I can't explain the feeling of being at an event, a little girl noticing our stall

and her eyes lighting up when she realises what/ who Biankha is. The excitement and awe in their eyes often gets me so emotional.

**A-CHOICES:** Would you say that your passion is helping others to achieve their ultimate goals?

**CHARLOTTE:** I would definitely say this is true. Sometimes it is at detriment to myself, but my need to want to help others is what has led me to the positions I am in now. I enjoy making a difference, even if it is only slightly.

**A-CHOICES:** What are the challenges?

**CHARLOTTE:** The challenges are huge if I'm honest. Juggling so many hats can be tough, especially when I am so conscious of also being a present mummy to my daughter. Also as a single mum it is so tough trying to get that balance, but at the same time, I believe being a single parent to be my main driving force in wanting to be successful. Another challenge I have faced is the fact that I have had to push myself through things I find very difficult. Being naturally introverted and shy I have found it very challenging having to put myself 'out there' in my roles and speak without reservation. It doesn't come naturally and if I'm honest I think I will always find it difficult, but as they say nothing grows in your comfort zone. As an empath another thing I have found very difficult is human nature at times. It has been a learning experience in knowing not everyone has your best interests at heart at times and trying to navigate and swallow that has been difficult.

**A-CHOICES:** Tell us about five issues facing the teaching sector today?



**CHARLOTTE:** I actually belong to group of 100k+ teachers trying to leave the profession. We have a real problem on our hands, which hasn't been given the platform it needs to. In my opinion the five biggest issues facing the teaching sector today are:

Retention – there are teachers leaving in their droves

Under valued – the profession is very under valued by all stake holders but is arguably one of the most important jobs

Under funded- the lack of funding is really impacting our children and teachers alike, with departments not being funded appropriately.

Work life balance – teachers have none and the expectations for teachers to not have a life outside of their classroom has really impacted the mental health and stress levels of many teachers.

Behaviour – I have been teaching for 16 years now and the last couple of years I've seen drastic deterioration in the behaviour and increase of diverse needs of our young people with little solutions to deal with it.

**A-CHOICES:** What advice would you give to other aspiring teachers?

**CHARLOTTE:** If you are aspiring to become a teacher I would say be prepared for a very emotional roller-coaster. You become so invested in the young people in front of you it's impossible to leave your job 'at work'. I would say that you need to set clear boundaries and stick to them in order to retain some sort of life outside of the education sector.

**A-CHOICES:** Tell our readers more about Biankha?

**CHARLOTTE:** Biankha is where my dreams and creativity gets to come alive! She is the reason why my daughter now loves her hair and who she is. Our Biankha brand is something I'm probably most proud of because what we have created has been done completely independently with no funding to back us. Every detail of our brand has been thought of so carefully. For example our purple and gold branding have been chosen because of the colours regal roots and opulence. We want all children to know that they come from royalty and a regal people. Biankha was designed by myself and Cali, aka mini CEO to reflect the children playing with her and to represent them in a world that doesn't always show that they belong. Biankha is a chance for me to relive my childhood in a way that I would have felt included and accepted. It was a way to show Cali that she mattered despite what she was being told at school. Biankha also shows little girls that you can be multi-faceted and tick more than one box on the sheet. We are also so excited for our animation that we have put our life, soul

**A-CHOICES:** What do you think it takes to be a successful entrepreneur?

**CHARLOTTE:** It takes heaps of faith and tenacity to keep going because there are so many lows on the entrepreneurial journey. The ability to keep picking yourself up is a must and your willingness to learn new things along the way. One thing that has really helped me along the way is forward planning (which I'll admit I've fell out of sync with recently). There is something in breaking big goals

down into actionable smaller tasks to ensure the goals are met. This has really worked for me. You also have to be flexible especially in the times you are living in. Things are forever changing, especially in the online space and keeping up with this can be a job in itself. I'd also say don't be afraid to ask for help. There are people out there who are willing to share their knowledge.

**A-CHOICES:** Do you have any events or exhibitions coming up? Where would one go to see more of your dolls? How can people support *Biankha and Friends*?

**CHARLOTTE:** Our next big event will be with *Biankha* led by Cali, at the Ultra education , Winter fair, kidpreneur event at Wembley stadium on Saturday 3rd December. We greatly appreciate any support that can be given. This can include: purchasing from us, sharing us with your followers, leaving reviews, engaging with our posts on social media, shouting us out or connecting us with anyone you think could help on our journey.

**A-CHOICES:** Would you say the brand's mission is to educate young children about their true history and taking pride in their culture and communities?

**CHARLOTTE:** Yes definitely and we try to ensure this message is portrayed through all of our products and events. Everything we do, we aim to over deliver whilst delivering our message.

**A-CHOICES:** Many young black girls are being bullied by classmates about their natural hair, Would you say that westernised standards of beau-

ty still dictate how black women should wear their hair in certain situations?

**CHARLOTTE:** I think things are slowly changing with regards to natural hair but we still have a long way to go. I think educating children from very young regarding natural hair will eradicate the ignorance we see in many adults and work places. Once natural hair is no longer the focus for being different, the sooner the focus can return to what is important; the person and their credentials. It is nice to see more representation now in adverts , tv, media etc however that doesn't take away from the deep rooted trauma many women carry about their hair. Unfortunately there is still much to unravel and hurt to heal. I believe there is much more hope for our children.

**A-CHOICES:** It is generally believed that black women with natural hairstyles are less likely to get job interviews?

**CHARLOTTE:** Although we would like to think that discrimination doesn't occur in the interview process, I think everyone in the black community knows this just isn't true. There are many of us that still feel like if we conform to westernised standards of beauty, we are more likely 'to be picked'. Until these processes are completely anonymised, there will unfortunately always be prejudice and discrimination made. It's one of the reasons I didn't put my picture out for my tutoring business for a very long time (I've been tutoring for 15 years, but didn't put my face out there until about 1 or 2 years ago).

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

**CHARLOTTE:** An introvert who romanticises everything lol. I'm super driven and love without reservation. I can be a dreamer, but will do everything in my power to turn that dream into reality. I can be extremely shy, especially around new people. I'm also very maternal and feel most at ease in the host/ giving role. I'd describe myself as a quiet creative with many layers.

**A-CHOICES:** What are your favourite beauty products?

**CHARLOTTE:** I'm quite a simple girl when it comes to beauty products, but really love my products from Kiehl's and Origins for my skin routine. My go to for make up is Bobbi Brown. My biggest obsession is with fragrances both for me and my house. The obsession is so bad Cali has banned me from buying candles, oils, perfume, Oud and entering the shop Rituals lol.

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

**CHARLOTTE:** I don't really have one to be honest, but when it comes to the high street, Zara has all my money for both Cali and I ! Tom Ford always makes me look twice with their shoes J

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

**CHARLOTTE:** This may be an unpopular opinion, but for an introvert that works way too many hours, lock down was a blessing for Cali and I. I was very happy to be at home and was forced to

slow down. This would never have happened otherwise. I rested like I have never rested before and had time for my creativity to breath. I designed new products during this time, re imagined and re launched my tutoring company and made significant progress on our animation. I will look back on these times with happy memories and feeling at peace.







# Remote work, hybrid work and office shared spaces

By: **Adewumi Adedayo**

Lagos

**F**or a long time now, the concept of work or job has revolved around the office—workspace aimed to centralise staff and the job they do. Traditionally, the office has done so many things for employees, such as fostering relationship building between employees, tangible exposure to workplace culture and a chance to exact professional identities through resourceful office patterns.

Many companies have had the opinion that staff productivity is better when working from the office.

But the outbreak of COVID-19 forced a rethink. Now, remote work and hybrid work is what some corporate organisations imbibe.

Some companies have gone a bit further to do away with the office entirely, using the idea of distributed work.

Remote work, Office work and Hybrid work model



Remote work is predominantly work related and it means an adaptable or flexible work style where employees can do their jobs somewhere else without going to the office.

Office work refers to the physical association of employees where employees share a physical space and interact with each other.

Both remote and office work need greater approval of tools and new processes that mirror the physical work environment.

A trend among some companies is that some of them are going for the hybrid method of remote work. Staff can work remotely for some days, but may be needed to work at the office for two or three times a week.

Speaking with Bisola, an Auditor and a hybrid worker, on how being a hybrid worker has changed her understanding of how time works, said she prefers hybrid model which is working both at home and at office.

“This is because even though I love working from home because of traffic, I’m also a shy person and

my office is a shared space, I really don’t like that. I’m more productive when I’m in my own space than when I’m seeing faces.

“I prefer hybrid also because my type of work requires team work, you can’t work in



isolation, so when you resume work at the office, it's easy to relate questions and resolve it quickly.

“The balance to it is that there will be days when you go to the office and when you can work from home and be focused.”

Also, recently, Elon Musk tweeted, “Anyone who wishes to do remote work must be in the office for a minimum (and I mean \*minimum\*) of 40 hours per week or depart Tesla. This is less than we ask of factory workers.”

This is to show that hybrid work combines both remote and office work together. This is to show that rather than being at home fully and in isolation (which could be detrimental to the mental health), you still get to meet colleagues one or two times in a week and interact. This is not totally eradicating office spaces and its also not entirely embracing remote work.

Before now, like five years ago, no one envisaged a remote workplace. Working remotely has, in the past, had poor standing; it was available only in special cases to accommodate families in special cases, but lately, companies and businesses are choosing remote work strategy.

While many employers are of the opinion that their staff would be undoubtedly distracted at home, where their superiors would not be able to monitor or supervise them, remote work also has its own advantages. For example, it can help prevent the spread of diseases, better work balance, helping companies protect public health and avoid lost productivity.

Present condition of remote work and hybrid work in Nigeria

Due to the advancement in technology (Internet access), working with technology has been recognised in many offices, both in Nigeria and overseas.



Remote work is sometimes not done completely from home, staff could turn to coffee shops, reading spaces, among others to continue their profession.

In Nigeria, remote work blew up during the pandemic (COVID-19) season when people were forced to stay at home and businesses had to continue, that was why teleconferencing, like Zoom, happened and grew its revenue because so many people had to meet their colleagues, even in the comfort of their home.

On the other hand, many companies have opposed

Speaking with Adewumi, Mr Adeleke, said the impact of COVID19 pandemic forced many organisations to work remotely, which enabled the employees to work from home, but the prevalence of remote work varies across organisations.

He said, “I read somewhere sometime that 18% of people work remotely. Those that earn the most even work remotely. “The Human Resource (HR) department in Nigeria need to unlearn the traditional HR approach because there's is a fight between the talent available. Some of the organisations in America are approaching the talents we have in Ni-



this work trend for different reasons as to them, it presents some complexities. Some fear lack of productivity and accountability in some employees, while others have not capitalised in teleconferencing or tele working to enable remote workers.

Also, some other companies have chosen a hybrid policy in the remote workforce whereby some will work from home for a few days in a week or a week, etc.

geria. I think Nigeria needs to begin to work towards policies that could encourage remote work and hybrid working.

“Some of the roles and talents, talent manager need to begin to look into remote working and comply with international standards.”

He added that there are several software's that measures KPI by task, not by resuming in the morning and closing late.

He said, “Those who stay in Lagos will relate bet-

ter because it's almost impossible to be in Lagos and not be caught up in traffic.

“Not everyone is caught out for that hustle which is the reason why HRs, Talent managers really need to begin to opt for remote working or hybrid work till some of our infrastructure can support complete remote working.”

As remote work comes, is it obtainable in every sector?

Due to the fact that remote work refers exclusively to the setting or position, some kind of work and work schedule can be grouped as remote work. For instance, remote work can either be part-time or full-time and they can have impermanent schedules. Examples include freelance companies, some media organisations like radio, television, print media, among others.

However, not all organisations can adopt the remote work strategy. Pharmaceutical companies, Logistic services, Entrepreneurial work fit into operations that need physical presence of most of their employees at their various units.

Is it possible to be productive and effective, working remotely?

Few years ago, most employers would have rejected the idea of remote working. How can staff be productive and efficient, while working from home when they are not being supervised?

To understand better how effective remote work

is, an interview was conducted with a remote worker.



In the case of Olusanya Akanmu, who is a remote worker, he said he finds it not so different from being physically present in the office.

He said, “On most days, I’m at my desk from 7 am to 4 pm to address daily tasks. The great part about remote work is the flexibility. I get to avoid the time-wasting elements of work such as transportation to the office, unnecessary errands, and office chatters. Because I can focus on my work on time, remote work gives me the opportunity to take on other freelance projects.

Speaking on if he is productive working from home, he said it is.

“There could be distractions actually because you’re at home and not in a “serious environment.” For instance, you may be tempted to sleep, watch TV or do something that can impede your productivity.

“For me, the key is discipline plus I created a workspace that makes me “feel at work.”

The global workspace is too young for us to adopt remote work completely, but we could make an effort to take on hybrid working, and from there see how it goes.

As much as working at the office is effective and productive, there are some workplaces that don't require full time employees, such that there can be times where people can come to work for a number of days and work from

home for other days. Why don't we try this new trend and see the effects?

# CBN: New Year, new spending policy



By: **Joy Gofwen**  
Lagos Bureau Chief

**T**he Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN has made a financial New Year resolution on behalf of Nigerians. The apex bank which is in charge of all the monetary policies has decided to slash how much Nigerians spend in a day in the middle of an all-time high inflation rate of 21.47% as at November 2022.

On 6th of December, Nigerians were hit with a new



withdrawal policy by the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN. This is coming after the apex bank had redesigned the N200, N500 and N1000 notes. The policy which is billed to take effect from 9th January, 2023 read thus:

December 6, 2022

BSD/DIR/PUBILAB/015/069

Letter to All Deposit Money Banks (DMBS) and Other Financial Institutions

(Payment Service Banks (PSBs). Primary Mortgage Banks (PMBs) and Microfinance Banks (MF3s)

**NAIRA REDESIGN POLICY - REVISED CASH WITHDRAWAL LIMITS**

Further to the launch of the redesigned Naira notes by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, on Wednesday, November 23, 2022 and in line with the Cashless policy of the CBN, all deposit money banks (DMBs) and other financial institutions (OFIs) are hereby directed to note and comply with the following:

The maximum cash withdrawal over the counter (OTC) by individuals and corporate organizations per week shall henceforth be N100,000 and N500,000 respectively. Withdrawals above these limits shall attract processing fees of 5% and 10%, respectively.

Third party cheques above shall not be eligible for payment over the counter, while extant limits of El on clearing cheques still subsist.

The maximum cash withdrawal per week via Automated Teller Machine (ATM) shall be N100,000

subject to a maximum of N20,000 cash withdrawal per day.

Only denominations of k200 and below shall be loaded into the ATMs-

The maximum cash withdrawal via point of sale (POS) terminal shall be N20,000 daily.

In compelling circumstances, not exceeding once a month, where cash withdrawals above the prescribed limits is required for legitimate purposes, such cash withdrawals shall not exceed and for individuals and corporate organisations, respectively, and shall be subject to the referenced processing fees in (I) above, in addition to enhanced due diligence and further information requirements.

Further to (6) above, you are required to obtain the following information at the minimum and upload same on the CBN portal created for the purpose.

Valid means of identification of the payee (National ID, International Passport, and Driver's License).

Bank Verification Number (BVN) of the payee.

Notarized customer declaration of the purpose for the cash withdrawal.

d. Senior management approval for the withdrawal by the Managing Director of the drawee, where applicable

Approval in writing by the MD/CEO of the bank authorising the withdrawal.

Please further note the following:

Monthly returns on cash withdrawal transactions above the specified limits should be rendered to the Banking Supervision Department.

ii. Compliance with extant AMI-ICFT regulations relating to KY C, ongoing customer due diligence and suspicious transaction reporting etc. is required in all circumstances.

iii. Customers should be encouraged to use alternative channels (internet banking, mobile banking apps, USSD, cards/POS, eNaira, etc.) to conduct their banking transactions.

Finally, please note that aiding and abetting the circumvention of this policy will attract severe sanctions.

The above regulatory directives take effect nationwide from January 9, 2023.

Please be guided accordingly.



HARUNA B. MUSTAFA

DIRECTOR OF BANKING SUPERVISION

The apex bank however did not place a limit on online transfers which therefore, allows for online transactions but that is where the concerns lay. The policy did not capture the gap between the rural setting and the high illiterate level in the country.

Simone a twitter user wrote, "I imagine the popular grains plug in my hood who asks any younger person close by to help her dial the number of a contact on her list cuz she can read nor write. She relies on cash transactions at the remote villages she



goes to buy grains.” There are several people like this woman here.

There is no bank in my Local Government Area, not a single one. People travel to neighboring Local Governments to use the bank.

In an area such as that with over 500,000 people yet without a bank, how can we confidently rely on online transfers? Some of these rural dwellers do not own phones yet they make for a large number of contributors in the economy.

A couple of weeks ago I went to a community in Oyo State, the community is about 45 minutes away from the state capital Ibadan, that community gained telecommunications network access on the 3rd December, 2022 for the first time.

There are several communities like Olanla scattered all over the country and most communities like this are major suppliers of agricultural products to the towns, whether you go there to buy or they bring those products, the new policy will most likely affect that transaction. It’s either the community is without network or the seller does not have an account.

Generally, telecommunications network even in major cities is a major challenge to the cashless policy the CBN and the current administration are trying to push. Transactions are delayed or do not go through at all; the idea of a cashless economy is a great one as the world is evolving however, policies such as this are not implemented at a go.

The slash of the weekly withdrawal limit by 80% for individual is swift shift for developing countries like Nigeria. Though the policy is not entirely bad, the negatives definitely outweigh the positives in the short or long run. The inflation rate puts a red

flag on the policy, some hospitals do not have online channel for payment, and in a case of emergency one will be stranded as to how to source for funds to settle bills.

Howbeit, the apex bank has given everyone a new resolution for the coming year though the policy has an upward review after much outcry by the public and stakeholders. Part of the review said;

porate organisations shall be N500,000 and N5,000,000.

“In compelling circumstances where cash withdrawal above the limits in (1) above is required for legitimate purposes, such request shall be subject to a processing fee of three percent and five percent for individuals and corporate organisations respectively.”



“Following our circular BSD/DIRIPUB/LAB/015/069 dated December 6, 2022, on the above subject and based on feedback received from stakeholders, the CBN, hereby make the following reviews: The maximum weekly limit for cash withdrawal across all channels by individuals and cor-

We’ll watch how this pans out for the country and the economy in the New Year.

# This is why Rita Marley moved to Ghana

**R**ita Marley, has spent more than 20 years residing in Ghana. Bob Marley's widow, In the 1990s, relocated to Ghana with Bob Marley's family. In 2013, she petitioned for and was granted citizenship in Ghana. Rita Marley now has a Ghanaian name — Nana Afua Abodea.

In Ghana's Aburi, she also has a home. In Accra, Ghana, Rita Marley created a studio in memory of her deceased husband, Bob Marley. The name of it

is Studio One. In Ghana, she runs a non-profit organization. Her foundation, The Rita Marley Foun-

ation, supports charitable endeavours. Nana Rita Marley started her musical career in the early 1960s as a vocalist with the all-female group The Soulettes, which performed with the Four Tops, Johnny Nash, and other performers of the time. Her single 'One Draw', which she released in 1982, was a major hit in Europe but Jamaica said it was not fit for airplay. One Draw was the first reggae single to top the Billboard Disco chart, according to Jamaica Observer.

Rita Marley was born to Leroy Anderson and Cynthia "Beda" Jarrett in Cuba and raised in Trench town, Jamaica. She writes in her book *No Woman No Cry: My Life with Bob Marley* about growing



*Rita Marley*

up on Greenwich Park Road with her aunt Viola. Rita Marley has 12 children, over 60 grandchil-

up on Greenwich Park Road with her aunt Viola. Rita Marley has 12 children, over 60 grandchil-

*Akufo-Addo grants Ghanaian citizenship to Rita Marley.*



dren and one great-grandchild, with her eldest daughter, Sharon, reportedly married to Ghanaian Ekow Alabi Savage.

She has never regretted moving to Ghana with her family in the 1990s. “This is heaven,” Rita Marley reportedly said. “I see myself still as a Jamaican, but Africa is our roots and I was always looking forward to this transition,” she said. “Nigeria is more like New York, but Ghana is a lot more like what we expect Africa to me.”

In honor of her contributions to Ghana, she was awarded a Ghanaian passport. Her philanthropic foundation in Ghana supports initiatives for the betterment of Accra, Ghana. She helps the pupils of the Methodist Local Primary and J.S.S, both schools in her community, by rehabilitating old school buildings and constructing new ones, as

well as by giving scholarships and providing meals for elementary school students to improve their nutrition.

Rita Marley planned to exhume her late husband’s body and bury it in Ethiopia, where she believed he had a “spiritual resting place,” in 2005. She intended to make a month-long event out of the day he would have turned 60. She had hoped to bury him in a Rastafari settlement that had been granted land by the nation’s previous ruler, Haile Selassie.

Credit: <https://face2faceafrica.com>



# Bob Marley's grandson Joseph Mersa Marley dies aged 31

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

**J**amaican-American reggae artist Joseph Mersa Marley has been found dead. The rising star, 31, was found unresponsive in a car on Tuesday. The artist - who went by his stage name Jo Mersa - had reportedly suffered from asthma his entire life. He is grandson of iconic reggae star Bob Marley and the son of Stephen Marley.

"May he find Eternal Peace as we mourn his loss during this season of goodwill," Jamaica's Prime Minister Andrew Holness wrote in a tribute to Joseph "Jo Mersa" Marley following his death on Tuesday. Born in Jamaica in 1991, Jo Mersa moved

to Miami at the age of 11, according to Rolling Stone. He attended Palmetto High School before enrolling at Miami Dade College, where he studied studio engineering. Jo Mersa was exposed to music at an early age while being raised by his father Stephen, 50, one of Bob's 11 children who followed in the late reggae artist's footsteps.

After beginning to write music in middle school, Jo Mersa released his first song "My Girl" — a collaboration with his cousin Daniel Bambaata Marley — in 2010. In 2014, Jo Mersa dropped his first EP, titled *Comfortable*. His latest and second EP, *Eternal*, was released last year.

While promoting the tracks, Jo Mersa opened up about his grandfather — who died in 1981 at the age of 36 — telling *Reggaeville.com* about his legacy and sharing that his family remembers the late singer by reminiscing about the memories they had with him.



*Joseph Mersa*

"We always hear those reflections, speaking about those things, about the role that he played not only as family member and father, but also in the world and the impact he had on the Reggae community and the Reggae culture, the roots, bringing forward the message of Rastafari and love, over all love," he explained at the time.

# Pele bids family farewell in shocking video

By: **Kayode Okunlola F.**  
Senior Writer  
Lagos, Nigeria

**P**ele, the former football player of the Brazilian national team, who is fighting colon cancer, said goodbye to his family members. The condition of the three-time world champion, who was placed in the intensive care unit of the Albert Einstein hospital in Sao Paulo, has worsened. The legendary player said goodbye to his relatives through a video call. Family members said that the three-time world champion's condition is critical. Pele's home team, Brazil's "Santos" club, is already preparing for his death. So, a golden coffin dedicated to the King of Football has already been placed in the team's stadium. The arena is expected to become a gathering place for fans if the legendary former forward passes away soon. It should be noted that Pele was operated on in September last year due to a tumor in his large intestine. The veteran football player was later hospitalized several times.

In a shocking video posted by Golaut official on YouTube, Brazil legend, Pele, seems to be slowly



losing the battle against cancer as he faintly says goodbye to family and friends.

Meanwhile, British businessman and sports manager Frank Khalid said in a Twitter post, "Pele says goodbye to family and friends from the hospital bed. Football legend, Pele is slowly losing the bat-



*Pele*



In another developing video on social media, one of Pele's former rivals, Romario, has wished the Brazilian football legend well.

Speaking to Ge Globo, Romario said, "King, get better. So much faith. The whole world is looking and praying for you. Improvements! I kiss your heart."

tle against cancer, family says 'his condition is worsening even further'," Khalid wrote.

# Paul Pogba's brother Mathias released from prison but banned from contacting ex-Man Utd star

By: **Linda R. Jones**  
London, UK

**T**he former Manchester United star is at the centre of an alleged extortion plot that includes his own brother which saw him arrested in September and held in custody .

Mathias Pogba was earlier charged and detained by

French police in September, with the brother of former Manchester United midfielder Paul insisting he is innocent Mathias Pogba, the brother of France international midfielder Paul, has been released from prison after being held by French authorities in relation to an alleged blackmail plot against his sibling.

But his lawyer has since confirmed reports from Le Parisien that his client has been released - but there are some stringent terms as part of his freedom. It is claimed the terms of his release have also banned him from contacting brother Paul, as well as his own mum.





Mathias has also been restricted from leaving France and is not allowed to use any form of social media as he awaits trial. It ends three months of time in prison, after a request to be released was initially rejected in September.

The former Crawley star is one of five people who are under investigation and stems from a claim from Paul where he said he was the victim of an £11million blackmail plot. However, his older sibling has insisted he is innocent. The forward, who played for his country of birth Guinea internationally, will not stay in Paris where he will remain at a family property. In August, he made a series of allegations against his brother in an astonishing video on social media.

Among the claims insisted that the former Manchester United star used a witch doctor to cast a spell on Kylian Mbappe ahead of the World Cup. Pogba missed a call-up to the France squad over the winter due to injury.

# Child murderer Jon Venables 'could walk free from prison IN WEEKS'

By: **Linda R. Jones**  
Senior Writer  
London, UK

**E**VIL Jon Venables will get a parole hearing in weeks — despite desperate pleas from his victim’s father to keep him locked up. According to a reliable Source ,the monster 40,has a “strong chance” of going free because of his “positive” progress inside.

Jon Venables, who was one of two ten year old boys who murdered two-year-old James Bulger in Bootle in February 1993, is again seeking his release from prison.

James' father Ralph Bulger has appealed to the Home Secretary Dominic Raab to use his He has also been arrested for his involvement in a drunken brawl and possession of cocaine powers to block the killer's release.

Venables and his co-accused Robert Thompson were both released from prison on license with new identities in 2001.

However, Venables was sent back to prison in 2010 and 2017 for possessing indecent images of children. .

The killer is currently serving a 40-month jail term and passed the halfway point in October.

However, 'Westminster turmoil' prevented him in securing a pre-Christmas parole hearing. Under the



*James Bugler, pictured, was aged two when he was kidnapped, tortured and murdered by Venables and Thompson.*

current legislation, Venables was entitled to another parole hearing within two years of his last bid in September 2020.

The 40-year-old killer has a 'strong chance' of release. James' father, Ralph said that 'If Venables is



*Ralph Bulger wants to attend any hearing under the terms of a Parole Board shake-up*

walking around as a free man as we mark 30 years of losing our beautiful boy, it would be the ultimate betrayal. 'He said Justice Secretary Dominic Rabb should use his power and influence to block Venables' return to society. He said: 'Mr. Raab has pledged to crack down on the most dangerous criminals in this country. 'Venables should be top of that list and never see daylight again.'

Mr. Bulger said he wants to attend any parole hearing. He said a hearing could be held in 'early 2023'. According to him, Venables was a risk to society and a continued danger to children.

He added: 'I'm bracing for the worst news because I've no trust left in the warped system of this country. But Dominic Raab can change that.'

James' mother, Denise Fergus has also urged the government to block Venables' release claiming he is 'still a danger'.

# Fat Joe Declares Tems 'Free Mind' Song Of The Year

By: **Seyi Awoloye**  
 Managing Editor  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 USA

**F**at Joe has declared Tems' hit single "Free Mind" as the best song of the year. The Bronx native hopped on Instagram Live this past weekend to share his thoughts on a few topics, but began the clip singing the song's praises as it blares in the background. Joe said of all the songs he listened to in 2022, the best of them all came from Nigerian singer, songwriter, and producer Tems with her breakthrough hit, "Free Mind." "It's the biggest in the game," the Terror Squad leader says of the Nigerian crooner's breakthrough solo release. "I played this because to me, this is the song of the year." Grooving along to the music, the 52-year-old further stamped "Free Mind" as the definitive track of 2022, adding, "Song of the Year to me, I don't know about you."



The NYC icon hopped on Instagram Live this weekend with a 2022 year-end recap and began the session with "Free Mind" playing in the background.

"Free Mind" was initially released in September 2020 as part of Tems' debut EP *For Broken Ears*, but garnered increased fanfare following her appearance on Wizkid's smash hit "Essence." The track, which peaked at No. 46 on the Billboard 100, also climbed to No. 1 on the Billboard's R&B/Hip-Hop Airplay chart and received Gold certification by the RIAA.

She also hit the headlines in October after co-



writing Rihanna's comeback single "Lift Me Up" from the Black Panther: Wakanda Forever original soundtrack.

Gracing the cover of *Dazed* recently, Tems revealed she hopes to usher in a new im-

age of the African woman. Despite her empowering message, some fans pushed back against the raunchy shoot, prompting Tems to clarify, "I am not your Christian savior."

Joe (left), Tems (right)



# How Davido Co-wrote Chris Brown's 'Under The Influence'

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

However, the song didn't make notable impacts when it was first released until three years later when it went viral and became a sleeper hit via TikTok.

In Summer 2022, 'Under The Influence' went Platinum in the US, Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland, became the most streamed song globally on iTunes, and helped Brown become the first R&B singer in history to have over fifty top-40 hits on the Billboard Hot 100.

How Nigerian Afrobeats star Davido co-wrote Chris Brown's biggest song of this decade 'Under The Influence'.

The song was released as the third track on the extended edition of Chris Brown's ninth studio album

Indigo, released on October 4, 2019.

How Davido Co-wrote 'Under The Influence' In case you didn't know, 'Under The Influence' was first written by Davido, and entirely produced by KDDO (Kiddominant), before he decided to send it to Chris Brown.

According to Chris Brown's comment on Instagram, he also confirmed that he received the song from Davido and only 'brushed it up'.

The R&B star made the confirmation when the song became the most Shazammed in the world a few months back.



song.

A proud Davido shared Chris Brown's post and comment on his Instagram story. He also shared the chat they had where Chris Brown thanked him for sending him the

# Ex-Defender launches His own Football in Thailand

By: **Okunlola Kayode F.**  
Senior Writer  
Lagos, Nigeria

**A**debayo Gbadebo, a former Stationery Stores of Lagos defender has launched football club of his own according to a report by Complete sports.

This is coming after he mutually parted ways with Suphanburi FC, a club he nurtured from the third-tier league to the Thai Premier League.

"I've left my former club, Suphanburi after taking the club from the amateur league to the Premier League," Gbadebo was quoted by Complete sports.

"It was an emotional moment for me, leaving a club so dear to my heart after 10 years of ser-

vice during which I served in various capacities including four (4) years as club Director, two (2) years as Technical Director and four (4) years as Head Coach and Team Manager.

"Now, I feel it's time for me to take up a fresh challenge. Life is all about challenges and I believe with God on my side, it will end in praises as was the case at Suphanburi."

He added: "I'm aware of the financial requirement. In life, you don't put the gap of impediments first.



Just remain positive, focused and hardworking towards your dream and God will not forget to bring a helper to you.

“Having said that, I will also add that at the moment, I’m speaking with some friends and hoping they come over with assistance. ”

The 48-year-old would go on to reveal his dream of floating three football clubs, including one here in Nigeria, as well as being part of the Nigeria Professional Football League, NPFL, someday in the nearest future.

“The objective is to see this new project through to the Thai Premier League,” Gbadebo enthused.

“I did it in my previous club and want to replicate the same feat here.

“Aside from that, as an ambitious man, I cherish the idea of floating two other clubs, one in Nigeria and another one in another country.

“This way, I would become a central figure in transferring players from my Nigerian club to Thailand and beyond.

“Similarly, it would open up a window for me to equally bring players from here, in my Thailand team to Nigeria.”

# Hotel room used by Lionel Messi in Qatar to be turned into a museum

By: **Okunlola Kayode F.**  
Senior Writer  
Lagos, Nigeria

**Q**atar University has revealed that Lionel Messi's room will be turned into a little museum by posting various images of the Argentina-themed amenities they had constructed on campus during FIFA World Cup 2022.

Weeks after the 2022 World Cup tournament was concluded, Qatar University has announced that the hotel room of Argentina captain and World Cup winner Lionel Messi will be turned into a mini museum

Qatari news agency (QNA) reported that the hotel room Messi later shared with his lifelong friend and colleague Sergio Aguero towards the end of Argentina's triumphant World Cup campaign, will no longer receive guests.

Near the end of Argentina's successful World Cup campaign, Messi and Sergio Aguero shared the room. The room is no longer open to

guests. Instead, there are plans to transform the area into a tiny museum where the Paris Saint-Germain player's belongings would be kept in all their beauty for future students and visitors.

According to Hitmi al Hitmi, director of communications and public relations at Qatar University, Lionel Messi's room will remain untouched and would be accessible to guests only. Local residents would not be allowed. Messi's possessions will serve as a legacy for kids and future generations and serve as a reminder of the tremendous accomplishments he made at the World Cup.



*Messi lifting the world cup*



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Messi's club manager Christophe Galtier expressed his happiness at accomplishing such an important milestone.

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# Pele or Maradona? Debate will continue raging over who was greater



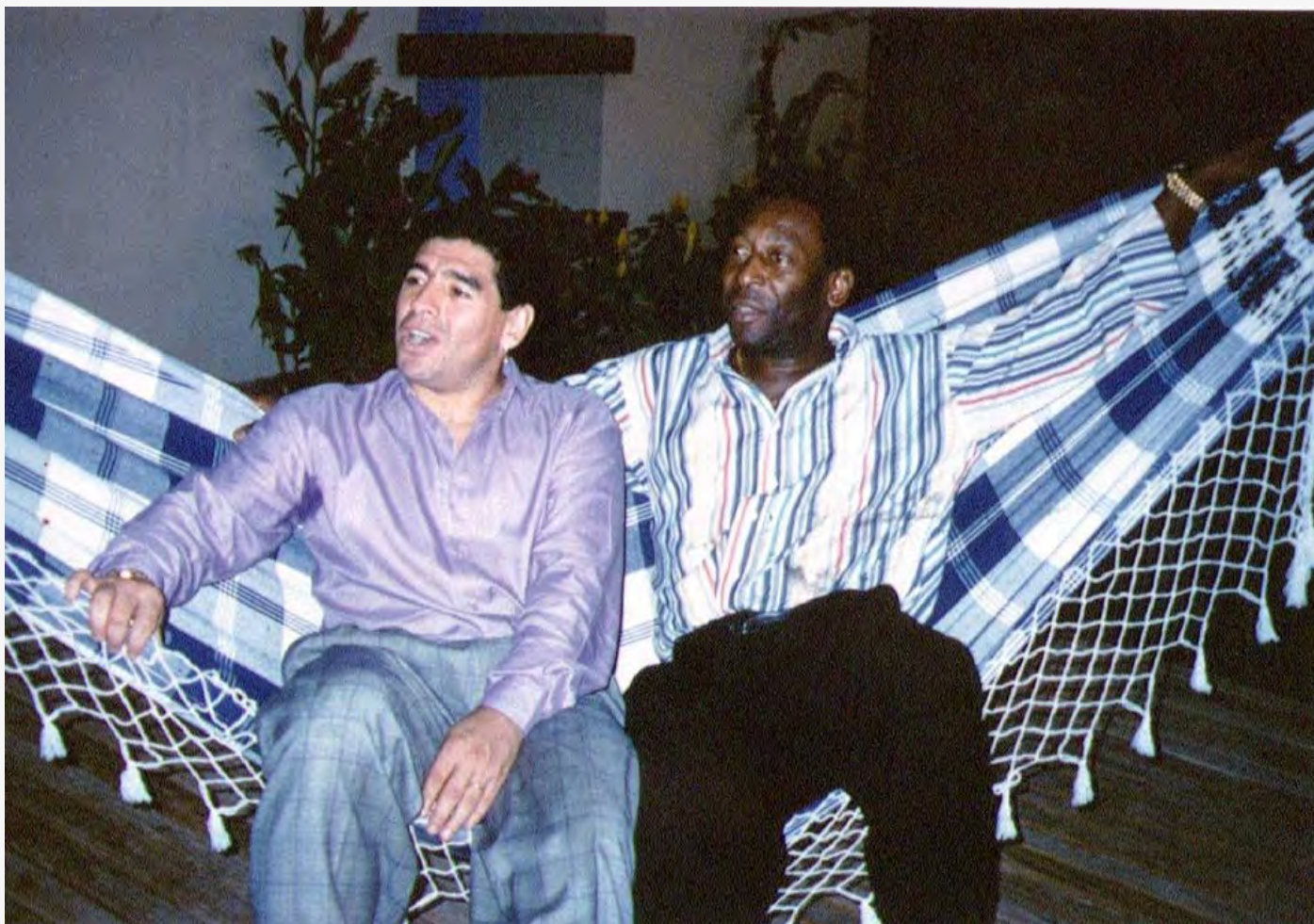
By: Seyi Awoloye  
*Los-Angeles*  
USA

**D**ec 29 (Reuters) - Before Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo came along, the enduring debate in soccer about who was the greatest player cantered on two men: Pele and Diego Maradona. It was an argument that played

out for years on terraces and in bars, on radio and on television.

Brazil's Pele, a prolific goal scorer who died aged 82 on Thursday in Sao Paulo, won the World Cup an unprecedented three times as a player in 1958, 1962 and 1970 and put the small town of Santos on the map before conquering the United States with the New York Cosmos.

Maradona, who died at the age of 60 in 2020, guided Argentina to the World Cup in 1986 with perhaps the most influential performance ever at a ma-



*King Pele and Maradona*

major tournament, and lifted Napoli to unparalleled heights in Italy and Europe. The argument about whose legacy was greater so divided the football world that when Maradona was voted the player of the 20th century in a FIFA internet poll, there was widespread outrage, with many griping that Pele's earlier career put him at a disadvantage with younger fans.

FIFA held another poll voted on by its own "football family", won by Pele - allowing the pair to share the glory.

"Here Pele, the striker whose territory was the penalty box, a player who scored goals for fun and became Minister of Sport, more your quiet type of person," FIFA wrote at the time. "There Maradona, possibly the most complete player ever, playmaker and goal scorer, technically brilliant, unpredictable and impulsive, both on and off the field, a player plagued by a variety of problems for many years."

The cases made on both sides came with a host of subtexts: the Argentine versus the Brazilian, the man of the people versus the establishment figure, the party animal versus the quiet man, the rebel versus the conformist.

Everyone took a side and the two protagonists were not shy about making their own feelings known. Pele thought Maradona was gauche and undignified and Maradona thought Pele was a sell-out. "As a player he was great... but he thinks politically," Maradona said, in one of his kinder criticisms.

Pele called the Argentine, who struggled with addiction, "a bad example" and much more besides. Still, the two South Americans got on well when they met for the first time in 1979, Maradona flying to Rio to meet Pele.

Pele was happy to counsel the budding star, and Maradona excited to be fulfilling his dream of meeting the Brazilian. But their relationship soured in 1982 after Pele criticized Maradona when he

was sent off for stamping on a Brazilian in a World Cup tie in Spain. From then on, they spent decades criticizing each other and then making up, with the praise as sincere as the insults.

Pele was magnanimous on hearing of Maradona's death, saying: "I lost a great friend and the world lost a legend."

Messi, who strengthened his own claim to sporting immortality by leading Argentina to their third World Cup victory this month, shared a photo of himself with Pele in a terse tribute to the Brazilian star on Instagram, saying: "Rest in peace Pele."

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, eclipsed by Messi at the Qatar World Cup, was more expansive, calling the Brazilian "King Pele" and an inspiration to millions. "He will never be forgotten and his memory will last forever in all of us, football lovers," he said.

**Credit:** <https://www.reuters.com>

# Pele: Brazil legend dies aged 82 after battle with cancer

By: **James Osondu**  
Sofia Bureau-Chief  
Sofia, Bulgaria

**B**razilian football legend Pele, arguably the greatest player ever, has died at the age of 82.

Pele, who is the only player in history to win three World Cups, passed away at the Albert Einstein hospital in Sao Paulo following a battle with cancer; he became an icon of the game after winning the World Cup in 1958 as a 17-year-old, netting twice in the final to defeat hosts Sweden

He is credited with scoring a world record 1,281 goals in 1,363 appearances during a 21-year career, including 77 goals in 92 matches for his country.

The only player to win the World Cup three times, lifting the trophy in 1958, 1962 and 1970, Pele was named FIFA's Player of the Century in 2000.



He had been suffering with kidney and prostate problems in recent years.

Pele had surgery to remove a tumour from his colon in September 2021 at the Albert Einstein Hospital in Sao Paulo, after the tumour was detected in routine tests. He was readmitted to hospital in late

November 2022.

His daughter Kely Nascimento has kept fans updated on her father's condition with regular social media updates from hospital.



On Thursday she posted a picture of what appeared to be Pele's family's hands on his body in hospital and wrote: "Everything we are is thanks to you. We love you infinitely. Rest in peace."



The hospital confirmed that Pele died "due to the failure of multiple organs, a result of the progression of colon cancer associated with his previous clinical condition".

Pele's Twitter account posted: "Inspiration and love marked the journey of King Pele, who peacefully passed away today. Love, love and love, forever."

The Brazilian Football Confederation said: "Pele was much more than the greatest sportsperson of all time.

"Our king of football was the greatest exponent of a victorious Brazil, who was never afraid when faced with difficulty. He promised his father a World Cup and he presented us with three.

moved from the hospital to the club's Estadio Urbano Caldeira, where the coffin will be placed in the centre of the pitch for the public to pay respects.

On Tuesday, there will be a procession through the streets of Santos in Sao Paulo to a private family burial.

Edson Arantes do Nascimento, better known as Pele, became a global star when, aged 17, he helped Brazil win the 1958 World Cup in Sweden, forcing his way into the starting line-up by the knockout stages.

He scored the only goal in a 1-0 victory over Wales in the quarter-finals, a hat-trick against France in



"The King gave us a new Brazil and we are so thankful for his legacy. Thank you, Pele."

Pele's former club Santos released details of his funeral. On Monday morning his body will be

the semi-final and two in a 5-2 triumph over the hosts in the final.



From his joyful tears on the chest of teammate Nilton Santos to his embrace with England captain Bobby Moore, Pele's moments of magic have spanned eras and defined the history of the sport.

He finished his club career as part of a star-studded New York Cosmos side, playing alongside German legend Franz Beckenbauer and fellow 1970 World Cup winner Carlos Alberto.

Pele had made his debut for club side Santos two years earlier at the age of 15, scoring in a 7-1 win over Corinthians de Santo Andre.

It was the first of 643 goals he would score for the club in official competitions over 19 years, although Santos claim the total is more than 1,000 once exhibition matches - often against high-profile European opposition - are taken into account.

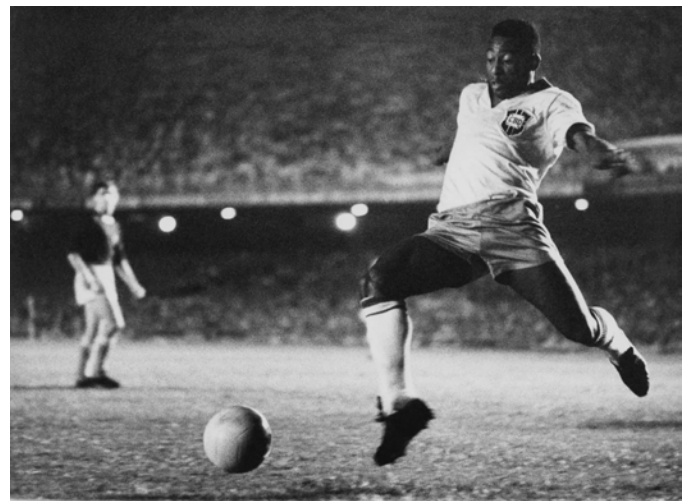
The Brazilian Football Confederation and Santos say Pele scored 1,283 goals in 1,367 matches, while FIFA claims it was 1,281 goals in 1,366 games.

At the 1962 World Cup, Pele, then 21, scored a brilliant individual goal in a 2-0 win over Mexico to open their campaign, but was injured in the next match and watched from the side-lines as his team defended their title.

The final part of his trilogy of World Cup wins was his most iconic. After being fouled out of the 1966 tournament in England, he was the fulcrum of a thrilling attacking team that swept to the title in 1970, scoring the opening goal in a 4-1 win over Italy in the final.

"In music there is Beethoven and the rest. In football, there is Pele and the rest," he said in 2000.

In a poll conducted by BBC Sport in 2020, Pele was voted the greatest player, ahead of Lionel Messi, Cristiano Ronaldo, Diego Maradona and Johan Cruyff.



# Fancy Acholonu say sorry after she serve Alex Ekubo 'breakfast'

By: **Dr. Funmi Awoleye-Beckley**  
Abeokuta, Nigeria

**N**early two years after the celebrity brake up, beautiful model and entrepreneur, Fancy Acholonu, is wrapping up the year by taking another shot at love. US-based Nigerian model Fancy Acholonu is under fire for apologising to Nollywood actor Alex Ekubo roughly two years after she ended their engagement.

The ex-lovers, who were in Los Angeles, US., at the time, jointly announced their engagement in May 2021 on social media.

By August 2021, Fancy ended her engagement to Alex about three months before their wedding in a terse Instagram post. Although she did not explain



why she did that, it came at a time when speculations about the actor's sexuality were rife.



*Alex with ex-fiancée*

“Hey guys, I am writing to inform you all officially that I have ended my relationship and I have called off the wedding with Alex Ekubo,” she wrote in an Instagram post. Stating that she was aware that the news would come as a shock to many, the model maintained that she had made the best decision for herself “because it is important that everyone finds their happiness and live in their truth.”



In a post shared via Instagram on Thursday, Acholonu apologised for the hurt she caused her ex-fiancé and his family by publicly announcing their break up

She further affirmed that her heart still belonged to the actor as losing him “felt like grief.”

Sharing a picture of rosier times, she wrote, “Like our shirt says, Nothing makes sense when we’re apart @alexekubo you still have my heart. I miss you, I love you, and I’m truly sorry for all the hurt & pain you and your family went through with our break up.

“My actions in how I handled things was out of my character. I should have controlled my emotions and not been so over reactive. I said too much, I did too much. Please forgive me, I’ve learned my lesson on how to handle situations better.

“I haven’t expressed myself properly. I’m not

afraid to be vulnerable and say you, your family, & friends still mean the world to me. Losing you has felt like grief. Love heals #FalexxForever.”

# Raheem: Court remands killer cop till January 30

By: **Dr. Funmi Awoleye-Beckley**

Abeokuta, Nigeria

**D**rambi Vandi, the policeman that pulled the trigger of the gun that killed pregnant lawyer Bolanle Raheem on Christmas Day in the Ajah area of Lagos State, has been arraigned in court and remanded at the Ikoyi Correctional Centre till January 30, 2023.

Vandi was remanded pending advice on the case from the Office of the Lagos State Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP). Chief Magistrate, Miss Adeola Olatunbosun remanded Vandi following an application filed and argued by the Lagos State Attorney General, Mr. Moyosore Onigbanjo, SAN.

The AG's office had filed a one-count charge dated December 30, 2022 against the defendant. A copy of the charge reads, "That you ASP Drambi Vandi on the 25th day of December 2022, at Ajah Road, along the Lekki Expressway, Lagos, unlawfully killed one Omobolanle Raheem by shooting the deceased in the chest contrary to Section 223 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2015."

With the charge, the Attorney General applied for the remand of the defendant pursuant to Section 264 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law of Lagos, 2015.

The Attorney General told the court that the basis for the remand was to allow the police conclude its investigations into the matter.

This comes a day after Police Service Commission approved Vandi's immediate suspension. The spokesperson for the PSC, Ikechukwu Ani, con-



*Bolanle Raheem*

firmed the development in a statement after the Inspector-General of Police, Usman Baba, recommended that Vandi be suspended for his actions.

Ani said, "The commission, in a letter to the Inspector-General of Police signed by the acting



• *Vandi*

chairperson, Clara Ogunbiyi, stated that the commission has carefully examined the facts of the case, observations and recommendation with respect to allegations against the officer and granted approval for the suspension of the officer from duty with immediate effect.”

The Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Thursday, said there would be no cover-up in the investigation and prosecution of the culprit. Raheem, a lawyer pregnant with twins, was killed in cold blood by Vandi, who shot at her vehicle while her husband was trying to make a U-turn under the Ajah Bridge, Lagos.

The husband of the deceased, Gbenga Raheem narrated how his wife was shot dead: “On December 25, my wife, nieces, nephews, and cousins, who

had come for the holiday, all went to church. On our way back, my wife said since it was Christmas Day, we should take everyone out, so we went to a supermarket at Abraham Adesanya, and then to Domino’s Pizza.

“After that, we headed towards Ajah to do a U-turn to come back to Abraham Adesanya. When we took the U-turn, we saw policemen stopping some vehicles. As we approached them, they said we should stop, and in the process, we heard a loud sound on my wife’s side window. All of a sudden, I saw blood gushing out of her chest.

“I immediately ran out; my sister-in-law, who was also with us, ran out and held the policeman; he cocked his gun at her too. Talking to him was pointless, so I went to see if anything could be done; I saw my wife gasping for breath, and by that time, my sister-in-law had brought the policeman into the car and pushed him into the front seat.

“We drove to a hospital but they said they couldn’t handle it; we eventually took her to Grandville Hospital, where she was confirmed dead. The policemen took her body and put it in the truck; they wanted me to follow them but I said I needed to go and settle my children.”

# Polygamous dad with 102 children tells 12 wives to go on pill as he struggles to cope

By: **Clara Mpheza Manda**

Senior writer

Lusaka, Zambia

**M**usa Hasahya, 67, who lives in Kenya with his nine wives, has now told them to go on the pill as he struggles to cope with their enormous brood of 102 kids and 568 grandchildren. He has vowed not to have anymore children because he's struggling to cope with so many mouths to feed.

Musa Hasahya, from Lusaka in Uganda where polygamy is permitted, has now ordered his wives of "child-bearing age" to take the contraceptive pill. The dad-of-102 says he can't "tolerate bearing any more children because of the limited resources".

He added that he's sent wives to family planning. Musa also warned anyone planning to take "more than four wives" to swerve tying the knot. The family live together on a compound with a 12-bedroom house in Lusaka, Uganda.

The head of the family says he can tell his 102 children apart, but struggles to identify each of his 568 grandchildren. Some he doesn't even know by name.



*Musa Hasahya*

Musa's first marriage was to wife Hanifa back in 1971 when he was just 16.

After tying the knot, he dropped out of school, and two years later he became a dad when the couple gave birth to a baby girl.

At the time, Musa was flush and a well-respected member of the community as a businessman and the village chariman. Having the money and land to do so, he decided to add to the ranks of his family.

He said: "Because I was able to earn something, I decided to expand my family by marrying more women.

"I ensured that hoes are provided for each of them to till the land and produce food enough to support the family since the soils are fertile."



“All my wives live together in the same house. It’s easy for me to monitor them and also stop them from eloping with other men in this village,” Musa added.

Such a big family sounds like a recipe for disaster, but Musa says the nuclear relatives all get on well for the most part.

But after decades of births and marriages, he's now asking the government for assistance as he's struggling to fund the education of all of his children.

Speaking to The Sun the farmer said: “My income has become lower and lower over the years due to the rising cost of living and my family has become bigger and bigger.



# Cristiano Ronaldo 'signs mega deal with Al-Nassr' worth £350m after ugly Man Utd exit

By: **Andrew Collins**

Senior Writer

London, UK

**C**ristiano Ronaldo has signed a deal with Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr worth £350m over two years. Ronaldo was a free agent for just over a month after being released by United during the Qatar World Cup.

The five-time Ballon d'Or winner established himself as a club legend during his first spell at Old Trafford but his second spell turned ugly.

Despite impressing in his first season back at United, Ronaldo fell out of favour under new manager Erik ten Hag, refusing to come on in a Premier League match against Tottenham.

Ronaldo then criticised Manchester United boss Ten Hag and the club's owners in a controversial interview with Piers Morgan, before both parties agreed to cut ties in November.

It quickly became apparent that Saudi Arabian outfit Al Nassr were the favourites to sign Ronaldo, who unsuccessfully tried to leave United last summer after they failed to qualify for the Champions League.

Al Nassr confirmed their deal for Ronaldo on Friday evening, writing in a statement: 'This is more than history in the making. The forward bided his time over the international break to consider his options, though now has settled for a stint in Saudi Arabia. A tweet confirming his arrival on the club's official account read: "The world's greatest athlete officially signed for Al-Nassr."

The Portugal icon is expected to earn £175million a season, with all commercial opportunities and incentives included. Ronaldo was keen to leave United for a European club in the summer, though no offers arrived despite his agent, Jorge



*Cristiano Ronaldo*

Mendes, approaching numerous clubs. Chelsea, Bayern Munich and Atletico Madrid were amongst those to have held talks about the 37-year-old, though his options soon became limited when no concrete offers arrived.

Thus, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner has now settled for becoming one of the highest-paid players in football history. Despite signing for the Saudi giants, Ronaldo has reportedly rejected a clause to become an ambassador for Saudi Arabia's 2030 World Cup bid as part of the deal, avoiding the awkward scenario of directly going up against his own country, who are also bidding to host the tournament.

Ronaldo left United on a sour note earlier this year after a year-and-a-half of controversy at Old Trafford. The striker shone last season, scoring 18 goals in 30 Premier League appearances, though consistently cut a frustrated figure – with it quickly becoming apparent that he would not be able to single-handedly guide the Red Devils up the table.

Stories of Ronaldo causing internal divides circulated, as well as the former Juventus star approaching the manager to request players are dropped. Though the final straw for the higher powers at United came earlier this year after the once-



adored club legend fell out of favour with Erik ten Hag.

Former Manchester United captain Gary Neville was disappointed by the manner of Ronaldo's exit but said it was the right decision for both the player and the club.

'The only thing Manchester United could do was draw a line under the Ronaldo affair,' Neville told Sky Sports. 'They couldn't allow the situation to come to this side of the World Cup, it needed to be put to bed.'

'It's sad it's ended this way but it was inevitable, it had to finish. He will go on and play football elsewhere and hopefully do really well, and Manchester United can move on under Erik ten Hag.'



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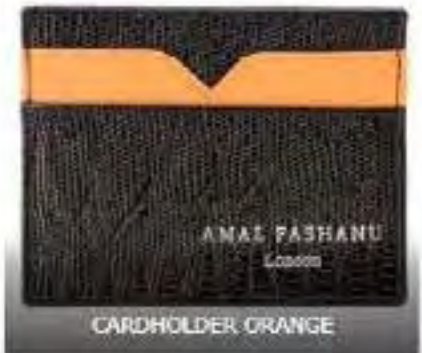
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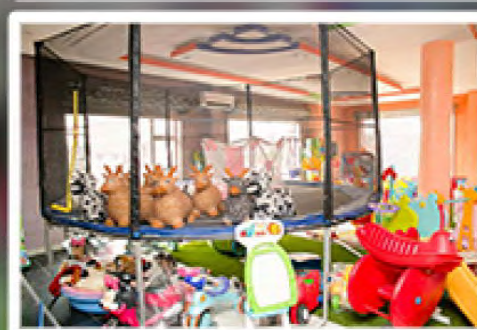
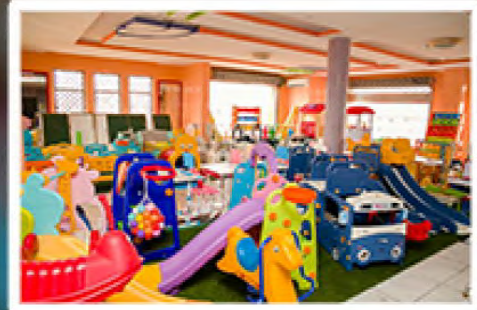
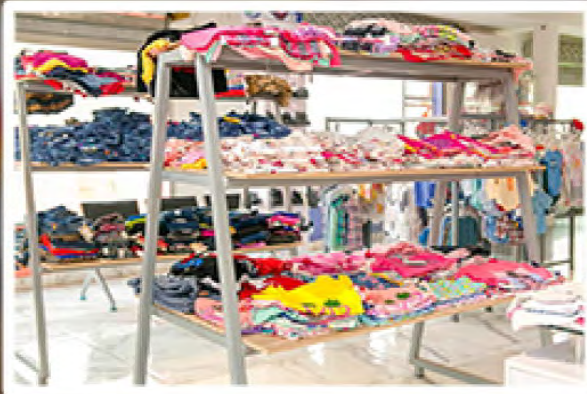
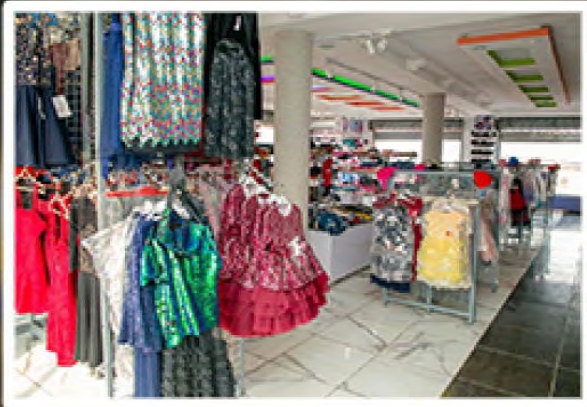
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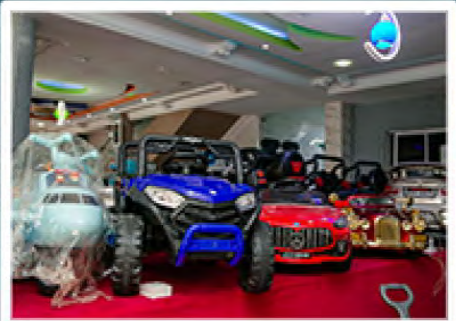
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