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A-CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine

JOHNY FLOWS

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
WITH MISS EARTH NIGERIA 2021



CHRISTINE TELFER

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ABOUT US

A-CHOICES -The African Lifestyle Magazine

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

Write for Us

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

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

Please send submissions to achoice@a-choicesmagazine.com

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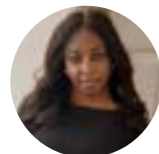
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EDITOR'S LETTER



Welcome to our April edition of A-CHOICES Magazine where we celebrate all that we love about being Africans.

This edition usher us into the second quarter of the year and so far, it has been an incredible journey with you our readers.

On the cover of this edition is Christine Teller, a Nigerian beauty queen. She was 23 years old when she was crowned Miss Earth Nigeria in 2021, and became the official representative of Nigeria at Miss Earth 2021. Her environmental advocacy is promotion and preservation of biodiversity. She has spearheaded a poverty alleviation scheme for widows in Abuja. She has also organised a campaign against malaria and also promoted its sensitisation in rural areas like Ikon and Etung both in Cross River State. You'd find her journey an interesting read in this interview.

It's amazing that the Lent and the Ramadan fasting are happening together this year. I pray that our acts of worship would be accepted by God and I wish you a wonderful Easter and Id el Fitr celebrations later in the month.

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

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AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH CHRISTINE TELFER -MISS EARTH NIGERIA 2021 Interview



By:Gbenga Teejay Okunlola
London, UK

Christine Telfer is a Nigerian beauty queen. She was 23 years old when she was crowned Miss Earth Nigeria on 28th August 2021, and became the official representative of Nigeria at Miss Earth 2021. Her environmental advocacy is promotion and preservation of biodiversity. She has also spearheaded a Poverty Alleviation Scheme for widows in Abuja. She has organised a campaign against malaria and also promoted its sensitization in rural areas like Ikon and Etung, both in Cross River State.

A former Radio Presenter at HIT FM 95.9 where she anchored a health segment called "The Health Office" and has worked with several photographers and is armed with an enviable modelling portfolio. She is presently the TV Host of the Golden Brush Show.

Christine is a graduate of Human Psychology at the prestigious University of Calabar. Not new to the pageantry, She competed at Miss Earth Nigeria 2019. Telfer finished fifth, earning the Miss Earth Nigeria Eco Tourism 2019 title. In the midst of her busy schedule, the stunning beauty has taken out time to talk about her advocacy, dreams, ambitions and guilty pleasures in an exclusive interview with **A-CHOICES**.

A-CHOICES:Christine can you please tell us a little bit about yourself and educational background?

CHRISTINE:I'm Christine-telfer Edet Ugah, I'm 24 years old. People learn everyday and the learning process never ends till the day we go, I currently have a degree in physiology and also a degree in biotechnology and hopefully will add more certificates to this soon.

A-CHOICES:Would you like to share your most special childhood memory with us?

CHRISTINE:My most special childhood memories would be playing in the little farm we had in our house growing up, most especially climbing the huge tree. I spent most of my time there ,if I wasn't climbing, I was probably reading a book.

A-CHOICES:How does it feel to be Miss Earth Nigeria 2021 and a participant of Miss Earth 2021?

CHRISTINE:With a big crown comes a huge responsibility, it was a defining moment for me and representing my country on the big stage was something of great pride to me.

A-CHOICES:In what way is Miss Earth different from the other beauty contests?

CHRISTINE:The miss earth is an advocacy bases pageant, it's not a pageant where beauty is the forefront, even though it plays a role. It's pageant where young women identify the environmental issues plaguing our society today and come together with ideals and solutions to curb these issues therefore giving to society and make the earth a better place.

A-CHOICES:What makes a good pageant role model?

CHRISTINE:I must start with the fact that no human is perfect, but in all we do we strive to be morally right. A good pageant role model should be truthful, truthful about their challenges and success, should be hard-working, zealous , bold and of course be able to walk it like you talk it.

A-CHOICES:How do you deal with pageant nerves?

CHRISTINE:Oh my,growing up I used to be a really shy and reserved person, I never wanted to identify with the spotlight.

Pageantry actually helped me build my confidence and public speaking. In that moment when I feel tensed about whatever I'm doing , I count 1 to 5 with my fingers and I remind myself that I am bold , confident and my opinion matters to the world and I go ahead and speak my truth.

A-CHOICES:What qualities do you believe a Miss Earth Nigeria should possess?

CHRISTINE:The miss earth Nigeria should be kind , honest ,hard-working,diligent to her cause, beautiful and must be able to work under pressure.

A-CHOICES:What inspired you to the world of pageantry,Previous beauty competitions?

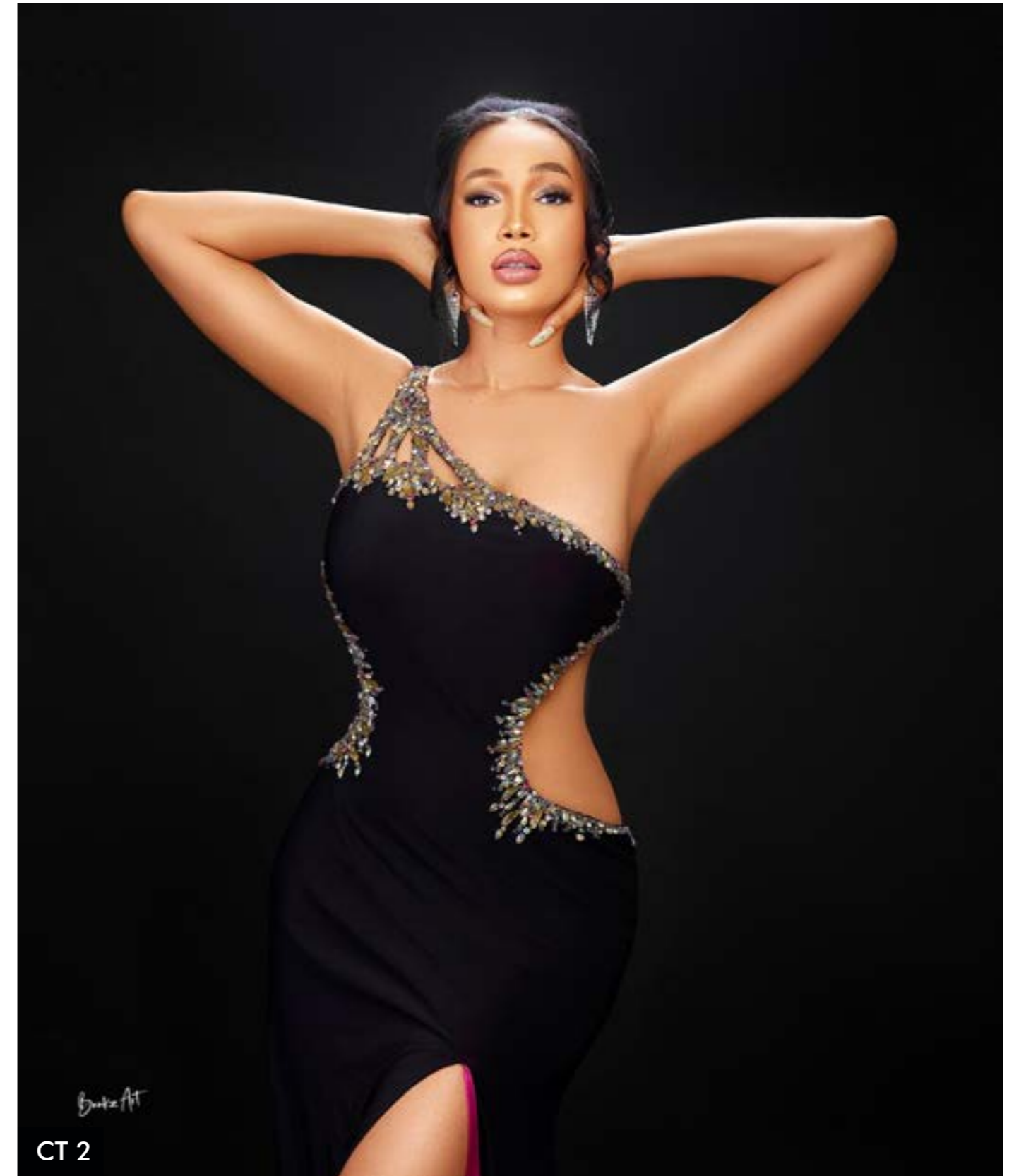
CHRISTINE:I want to make a difference, I want my advocacy to be heard. I have a message that I want the world to hear. And I knew pageantry is the perfect stage to have my voice heard.

A-CHOICES:Would you like to tell us something about your advocacy,promotion and preservation of biodiversity?

CHRISTINE:My advocacy is on preserving and promoting biodiversity . And I championed a project on the protection and replanting of mangroves in Nigeria which is being over exploited currently.

A-CHOICES:How to protect Biodiversity-steps to protect Biodiversity?

CHRISTINE:The first step to protecting biodiversity is in understanding it's importance to us , understanding how a stable ecosystem helps keep life on earth going. We must learn to love and embrace





CT 6

nature. From the little ants crawling to the huge mangrove forest , every life in nature must be protected.

A-CHOICES:Why is Biodiversity important?

CHRISTINE:Biodiversity is important to maintain a healthy ecosystem, this ecosystem that provides us with the air we breathe and the food we eat.

A-CHOICES:Would you say that conservation success is defined by helping nature thrive so the people who depend on it can too?

CHRISTINE:Exactly, this process runs in cycle , what we give in is what we get. If we take care of our environment we in turn will have a healthy earth to live in.

A-CHOICES:Would you say that Nigerians need to do more to protect our environment?

CHRISTINE:Very much yes , and not just in Nigeria , all over the world well. There are environmental challenges everywhere. We in Nigeria should try our best to cultivate habits that are beneficial to the environment especially in the issue of plastic pollution , we should endeavour to dispose of our plastics properly also the government should create and enforce laws that will guide citizens in protecting their environment as well.

A-CHOICES:What or who empowers you to be yourself and work hard every day?

CHRISTINE:I want to live a happy life without regrets and for that I make sure I do very best at what ever I do , so at the end of the day when I lay on my bed I close my eyes telling myself "I'm proud of you c-t" . Also I have a lot of young people and even older people who look up to me and see my life as exemplary. I do not want to dash that trust in me . I work hard for them as well.

A-CHOICES:What is the one thing you can label as your guilty pleasure?

CHRISTINE:Oh my , I love the gym. There's something very empowering about knowing your body is strong and can support you through whatever.

A-CHOICES:If you are granted three wishes right now, what would you ask for?

CHRISTINE:This is a really tough one , I'll just tell you one wish I have and I'll keep the rest a secret lol, I wish for world peace and clean and green environment.

A-CHOICES:Are there any projects that you are working on at the moment?Any community service activities or other business ventures?

CHRISTINE:Yes I have several projects I'm involved in , I partner with mangrove marathon , which is a racing event held across Nigeria to spread the awareness of mangrove protection . Also I own an environmental NGO that partners with environmental projects that sensitize people about caring for their environment.

A-CHOICES:What has been a challenge you've experienced in life,and how did you overcome it?

CHRISTINE:In my 24 years on earth best believe I have had several challenges , my greatest challenge though has been failure and it's really not easy picking yourself up and trying again , even though the motivational speakers will tell you different. I have overcome failure with the help of an amazing support system , my family , my friends oh I won't forget to mention my dog that I hug and cry with . Having people who have your back and believe in you no matter what state you're in , is truly very valuable.

A-CHOICES:What has this time taught you?

CHRISTINE:hmmmm , I have learnt so much , the most valuable thing I have learnt and I must share is the power of honesty , I've learned that the truth must always be your first go to.

A-CHOICES:If you could be invisible for a day, how would you like to spend it?

CHRISTINE:Not to be vain lol but I would really love to spend it running on a beach with my dog and my favourite book in hand . Just soaking in all the amazing goodness of nature.

A-CHOICES:What is the one thing people would be surprised to know about you?

CHRISTINE:That I'm a comedian lol, I'm a very funny person . There's never a dull moment around me.

A-CHOICES:What do you love about Nigeria? What would like to change about Nigeria?

CHRISTINE: I love the people , I love Nigeria . I would like for a better government, we're such a rich and diverse country and I would want leaders who would channel our potentials for good and advancement.

A-CHOICES:What music are you listening to?Your favourite TV shows?Your favourite meal?

CHRISTINE: I'm a die-hard nicki Minaj fan , so if you ever see me bopping my head best believe nicki is playing somewhere. Currently I'm watching this TV show called "you" , it's quite popular and very intriguing. I'm Nigerian it won't be fair to not mention the renowned jollof rice.

A-CHOICES:Final question,is there anything you'd like to see change regarding beauty?

CHRISTINE: As each individual is unique and different, beauty should be defined by oneself, I don't believe in universal beauty standards, everyone is beautiful and unique just the way they are. Beauty trends come and go,they always do , never let them determine your self worth.



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BANKZ ART

CT 8



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CT 5

British Police Declare Temitope Adeyinka Wanted, Offer £10,000

Crime

By: Linda R. Jones
London, UK



Suspect-Temitope Adeyinka

"It's only a matter of time before we find you. The best thing you can do is hand yourself in and tell your side of the story, before it's told for you."

That's the message from Detective Superintendent Stephen Jennings, who's appealing for the whereabouts of a man wanted in connection with the Robert Powell murder investigation.

To help Robert's family get the answers they deserve, anyone with information leading to the arrest of 38-year-old Temitope Adeyinka could also be eligible for a reward of up to £10,000 through the charity Crimestoppers.

The appeal comes after the arrest of a second man wanted in connection with Robert's murder.

Robert was killed in June 2020

Robert, 50, was shot outside an address in Roydon in the early hours of Saturday 13 June 2020. He died from his injuries the following day.

As part of our investigation, we previously appealed for the whereabouts for three men wanted in connection with Robert's death.

We can now confirm that through the work of our Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, working closely with the National Crime Agency and other law enforcement colleagues around the world, two of the three men are now in custody.

The latest man to be arrested, Israar Shah, 38, was located in Spain and has already been extradited back to the UK. He appeared in court on Monday 20 March to face the charge of murder and was remanded in custody.

He will next appear at Chelmsford Crown Court on Monday 12 June.

Nana Oppong, 42, was previously detained by Moroccan authorities and formally arrested under a Red Notice and Provisional Arrest Request for the offences of murder, possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and wounding without intent.

He remains in Moroccan custody while extradition proceedings continue.

A third man is still outstanding

The third man, 38-year-old Temitope Adeyinka, also known as Limo, is still outstanding and a European Arrest Warrant is in place to facilitate his capture.

The charity Crimestoppers, which is independent of the police, have also increased their reward to up to £10,000 for any information that leads to his arrest. Information can be given 100% anonymously.

Senior Investigating Officer Detective Superintendent Stephen Jennings said:

“Robert’s death was shocking, violent and heartless.

“There’s a loving family, a mother, children, grandchildren, who have spent more than two-and-a-half years in a state of limbo and grief. They need and deserve answers.

“Through round the clock work with the National Crime Agency and our partners across the globe, two men we wanted to speak with have been detained in connection with Robert’s murder.

“We will not stop until we’ve spoken to everyone we believe could be involved and there’s still one man in particular we want to speak to.

“Thirty-eight-year-old Temitope Adeyinka, also known as Limo, is around 5ft 8ins tall and of a medium build. He has links to areas in East London but we believe he may have travelled abroad.

“We want anyone who may know of Limo’s current whereabouts to come forward as soon as you can.

“I’m also making this direct appeal to you Limo – it’s only a matter of time before we find you.

“The best thing you can do is hand yourself in and tell your side of the story, before it’s told for you.

“The charity Crimestoppers have increased their reward to up to £10,000 for any information that leads to Temitope’s arrest.

“Help us get answers for Robert’s family. Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111 or make a report on their website. You will remain 100 percent anonymous.”



Robert Powell,

MEET NDIDI NWUNELI THE NEW DIRECTOR OF STANBIC IBTC



By:Dr. Funmi
Awoleye-Beckley
Abeokuta,Nigeria

It is no longer news that Ndidi Nwuneli has been appointed as the new Director of Stanbic IBTC. Stanbic IBTC has announced the appointment of Mrs. Ndidi Nwuneli as the new Independent Non-Executive Director following the receipt of all required regulatory approvals. She will replace Ms. Ngozi Edozien, who retires from the Board of the Company following the completion of her regulatory prescribed tenure in compliance with the CBN's new circular dated February 24, 2023.

Ndidi Nwuneli is the daughter-in-law to HRM Igwe Prof. Onuora Nwuneli, the traditional ruler of Igbakwu in Ayamelum LGA, Anambra State. She's the founder of LEAP Africa with over 25 years of international development experience and a globally recognized serial entrepreneur, author, public speaker, and consultant.

Nwuneli serves on the Boards of over 7 organizations and has received major continental and global awards including Alumni Achievement Award from Harvard Business School (2021), Forbes 20 Youngest Power Women In Africa (2011), and Forbes: 20 Youngest Power Women In Africa (2011).

Through her work in the private, public, and non-profit sectors, Ndidi has led the design and execution of high-impact initiatives focused on policy, strategy, organizational design, ecosystem solutions, and growth.

She was a Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business & Government at the Harvard Kennedy School and an Aspen Institute New Voices Fellow.

Business





By: Akosua Darko
Senior Writer
London,UK

Lifestyle

“ They have stolen the heart from inside you but this does not define I know who you are, who you truly are “ Moana (you would never guess how much I love Disney, especially that scene) so many women are seen as smouldering volcanoes when they just need someone to cross the horizon to find and see them. Remind them they are a whole Goddess island.

I’m on a mission to bring mental health to the forefront. I would love to be able to do it for all with a particular focus on women, and children who are going through bullying, abuse or trauma.

It is something that is quiet taboo to see is as beautiful, people rising from the fire that tried to consume them, and deal with their scars as they go through their stages of grief to rise from the ashes.

I’m a young woman trying to navigate the trauma of yesterday, and trying to find beauty in myself, while I heal and navigate the complex emotions trying to overcome a past which has hammered my mental health as well as confidence in myself, and made me see the world as a violent and volatile place which can be unkind to me.

It’s hard to have a fist up with insecurities and bloom. However, the world isn’t as gracious and kind to this shortcoming. People like me are seen as flowers who cannot forget they weren’t watered and refuse to bloom. So I entered this competition to raise awareness of mental health organisations willing to help, of the hard journey and of how people like me though complex, though sometimes unbalanced, are beautiful.

Since this is a competition celebrating women who try to bring international peace. I argue we cannot have peace when children, women and a section of society is traumatised by their own inner demons, they will lash out and not be the productive members they can be, because their mind is not free to fulfil their potential.

Maya Angelou said she knows why the caged bird sings, because it longs for freedom in the bars where its hands and feet are tied. In my quest for freedom and hopefully to free others, behind the bars of rage, I hope to make you empathise with the caged birds and see their acts as a longing for freedom. I hope I can inspire you to help fundraiser for A-sisterhood and mental health organisations, and how we can all do our bit to help.

So this is for the angry women, beaten and bruised with beautiful spirits, not allow to shine, hampered by bitterness, left out in the wilderness to starve. I’m really excited to walk on stage again this time for Miss International and continue my advocacy.

Please donate to my cause before the first of June 2023 here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/7sw65-a-sisterhood>

Thank you. God bless you.

JAY-Z's Net Worth Has Increased To \$2.5 Billion

Entertainment



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

From rags to riches, Jay-Z proves his worth as he maintains the title of the richest rapper in the world with a whopping net worth of \$2.5 billion!

He is reportedly the 1,203rd wealthiest person on earth. Social media is stunned and we can't help but be in awe of his success story. But what's the secret behind his astounding fortune? Find out the intriguing details that will leave you wanting more, only in the full article!

According to Forbes, the Roc Nation tycoon is now worth a whopping \$2.5 billion following the recent sale of D'USSE.

After a highly-publicized legal battle, he sold his 50 percent stake in the cognac brand to Bacardi for \$750 million, but still retains a significant ownership stake in the brand.

The updated ranking, which was reported by TMZ, makes Hov the 1,203rd richest person in the world.

JAY-Z, who was declared hip-hop's first billionaire in 2019, holds the title as hip-hop's richest artist with an empire that includes Roc Nation and Armand de Brignac. In 2021, he sold a 50 percent stake in the luxury champagne brand to LVMH Moët Hennessey Louis Vuitton.

Hov is already plotting on his next billion. He recently joined an investment group to open the first full-scale casino in New York City's Times Square and is teaming up with Amazon founder Jeff Bezos to potentially buy the Washington Commanders.

JAY-Z is not the only rapper in the billionaire's club. Back in October, Diddy became the second richest man in hip-hop with a net worth of \$1 billion, thanks to his Ciroc partnership with Diageo, DeLeón Tequila, and REVOLT media network. He is now looking to add to his business portfolio and acquire a majority ownership stake in BET.

A 2022 list of hip-hop's wealthiest artists from former Forbes editor Zack O'Malley Greenburg also included Kanye West (\$500 million), Berner (\$410 million), and Dr. Dre (\$400 million).





Alison Hammond: Man arrested over blackmail claims.

Crime

Andrew Collins
Senior Writer
London, UK



A BLACKMAIL suspect thought to have targeted TV host Alison Hammond has been arrested. West Midlands police said the 36-year-old was arrested at an address in Warwickshire on 25th Saturday last month.

According to a reliable report, the This Morning presenter, 48, has paid out large sums after falling victim. It is alleged the Birmingham-born celebrity had been threatened that lies would be spread about her if she did not co-operate with demands.

On Sunday evening, police said the man had been released on conditional bail. Alison Hammond has broken her silence after it was revealed over the weekend that a man had been arrested on suspicion of blackmail.

Taking to Instagram, the presenter, 48, shared a beaming selfie from her 'girls night' with pals Holly Willoughby, Nicole Appleton and Emma Bunton, writing the caption: 'Needed that.'

Alison allegedly told pals she handed over thousands of pounds and a car to a former friend who threatened to leak false details about her private life. The presenter came to prominence as a contestant on the third series of Big Brother in 2002.

She was promoted to co-presenter of This Morning in 2020, appearing alongside Dermot O'Leary on Fridays. There have also been appearances on I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! in 2010 and Strictly Come Dancing in 2014.

Leeds man forced to 'eat bread and butter and cook once a week' as council flat electric is '£10 a day'

Andrew Collins
Senior Writer
London, UK

An irate Leeds man has raged about paying "10 pounds a day" for electricity at his council flat despite only "cooking once a week" and eating mostly bread and butter to save energy.

Unemployed Mamadu Djalo, 63, is struggling with money having only recently applied for Universal Credit. In addition, he is burdened with a prepaid meter that eats up his balance at an alarming rate, where he pays "£50 every five days" – although he takes extreme precautions to limit performance.

He's been at his wit's end, trying to figure out why the leccy bill is so high in his flat in Seacroft. Mamadu moved to Leeds City Council high rise Seacroft Gate, in Eastdown Grange, with his 17-year-old son last month.

The pair, originally from Senegal, have been trying "everything" to keep electricity costs down. They'll make one big batch of food once a week and freeze it, eat "bread and butter" for most meals, turn off all the lights and heaters and more, yet still the 63-year-old is paying £10 a day.

The council has said the meter was not installed by them and has encouraged its tenants to get in touch with their suppliers.

Mamadu, who lost his job as a cleaner last year and has lived in Leeds for 11 years, vented his frustrations. He said: "Oh my god, it's been very hard. We have to pay £50 for five days for the electric top-up.

"We haven't been putting on the lights. We might make a little coffee, but everything is off. Sometimes the heater comes on at night but by 7am, it's off.

Lifestyle

"We've tried everything! I don't have a washing machine, we cook one time a week and put it in the freezer, that's it. Otherwise we'll eat bread with butter.

"Every five days it's £50, no matter what! From the day I signed the contract, I was told it would be £20 on the meter. But for three or four days of the week, we switched off all of the lights and all the credit we had left was £5."

A Leeds City Council spokesperson said: "The council recognises the impact of high energy prices on our tenants and their families, however the electricity metering equipment is not installed by the council and we are not responsible for the rates charged.

"As a council we are able to offer some support to people who are struggling with high energy bills, but our first advice is always for the customer to get in touch with their supplier. Information about support available can be found on our website."

After Leeds Live made the council aware of this issue, the local authority contacted Mamadu and he's pleased with its advice in regards to obtaining a better tariff.

"As a council we are able to offer some support to people who are struggling with high energy bills, but our first advice is always for the customer to get in touch with their supplier. Information about support available can be found on our website."

After Leeds Live made the council aware of this issue, the local authority contacted Mamadu and he's pleased with its advice in regards to obtaining a better tariff.



Davido returns to music space, release new album

Entertainment



By: Joy Gofwen,
Lagos
Bureau Chief

David Adeleke, popularly known as David, seems to be over his grieving and is back on the spotlight again.

Davido returned on the 21st with an announcement of the release of his new album 'Timeless' come March 31.

Days after deleting almost all his pictures and videos from his Instagram page, the singer announced his new project with a short teaser of his new album.

"There is a time for everything, a time to grieve and a time to heal, a time to laugh and a time to dance. A time to speak and a time for silence," he wrote in the Instagram caption.

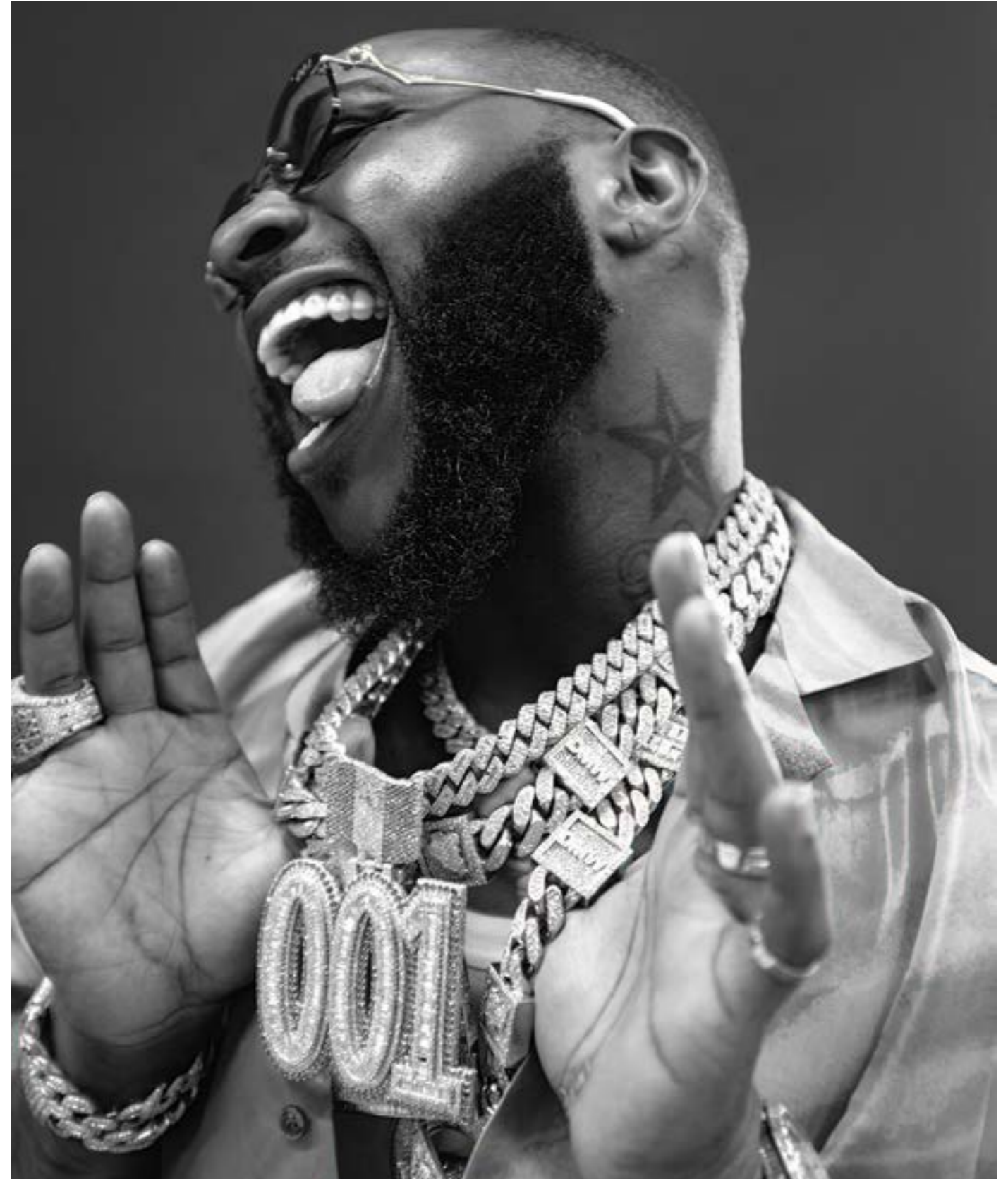
"Thank you to everyone out there for your love and support that has held me down. All the love and messages while I was away, the gifts sent the concerts you all threw! I appreciate it all. Today, I want to remind you all that what is now Timeless, was once new. It's time for new. My next album TIMELESS is here, March 31st."

Returning couple of days after the first announcement, Davido said he is excited to bring the Timeless album to life while thanking his fans for the support he had received and also announced his coming events.

"The support for Timeless over the last few days has been incredible. Thank you for the love. I am so excited to bring this album to life and share it with you in person."

"London, New York city and Lagos join me for 'A Timeless Night,' a special live event where we'll make memories that will last forever. To my UK fans, pre-order Timeless from official store and get access to the London pre-sale this Wednesday. See you there," he wrote.

Davido has been inactive in the music scene for months following the tragic death of his son, Ifeanyi. The three-year-old whom he shares with his fiancée, Chioma Rowland, died in October 2022 after drowning in a pool at the singer's residence in Lagos.



Davido was last seen publicly during his performance at the closing ceremony of the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, he shared pictures of his crew members, Chioma and himself before his performance at the closing ceremony on December 18, 2022 where he performed the official soundtrack for the tournament alongside Trinidad Cardona and Aisha.

Colleagues in the entertainment industry and fans of the musician have been excited about his return and the release of his album. Reacting to his post, popular singer Tiwa Savage wrote, "1 of 1".

Popular actor, Kunle Remi, wrote, "this album will scratch from overplay. We are ready." Another singer, Nikki Laoye, said, "Welcome back dear. God will continue to give you beauty for ashes. You are loved, my brother."

Comedian Crazeclown, wrote, "Been so long I had goosebumps like this. The love is real. Welcome back OBO. We are really glad to see you online, we are ready for your album, and we are ready to stream the heck out of that album. We are sincerely ready."

Fans have continued to send their warm wishes under the post. @dellierex, wrote, "I pray that your challenge and difficult time will strengthen and promote you. Wish you all the best, mentor. March 31 is the day."

@spenza781, wrote, "Boss, we miss you for so long. Welcome back."

Another fan, @cleopatrastarrets wrote, "Davido, we mourned with you and now we rejoice with you. You're right; God's love for you is timeless. My love for you and @thechefchi is timeless. I'm so excited about this album; it brings such joy to my soul. Stay grounded, God has got your back. Your joy will never end. Your enemies will fall for your sake. The Lord will continue to raise you up and keep you up."

Timeless is Davido's fourth studio album and it is scheduled to be released through Davido Music Worldwide, Columbia Records, and Sony Music Entertainment. The Focalistic-assisted track "Champion Sound" was released on November 19, 2021, as the album's lead single.



Nigerian politician, wife, and a doctor guilty of organ trafficking to UK

Crime

By: Linda R. Jones
London, UK

A senior Nigerian politician, his wife, and a doctor have been convicted of organ trafficking, in the first verdict of its kind under the Modern Slavery Act.

Ike Ekweremadu, 60, a former deputy president of the Nigerian senate, his wife, Beatrice, 56, and Dr Obinna Obeta, 50, were found guilty of facilitating the travel of a young man to Britain with a view to his exploitation after a six-week trial at the Old Bailey.

They criminally conspired to bring the 21-year-old Lagos street trader to London to exploit him for his kidney, the jury found.

The man, who cannot be named for legal reasons, had been offered an illegal reward to become a donor for the senator's daughter after kidney disease forced her to drop out of a master's degree in film at Newcastle University, the court heard. Sonia Ekweremadu was found not guilty.

Despite not being convicted, Sonia sobbed uncontrollably in the dock, after hearing her parents' convictions. Her mother sobbed as well, but she wiped her tears and stopped, as the court was still in session. Sonia continued crying. The Senator sat back in his chair and didn't immediately show any emotion.

After the judge had discharged the jury and the court had ended, Ekweremadu then went and put his arms around his daughter and wife. All three embraced for about a minute. Sonia continued crying. Her mother removed her cream woolen hat and gave it to her. The Senator had a brief chat with his wife, and when he later looked up to wave at his sons and family and friends, he too had a tear in his eyes. Ekweremadu and his wife were later led out of the dock by security guards.

In the public gallery, tears also flowed freely from two female family members. Though the Senator's two sons looked dejected and shocked as the guilty verdicts were announced, both kept their emotions tight.

Afterward, family and friends rallied round them outside the court and asked them to "stay strong." Sonia was still in tears outside court, but was soon escorted away by family and friends. Her barrister, John Femi Ola, KC, had a tear in his eyes outside the court as he hugged one of the Senator's sons.

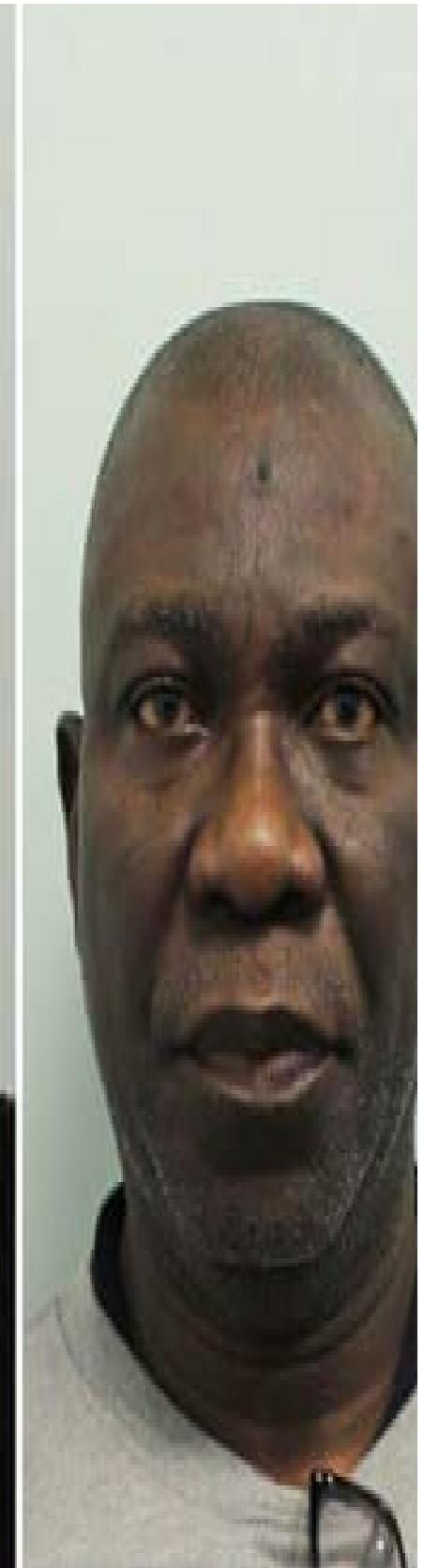
The day unfolded less than an hour after the 12 jurors resumed their deliberations in the jury room soon after 10:00am. At about 10:47 (UK time), one of the security guards outside the four courtrooms on the second floor informed that "there's a verdict in court 5." Prior to then, there had been an announcement over the public address system that "all the parties in the Ekweremadu's case should be in court 5, immediately." Since the jury was sent out on Monday afternoon, that tone had never been used whenever the jury needed to come back to court.

After family and friends were led into the courtroom, things moved speedily from then. At 10.51, the court usher made the familiar announcement: "jury in court." All the 12 filed out into courtroom, led by the foreman. The graveyard-like silence was tangible from the moment the court clerk faced the dock and said, could "all the defendants please stand?" All four got on their feet in the dock.

The clerk turned to the jury, saying, "Mr. foreman, please stand. The tall gentleman did the needful. She now asked him, members of the jury, "what is your verdict on the first defendant, Obinna Obeta? He said "guilty."

Continuing, she asked, "members of the jury, what is your verdict on the second defendant, Ike Ekweremadu?" He replied with "guilty."

She repeated the question again, asking: "what is your verdict regarding Sonia Ekweremadu?" The foreman said: "not guilty." Finally, the clerk asked the foreman: "what is your verdict concerning Beatrice Ekweremadu?" Foreman said: "guilty."



Tyrese Reacts To Girlfriend Zelie Timothy Claiming She Was Originally 'More Interested' In Paul Walker

Entertainment



By: Seyi Awoleye
Los Angeles, CA
USA

Tyrese Gibson learned some interesting facts recently about his girlfriend, Zelie Timothy, who claims she was initially “more interested” in his late *Fast & The Furious* co-star Paul Walker.

The 44-year-old actor’s Instagram model girlfriend made the revelation during an Instagram Live together. Zelie, 28, said Tyrese “wasn’t my type at all,” before adding her “type (was) actually Paul Walker.” “He wasn’t my type at all,” Zelie said of Tyrese. “My type is actually Paul Walker, rest in peace. He wasn’t my type at all. And my type is not white. I was just more interested in Paul.”

Walker appeared alongside Tyrese in multiple *Fast & the Furious* films before dying in a 2013 car accident.

However, Zelie wrenched her beau’s heart even more after revealing it was definitely not love and first sight between her and Tyrese.

“Even when I met him, I was like, ‘Eh, he’s kinda old.’ I just like his smile,” Zelie shared, while rubbing an upset-looking Tyrese’s shoulders. “His personality was OK, but he didn’t understand the Instagram model thing. He would always talk down on Instagram models.”

“You Wanted The Homie? You Didn’t Want Me” Tyrese Responds Upon Learning Of GF’s Original Preference

Tyrese tried to be a good sport about it, however, and playfully pushed Zelie away saying ‘Don’t touch me’ after learning of her initial preferences.

“This just went really bad really fast. So you wanted the homie? You didn’t want me,” Tyrese replied.



Aretha Franklin Was A Known Diva Who Crossed Quite A Few People



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

Aretha Franklin was a shady diva. The Queen of Soul has a reputation dating back years for her snide remarks to fellow singers and public figures. Not many have the fondest memories of the “RESPECT” vocalist, and it has almost resulted in physical altercations a few times. Let’s take a look at some of Ms. Franklin’s shadiest moments.

Aretha was never one to mince words regarding her opinion of others. While she is no longer with it, social media has kept her memory alive in resurfaced interviews of her doing what she does best. While talking with the Wall Street Journal in 2014, Aretha was asked to give her opinion on some of music’s current divas. The interview was meant to be a quick response type where she said the first thing that came to mind. When asked her opinion on country-pop sensation, Taylor Swift, Franklin iconically responded, “Great gowns, beautiful gowns.” The answer sparked memes that are circulating to this day. When it came to Nicki Minaj, Franklin struggled to muster anything nice and responded, “Nicki Minaj, hmm ... now I’m gonna pass on that one.”

Regarding Patti LaBelle, Aretha always seemed to have an issue with her. During the same year, she gave us “beautiful gowns,” Aretha also attended a White House event for Women of Soul. While walking to the stage for her number, Franklin was warm and smiling at the people lining her pathway. However, when she reached Patti LaBelle, all she offered her was a stiff look up and down before moving forward. Patti cleared up later on Drink Champs, calling it all a misunderstanding.

“The time that she did the White House, she wasn’t feeling great,” Patti told N.O.R.E. “After the White House, we spoke on the phone. She called me because she wanted to have her items in Walmart.” Patti has a great relationship with the chain, which houses her line of desserts. “We talked

about food; we talked about recording together this is after the White House.”

Aretha sat down with shock jock Wendy Williams for an interview on her talk show during one of its early seasons. During the discussion, Franklin threw several shady digs at Williams, joking that Williams could not afford the bill for their dinner because she was not making enough money yet. When Williams implied that Franklin might still be gullible when it comes to love, Franklin clapped back, saying, “you be stupid. Not me.”

T-Boz says she caught Franklin’s bitchy side early on in her career. During a ceremony celebrating music, Aretha was supposed to stand on a podium next to T-Boz. For whatever reason, Franklin did not want to stand next to her and asked that her podium be moved.

T-Boz, who was still in her tomboy phase, decided to wear something sexy for the event. When she walked out on stage after Aretha, the crowd gasped at how nice she looked. Aretha then says, “you think she looks good? I used to look like that but better.” T-Boz says it took seeing her mother’s worried face in the crowd to remind her to keep it together and not hit Aretha.

Aretha Franklin, who died Aug. 16, 2018, at the age of 76, was just 18 years old in 1960 (pictured) when she set out to become a professional singer. What followed was an unparalleled and legendary career that saw her crowned the Queen of Soul.



Method Man Reveals Key To Staying Married 21 Years: Stay Private & Keep People Out Of Your Business

Entertainment



By: Seyi Awoloye
Los Angeles, CA
USA

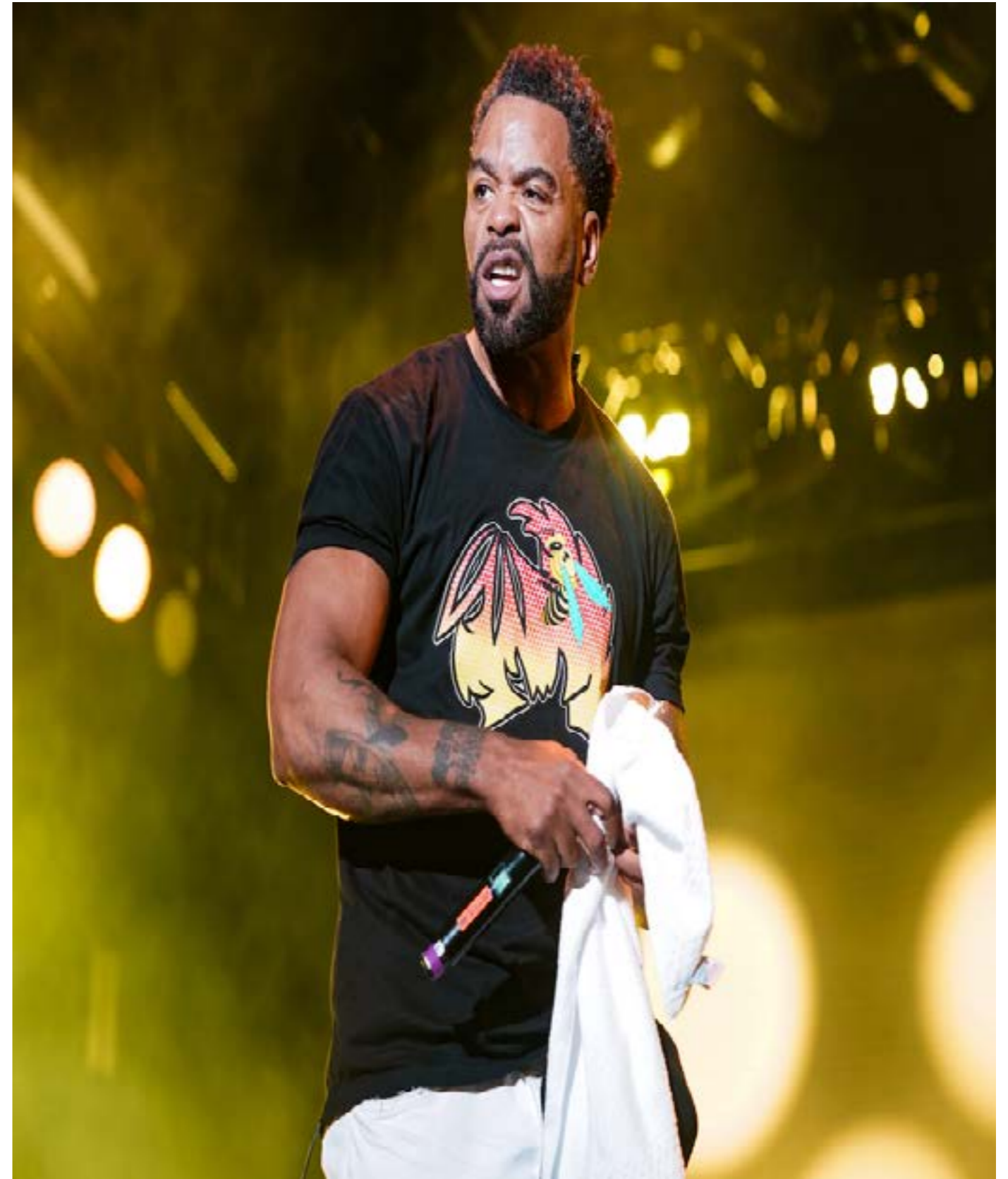
Method Man has made an even huge transition from rapper to acting in not so far years. The Wu-Tang frontman spent years on record and on our screen shooting a variety of various characters. Currently he is honing in even more and developing the next step of his career. Part of his refreshed persona is talking about his private life and 21-year wedding.

Now, starring in *Power Book II: Ghost*, Method Man is also stepping into the role of Supreme in the film *On the Come-Up*. Produced by Sanaa Lathan, the film centers around a young women looking to become a successful rapper.

Meth not so far stopped by Sherri Shephard's show to promote it. Sporting a white turtle neck and leather pants, Method Man has come a far way from the oversized jerseys and sneakers of his heyday.

The changes has been gradual and intentional and was commemorated with a digital aroma shoot a year ago that again introduced him to the world with the caption, "this man means business." Taken a back by the suaver Meth, Sherri trolled that she was not sure how to mention him in his current look. "Method Man is what brings them to the church, but Clifford Smith is what keeps them coming back."





Zlatan Shares Family Photos On Son's Third Birthday



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

Entertainment

Singer Zlatan Shares Family Photos On Son's Third Birthday

Music star, Zlatan, has shared pictures of his family on his son, Shiloh's third birthday.

The singer shared pictures of himself, his lover, Davita, and his son via his Instagram account on Wednesday to commemorate the day.

He wrote, "Your presence is the greatest gift we've ever received. We thank God every day for you. Happy birthday, our dear son SHILOH"





QORHC Awards 2023 | Honouring Women in Dancehall & Entertainment

Entertainment



**By:Gbenga Teejay
Okunlola
London,UK**

Jamaica's highly anticipated QORHC (Queens of Reggae Island Honorary Ceremonies) celebrated its sixth anniversary on Sunday, March 26, 2023, at the Courtleigh Auditorium, and what a night it was!

The event, which recognizes the achievements of women in reggae, dancehall, and entertainment, was a huge success, with an impressive line-up of Jamaica's top female stars and industry trailblazers taking to the stage to perform and accept awards. This year's event was hosted by popular Radio Personality Russell Alexander also known as ZJ Rush and Public and Motivational Speaker Melissa Rickards who made the perfect pair for the diverse event.

The evening was filled with electrifying performances and unforgettable moments as the Queens of Reggae Island were honored for their talent and hard work. This year's event was even more special, as it marked six years of recognizing the incredible contributions of women to the vibrant Jamaican music scene.

The Courtleigh Auditorium was buzzing with excitement as guests cheered and applauded the amazing women being honored. In signature QORHC Fashion, a video was played that highlighted the Queen as they each spoke about their journey in the Industry and what being honoured meant to them. The list of honorees this year was quite extensive as it combined the 2022 and 2023 Queens due to a delay of the event because of COVID-19 Pandemic.

Sophia Jones – Fashion Designer/Maker
Yumika Gabe – Radio Disc Jockey, Selector
Gem Myers- Reggae Artist

Donna P. Hope – Editor, Professor of Dancehall Culture
Sherine "Sher Luxury Doll" Scarlett – Dancer, Entertainment
Mitzie Williams – Media
Yendi Phillips – Public Figure
Brick & Lace – Reggae Pop Artists, Songwriters
It was truly a night to remember, filled with glitz, glamour, and pure entertainment.

As we look back on this unforgettable celebration, we salute the Queens of Reggae Island for their unwavering dedication to their craft and for being shining examples of strength, resilience, and creativity.
Here's to many more years of QORHC!





HAUTE



Gabonese student killed in Turkey

By: James Osondu
Bureau-Chief
Sofia, Bulgaria



Politics

The death of a Gabonese student in Turkey, confirmed by her embassy and her university, provokes strong emotion among the African students welcomed in increasing numbers in the country.

The body of the young woman, 18-year-old Jeannah Danys Dinabongho Ibouanga, was found on Saturday in a river near a railway line, not far from the University of Karabük (north) where she was studying mechanical engineering, report Turkish media.

According to initial findings, the young woman died “drowned” and no other injuries or traces of sexual violence were identified.

The exact cause of death should be specified after an autopsy, the report of which is expected “in the coming days”, indicates the private channel NTV.

The Gabonese embassy in Ankara confirmed the death of the young woman on Wednesday, without further details but promising that she “will communicate later”.

The Gabonese Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed, in a press release read on Gabonese television, its “dismay and deep concern (after) the assassination of our compatriot”, specifying that its representation in Turkey had received instructions from demand an autopsy and the opening of a judicial inquiry into this tragedy.

The rector of Karabük University published a message of condolence on the establishment’s website, in Turkish and French, assuring that the young woman was “much loved by her friends and professors”.

On Twitter, the hashtag #JusticepourDina spread among African students at her university, several dozen of whom demonstrated on the premises of the establishment, brandishing portraits of the victim.

In a voicemail, billed on Twitter as a call from ‘Dina’ to her mother, the crying student pleaded with her mother to let her go to Sakarya University, less than two hours’ drive east from Istanbul: “There is no racism there”, said the young woman.

Turkey, whose President Recep Tayyip Erdogan deploys intense diplomatic and economic activity in Africa, welcomes more than 61,000 students from the continent (compared to 40,000 in 2019), most of them benefiting from scholarships, indicated Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Cavusoglu visited South Africa last month, according to his remarks reported by the official Anadolu agency.

The minister then underlined that Ankara saw in education “the main axis of cooperation with the continent”.



Oladipo Diya, Abacha's ex-No 2, is dead



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

Oladipo Diya, who was the Chief of General Staff to former military dictator, Sani Abacha, is dead. Diya died at the age of 79.

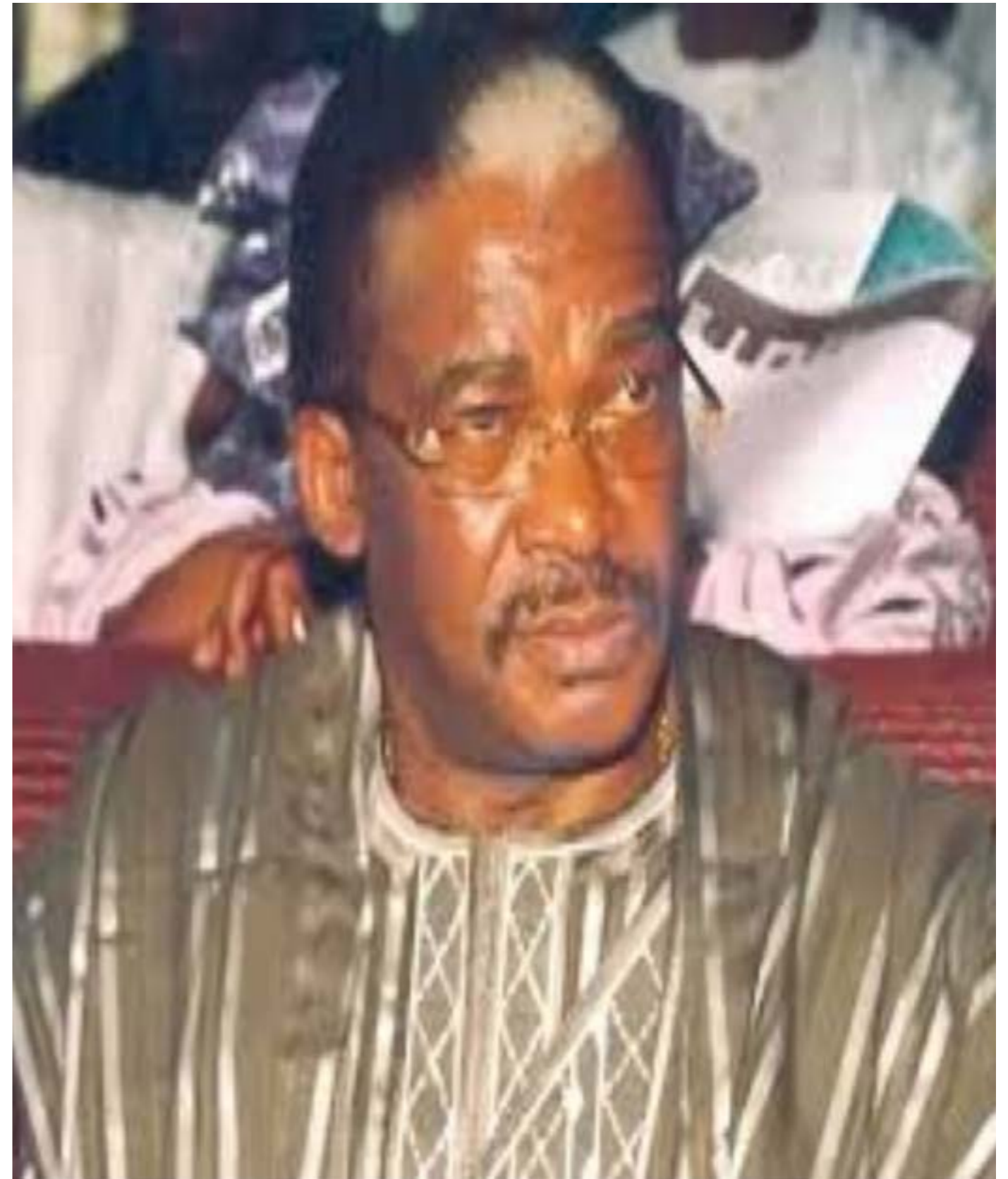
Oyesinmilola Diya, in a statement signed on behalf of the family, said Diya died in the early hours of Sunday.

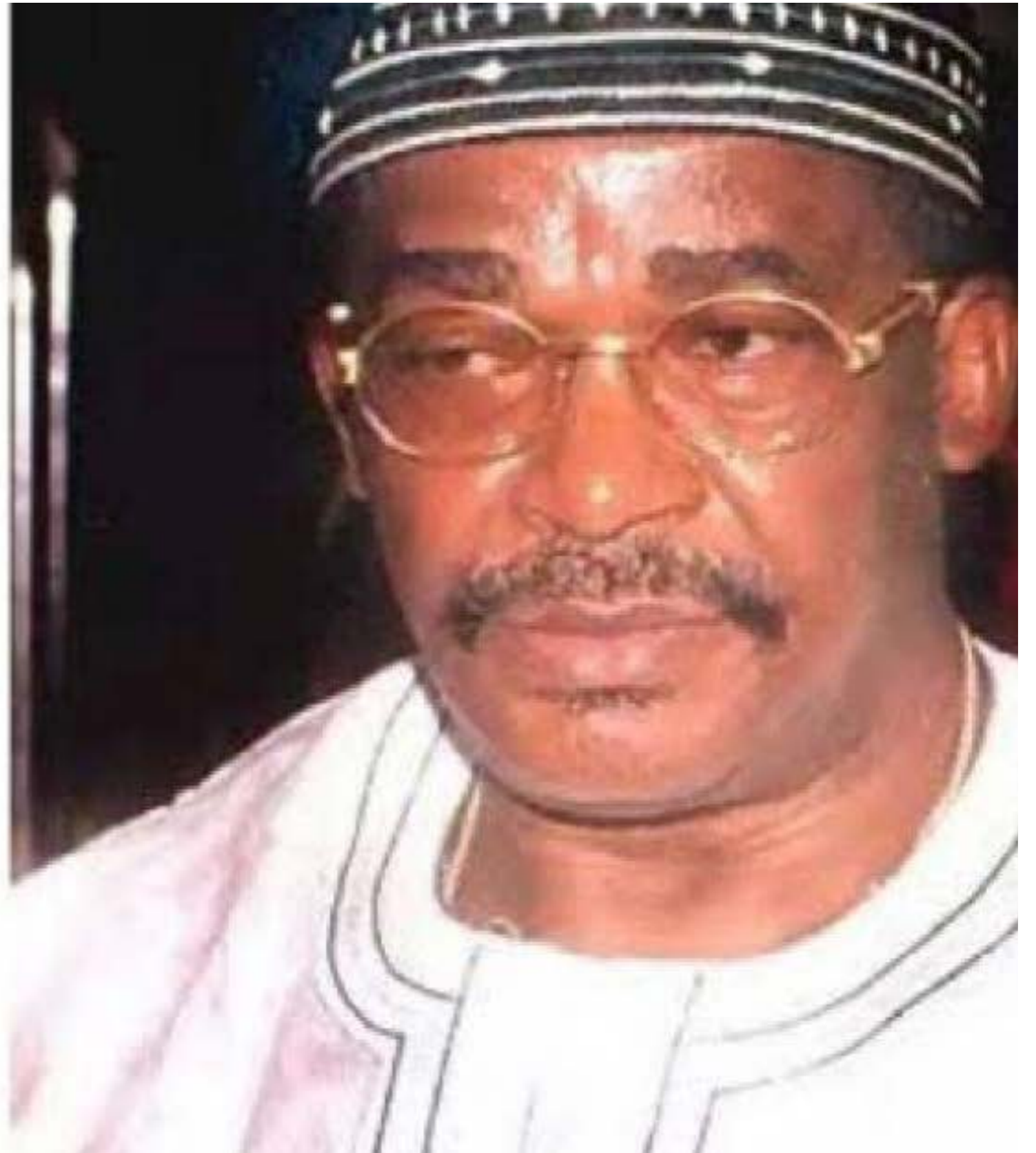
“On behalf of the entire Diya family home and abroad; We announce the passing on to Glory of our dear Husband, father, grandfather, brother, Lt-General Donaldson Oladipo Oyeyinka Diya (Rtd) GCON, LLB, BL, PSC, FSS, mni,” the statement reads.

“Our dear Daddy passed onto glory in the early hours of 26th March 2023.”Please keep us in your prayers as we mourn his demise in this period. Further announcements will be made public in due course.”

He was the Chief of the General Staff between 1994 and 1997. However, he was arrested for treason in 1997.

Diya and some soldiers in the military allegedly planned to overthrow the regime of Abacha, and Diya and his cohorts were jailed. He was tried in a military tribunal and was given the death penalty. However, this was overturned after the untimely death of Abacha in 1998 by his successor, Abdusalami Abubakar. During his time in the army, Diya also served as chief of defence staff and was the military governor of Ogun state from January 1984 to August 1985. The late Lt. General Diya, soldier and lawyer, was born Monday, 3 April, 1944 in Odogbolu, Ogun State, South-west Nigeria.





Met cop who guarded Kate Middleton convinced there are still 'evil men' in the force

By:Linda R. Jones
London,UK

The former Police Officer of the Year warned a 'wall of silence' is protecting corrupt cops like David Carrick and Wayne Couzens. A decorated former police officer who spent 17 years working for the Metropolitan Police and once guarded Kate Middleton, the Princess of Wales, has warned there are still "evil men" like David Carrick and Wayne Couzens hiding in the force.

Ricky Haruna, who was a police constable for Britain's biggest force and was awarded several commendations, has lifted the lid on her own experiences there.

A decorated former Metropolitan Police officer who guarded members of the Royal Family - including Kate, Princess of Wales - is convinced there are still "evil men" like Wayne Couzens and David Carrick embedded in the force who are "hiding in plain sight".

Ricky Haruna, 46, a former police officer of the year, has claimed there is a "wall of silence" running through the ranks of Britain's biggest police force protecting the likes of Sarah Everard's killer Couzens and serial rapist Carrick. The former officer has lifted the lid on her own experiences during her 17-year career as a police constable at Scotland Yard.

"I was trusted to guard Kate Middleton when she was dating Prince William. It was such a serious role - yet I had colleagues whose behaviour was absolutely reprehensible. Why would you put these guys in such a position of power and trust?"

The bombshell revelations from Ms Haruna come after a damning report published last week condemned the Met as institutionally racist, misogynistic and homophobic.

The review's author, Baroness Louise Casey, called on the parliamentary and diplomatic protection command in which Couzens and Carrick both worked to be disbanded. Ms Haruna said: "Sadly, and I've seen it all with my own eyes. There's a wall of silence in the Met that protects these awful characters. You look at Carrick and the things he did.

Crime

That wasn't by chance."He was a repeat offender able to work unchecked and keep getting away with it. He was complained about and nothing happened - that just gave him even more confidence to carry out increasingly evil crimes while wearing the badge. "It's this culture that allows people like him and Couzens to do what they did. It starts with smaller behaviours that go unchecked and become more sinister."

Ms Haruna had to endure battles with racism after joining the Metropolitan Police as a PC in 2002, the Mirror has reported.



People Are Still Making Money Off Late Rapper Tupac Shakur's Legacy 27 Years Later

Entertainment



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



Tupac Shakur is a legendary rapper who left us too soon according to fans. However, when it comes to those who have fallen in charge of his estate and likeness, Pac continues to bring in money every year despite being gone over 27 years now. How is it that Tupac continues to bring in so much cash, and who is benefiting off of it?

Tupac recorded a ton of music prior to his passing in 1996. He released four albums while still alive, including the classics *Me Against The World* and *All Eyez On Me*. Since his passing, six albums have been released, two more than he dropped living. These albums were released through Interscope records, making the label heads there tons of money. In addition to albums released in his name, there have also been books, a clothing line, movies, and more geared toward helping people get rich off his legacy.

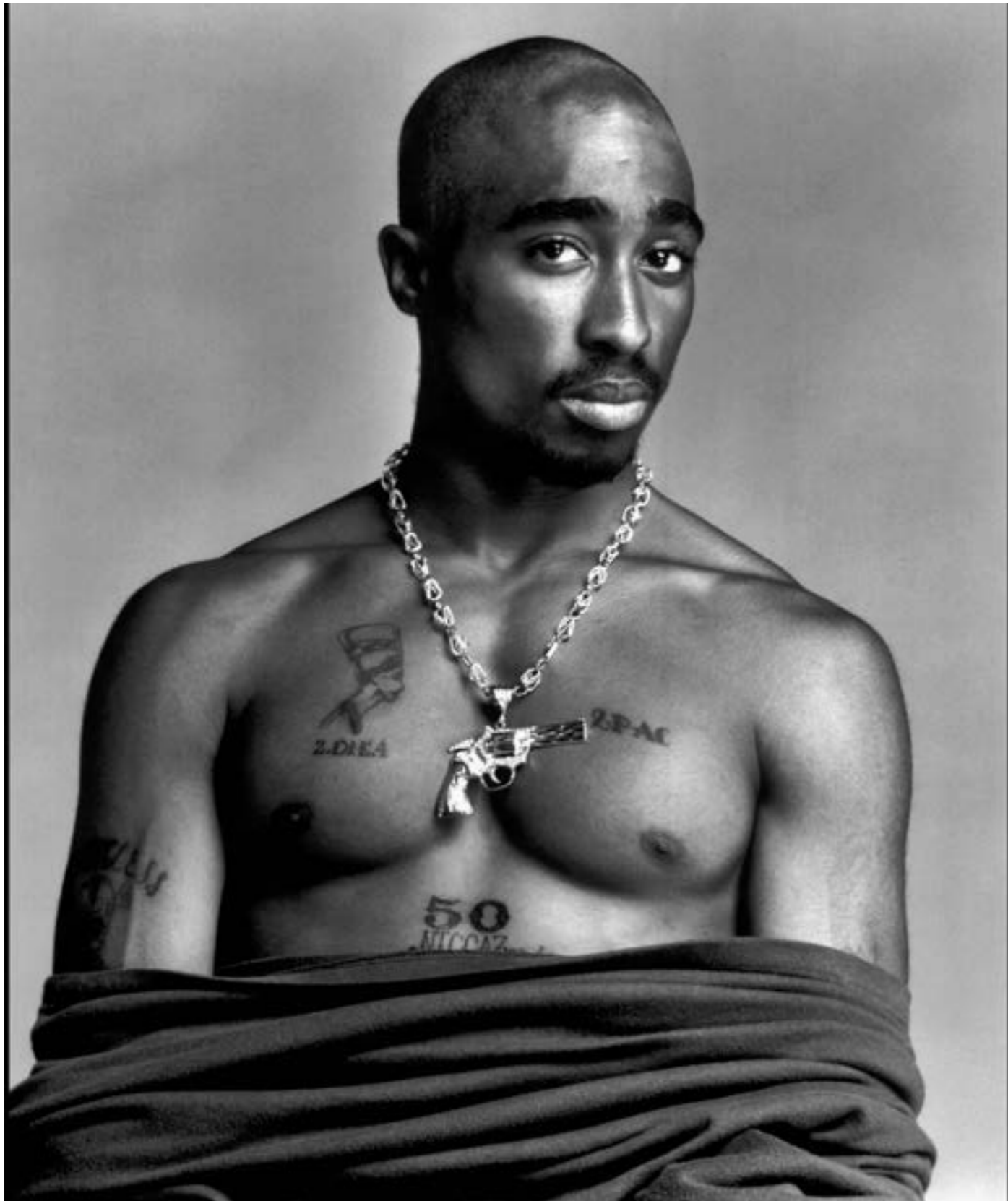
The label also profited off a live performance film they released in 2005 and an "interactive biography" that featured poems, family photos, and more. The most famous use of Tupac Shakur's likeness to make money was at the 2012 Coachella Festival, where they premiered a hologram of the West Coast legend. The whole thing took place during a set by Snoop Dogg and featured a hologram that looked just like Tupac. Fans were stunned at its likeness.

It is not just the labels making millions on Tupac; fans and people close to him are too. One search of "Tupac memorabilia" yields thousands of results. Some sites are selling posters and figurines of the rap legend, including bobbleheads and action figures. There are other sites looking for people with autographs from the star and willing to pay thousands for them. One website reports that "an original Tupac Shakur autograph, on a letter from 1995, sold for almost \$10,000."

Three years ago, a video was published discussing the highest prices people have paid for Tupac memorabilia. Tupac's first record contract from 1991 with record label TNT was auctioned off for \$8,000 and featured his signature three times. A Dolce and Gabbana jacket he was frequently seen wearing in the '90s was sold for \$8k after his passing. A gold Death Row chain he wore in his lifetime was eventually sold for big bucks, too, thanks to it being featured on his album covers. The chain was estimated to be around \$7k but was auctioned for \$15k.

The latest person looking to cash in on some Tupac craze is an ex-girlfriend who allegedly has intimate images of the late rapper. While Pac posed partially clothed for David LaChapelle, this woman claims she has the full monty and is willing to sell these photos for the right price. It is rumored that Pac liked to flash people and that this particular picture was taken at a house party in 1990.

The woman selling the photo has an edited version of it up on an auction site with other pictures from the evening proving it is Pac's. She is asking for \$7,500. The auction is reportedly closed and it is unclear if she ever made money off the pictures.



SPORT UPDATE:

Sports

Okocha Made Ball Listen To Him, We Always Watch Him – Ronaldinho

Ronaldinho: “Jay Jay Okocha, woow !! that man made football to listen to him. At Training we would watch him doing a freestyle, whatever he wanted the ball to do, the ball would do it. But his problem is that he was too keen to move to England. I didn't like the decision.”

Jay Jay Okocha was arguably the best player to play in his era...He was included in Pele's football legends alive.Man was so good, he was called TWICE 'Jay Jay' Captain Jay Jay Okocha... We love you



Gabriel Batistuta Was My Greatest Enemy, He Made Me Wear Enyeama's Boots - Ike Shorunmu

Sports



By: Kayode Okunlola F.
Senior writer
Lagos, Nigeria

When asked, in a chat with The Punch, who was the toughest striker he ever faced, Shorunmu said;

"It was definitely Gabriel Batistuta. I first came face to face with him when I was with FC Zurich in 1997 when we went for pre-season in Italy and we played against Fiorentina.

"It was like a tug-of-war between him and my defenders and even though he is an Argentine he played like an African. Again, I faced him at the World Cup in 2002 in Korea.

"The first 20 minutes of that game was tough and we had a collision and my boot got torn. I had 60 per cent advantage of getting to the ball first, but all of a sudden, I don't know how it happened, Batistuta got there before me and I rushed out and tore my boot.

"I had to collect Vincent Enyeama's boots to continue the game because I didn't have extra boots. He was the toughest striker I ever faced, no doubt about it."

Ike Ibrahim Shorunmu is a former Nigerian football goalkeeper. Shorunmu was born in Lagos. After a few years in Nigeria he moved to play in Switzerland, and made his mark there.





Parole board refuses early release for convicted killer Oscar Pistorius

Sports



By:Gbenga
Teejay Okunlola
London,UK

The former Olympic and Paralympic athlete, known as the Blade Runner, had applied for parole after serving half of his jail term. Disgraced South African sprinter Oscar Pistorius has been denied early release from prison, ten years after he was convicted of killing his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

Pistorius, who is serving more than 13 years for her murder, applied for a parole hearing last year, arguing that he had served more than half his sentence.

But on Friday the board, which includes representatives from the prison service, police and civilians, ruled that he will have to stay in prison for at least another year and four months after it was decided that he had not served the "minimum detention period" required to be released.

The parole board hearing Pistorius' application ruled he would be able to apply again in August 2024, South Africa's Department of Corrections said in a statement. The board cited a new clarification on Pistorius' sentence that was issued by South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal three days ago, according to the statement.

The result was a surprise but there has been legal wrangling over when Pistorius should be eligible for parole because of the series of appeals in his case. He was initially convicted of culpable homicide, a charge comparable to manslaughter, in 2014 but the case went through a number of appeals before Pistorius was finally sentenced to 13 years and five months in prison for murder in 2017.

Tania Koen, a lawyer for the Steenkamp family, told reporters: "I can confirm that parole has been denied, they will reconvene in a year to reconsider him again and we don't know the reasons yet [for the denial]."

"I've just received a call from the parole board It is a huge sense of relief for June."

Steenkamp's parents still believe he is lying about their daughter's killing and opposed the former Olympic runner's application for parole, their lawyer said Friday.

"Unless he comes clean, they don't feel that he is rehabilitated," lawyer Tania Koen told reporters outside the Atteridgeville Correctional Centre prison in Pretoria, where Pistorius has been incarcerated since 2016 and where his parole hearing took place Friday.

"He's the killer of their daughter. For them, it's a life sentence," Koen said before the hearing.

Earlier, Reeva's mother June Steenkamp told Sky News that Pistorius was "not remorseful or rehabilitated" ahead of the hearing.





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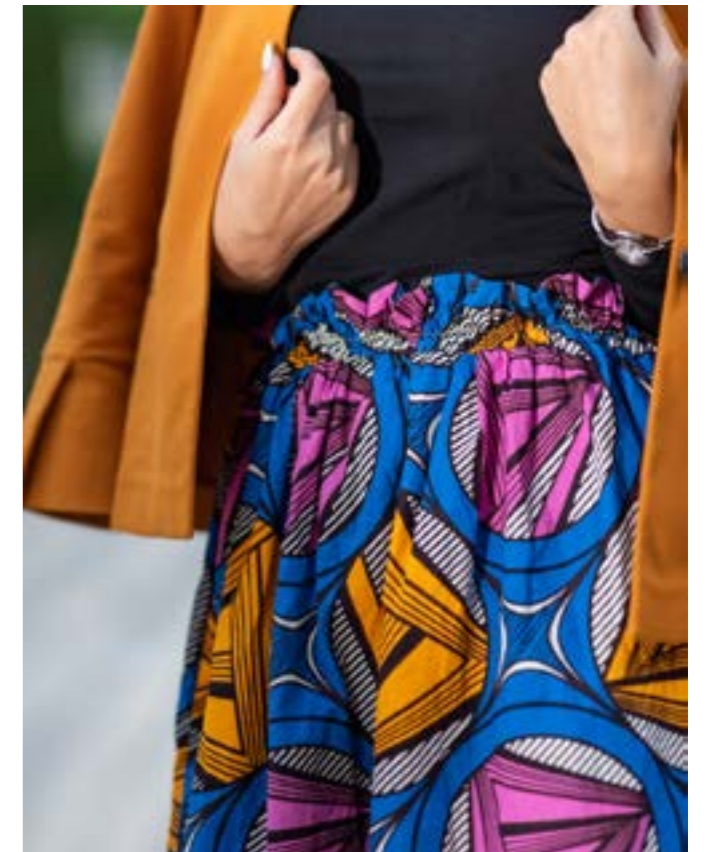
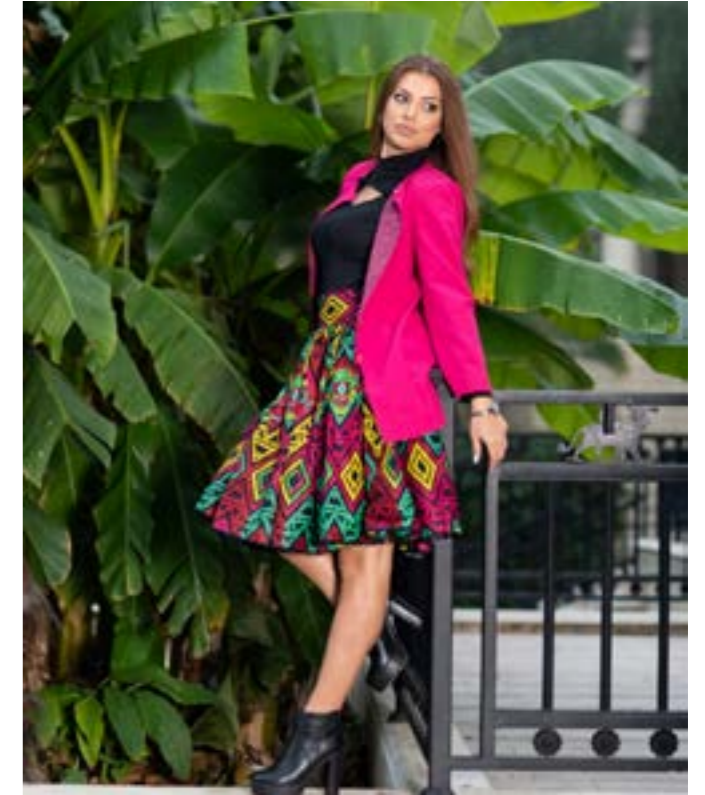
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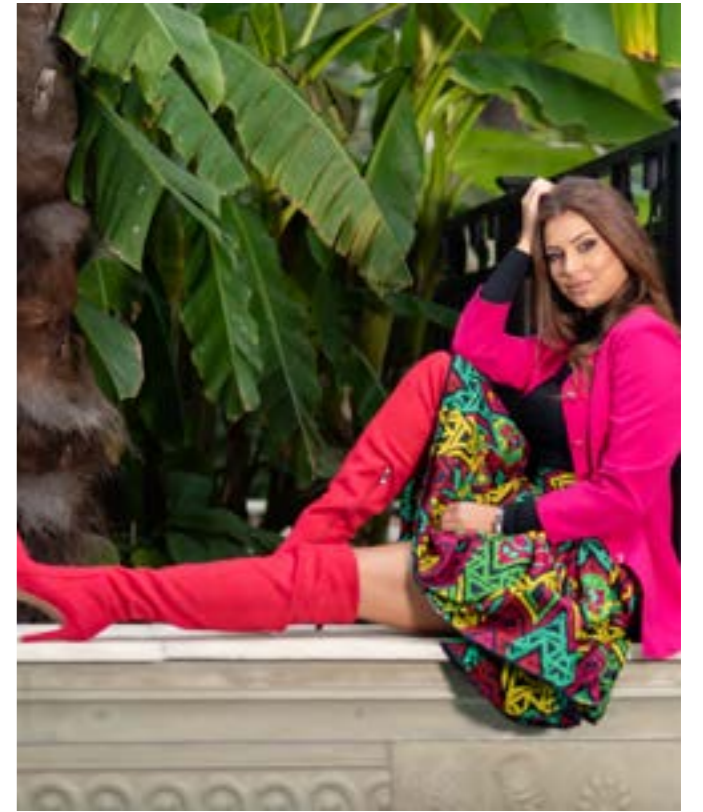
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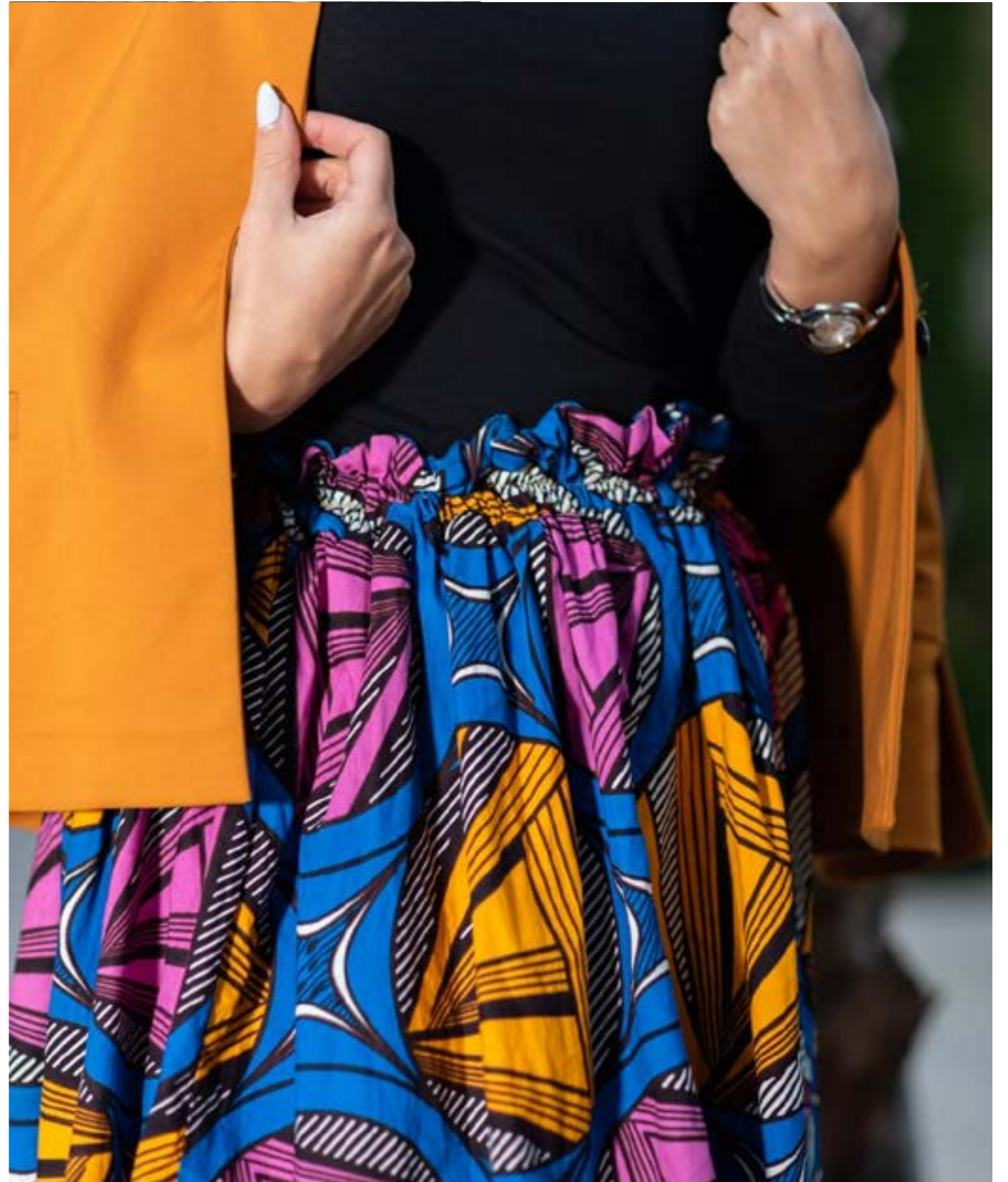
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Anthony Joshua beats Jermaine Franklin by unanimous decision

By: Edward Collins
Senior Writer
London, UK

Sports



Anthony Joshua has beaten Jermaine Franklin on the judges' scorecards after a gruelling 12 round contest. Going into the fight, Anthony Joshua needed to make a statement with many hoping for a vintage 'AJ' knockout which made him a huge star in boxing.

Under the watchful eyes of new trainer Derrick James, it was clear that the Texan wanted Joshua to utilise his devastating right hand by probing Franklin with the jab in the opening round.

Franklin tried to combat this by establishing his own jab, but whenever the American looked to go on the offensive, Joshua capitalised with some shots of his own targeting the body.

As the fight progressed through the middle rounds, Joshua's right hand became more prevalent and while they were landing, Franklin was still standing akin to his meeting with Dillian Whyte late last year.

Credit has to be given to Franklin, the majority of fans expected him to not make it past six rounds against the former unified world champion and it looked like an early night was on the cards in the sixth when a Joshua right uppercut narrowly missed his opponent.

In heavyweight boxing, stamina is vital and despite losing a significant amount of weight for this fight, Franklin was showing signs of tiredness from round eight onwards and this led to a rather messy conclusion.

Clinches aplenty, Franklin looked to keep the fight at close range. While this strategy seemed to be working, the 29-year-old rocked Franklin with another right uppercut in the tenth.

This sparked a sense of anticipation in the sold out O2 Arena crowd for the final two rounds. They have seen these classic Joshua finishes many times before and maybe their support would be the extra boost he needed to end the fight early.

But that early finish never came, and the fight went to the judges' scorecards with two officials scoring the fight 117-111 and the other 118-111 in the Brit's favour.

As expected, WBC world heavyweight champion Tyson Fury's name was mentioned post-fight as a possible next opponent for Joshua and it is the one fans are crying out for. However, it's clear there is still plenty to develop when it comes to the relationship between Joshua and his new trainer Derrick James, and maybe pushing for a world title shot in the Summer is a step too far.

But as the sun sets on this new dawn for Anthony Joshua's career, the heavyweight division will be grateful to see the 33-year-old return to winning ways and hopefully brings some order to boxing's most glamorous after a chaotic couple of weeks.





World Happiness Day: Nigerians and laughing in pain

Happy Country



**By: Joy Gofwen,
Lagos
Bureau Chief**

Nigeria reminds one of a scene in the legendary 1994 Lion King animation when Simba and Nala went beyond the pride rock and were chased by the hyenas. They were obviously in danger because they had gone to the hyenas den. When Zazu the bird, their guard, told them how much danger they were in, Simba said, "I laugh in the face of danger," and went on to laugh.

Such is the typical case of Nigerians, we laugh in the face of our challenges.

Unarguably, Nigerians are happy people and regardless of the ugly situation the country seems to be in, we find happy moments in them.

It is no news that Nigeria is plagued by so many issues yet, even in the face of all these challenges, Nigeria ranks 95th happiest country in the world and sixth happiest country in Africa, with 4.981 points, according to the latest edition of the World Happiness Report, recently released.

One would wonder what is there for Nigerians to be happy about when they pray for basic amenities such as light, water, good roads and good healthcare among many other issues. These amenities are basic things that every government should provide for its citizens yet, they are only wishful thoughts for Nigerians.

Recently, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) backed by the federal government redesign the N1000, N500 and N200 notes and retrieved the old ones from the public. This move by the CBN has almost thrown the country into chaos. This is an example of many policies the government often make that further increases the hardship on citizens.

For more than a decade, North East Nigeria has been a war zone with many people displaced and living in Internally Displace Persons camps (IDPs).

Kidnapping and banditry has been rocking the country, the fuel scarcity and the price hike and most recently, the outcome of the general elections that has left the country a little unsettled. These and many other challenges are good reasons to make Nigerians sad and pathetic people yet, we are thriving and among the happiest nations in the world.

According to the reports, Mauritius tops African countries with 5.902 points, Algeria (5.329), South Africa (5.275), Congo Brazzaville (5.267), Guinea (5.072), Cote d'Ivoire (5.053) and Gabon (5.035).

Again, Finland remains world's happiest country. The nation, which houses 5.5 million people, has held the title for six years in a row. The United Kingdom dropped to 19th, two places behind the last ranking, while the United States jumped up one place to 15th and France dropped out of the top 20.

Scientists behind the report concluded that the COVID-19 pandemic has not made us unhappier. The report is now in its 11th year.

It assigns a happiness score on a scale of zero to 10, based on an average over a three-year period. This year, the authors also used data from social media to compare people's emotions before and after the COVID-19 crisis.

Eight of the 10 happiest nations were found in Europe, with Denmark scooping second place, at 7.58 points.

It was followed by Iceland, Israel and The Netherlands, which recorded scores of 7.53, 7.47 and 7.40, respectively. Canada, which was ranked 13th, went two places up. Lithuania is the only new country in the top 20, rising more than 30 places since 2017. War-scarred Afghanistan and Lebanon remain the two unhappiest countries in the survey, retaining bottom spots, with average life evaluations more than five points lower than in the 10 happiest countries.

Sierra Leone also fared poorly, falling to 135th position, ranking the third unhappiest country with 3.14 points.

March 20 is the International Day of Happiness, a day set aside by the United Nations and the World Happiness report is a publication of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. The network draws survey data from people in more than 150 countries.

The report rank countries happiness based on their average life evaluations over three preceding years and in this case, 2020 to 2022.

The report indicated that global happiness has not taken a hit in the three years of the Covid-19 pandemic and life evaluations from 2020 to 2022 have been "remarkably resilient," the report says.

John Helliwell, a co-author of the report told CNN in an interview that “benevolence to others, especially the helping of strangers, which went up dramatically in 2021, stayed high in 2022.

Even during these difficult years, positive emotions have remained twice as prevalent as negative ones, and feeling of positive social support twice as strong as those of loneliness,” he said.

Happiness is free and indeed, everyone deserves to be happy regardless of the situation around. Since happiness is free and not in the hands of government, Nigerians have chosen to stay happy even in the face of daring economic hardship and other challenges.





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This advertisement features a clear plastic bottle of LEDINA Spring water with a blue cap, positioned in the foreground. The bottle is set against a background of a cascading waterfall over large, grey rocks. The water in the bottle is clear and bubbly. The text 'FOLLOW the nature, FOLLOW the life' is written in white, sans-serif font in the upper right. The LEDINA logo and 'Spring water for daily use' are on the bottle's label. At the bottom, contact information and the manufacturer's name are provided in a white box.

FOLLOW the nature,
FOLLOW the life

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has been created
with care for the nature

LEDINA
Spring water
for daily use

This advertisement features a clear plastic bottle of LEDINA Spring water with a blue cap, positioned in the foreground. The bottle is set against a background of a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees, creating a bokeh effect. The text 'FOLLOW the nature, FOLLOW the life' is written in white, sans-serif font in the upper right. Below it, a quote reads: '„LEDINA“ spring water has been created with care for the nature'. The LEDINA logo and 'Spring water for daily use' are on the bottle's label. The bottom of the image has a blue wavy graphic element.



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MODEL : DS-16079
L1200MM W1000MM H1200MM



MODEL : DS-16091
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L2000MM W1300MM H700MM



MODEL : DS-16154
L430MM W410MM H430MM



MODEL : BZ-00011
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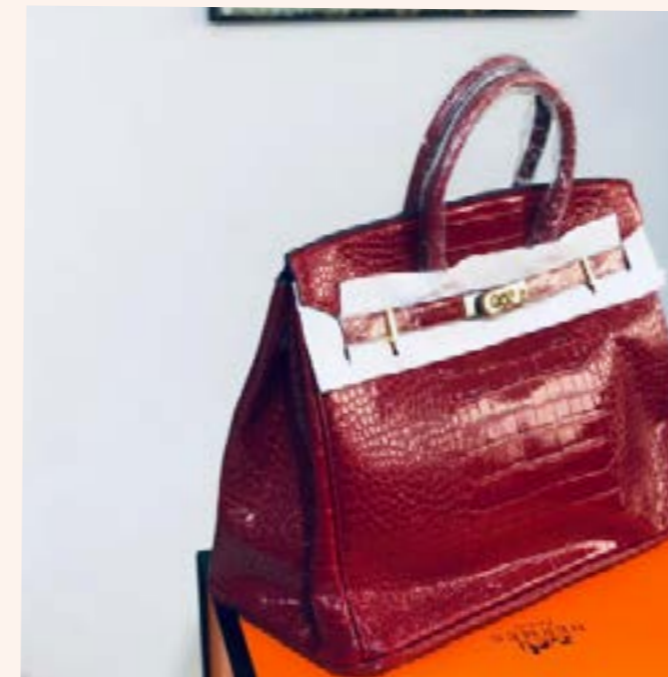
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HOW TO BECOME A BULGARIAN PERMANENT RESIDENT OR CITIZEN BY WAY OF PURCHASING PROPERTY

By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola & Albena Jones

Although EU citizens can travel and work freely throughout the EU member states, there are still some restrictions in place for those who wish to relocate permanently and for those who are from "third countries", meaning non-EEA countries and people who are not Swiss citizens. Did you know that if you bought a Bulgarian property or business you can obtain permanent citizenship? The recommended way, is to hire a specialist law firm to arrange for immigration and deal with work permit requirements before you arrive. In addition to dealing with your permanent residency needs and work permit issues, a law firm based near your future home can also deal with arranging family permits for non-EU national family members who wish to join you. In this issue we would like to introduce you to such an opportunity. A law firm in Sofia that offer full planning services from buying or renting property, both residential and commercial all the way to assisting you with child care and education if needed.

CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT

Since 2013, Bulgaria's government has offered a immigration program that can lead to long-term residency and, where applicable, to full citizenship. Since that year, foreign investors have been spending more than 500,000 Euros or 1,000,000 BGN on amazing residential properties that represent excellent value for money and in due time they have been enjoying the benefits of being EU citizens without limitations.

Recently many have discovered the beneficial ways to obtain residency by investment is to either start or buy a company that is registered in Bulgaria. There are certain advantages doing this, as Bulgaria has one of the lowest flat tax rates in the EU (10% at the time of writing). Once the legal period of actually living in the country has been met, it is possible for

non-EU residents to apply for full citizenship. If you happen to be from a third country, investing in a Bulgarian business or investing in Bulgarian real estate can provide you with EU nationality and visa free travel throughout the whole territory of the EU. One advantage of choosing Bulgaria is that the investment is 100% refundable, if you purchase, for example, Bulgarian shares on the stock exchange or buy government bonds or similar investment vehicles. Doing so means you gain unlimited living and working rights throughout the EU territory.

It is also possible to acquire permanent residency status by investing more than 1,000,000 BGN in a Bulgarian licensed credit institution for a time of no less than 5 years or by investing at least 6,000,000 BGN in the capital of a Bulgarian company, where shares are not traded on a regulated market. Investors who get involved with large-scale development projects, such as infrastructure for example, are also able to obtain long-term residency rights. If you are planning to invest in Bulgaria, be it in a company formation, a trade representative office, a second residency opportunity for you and family or simply to retire, live and work in Bulgaria, one must consult a specialist law firm about residency, inheritance and taxation issues.

A-CHOICES recommend our legal partners DP Law Firm, who are one of the most reputable and leading multilingual law firms in Bulgaria. To familiarize yourselves review the published company profile in this issue. When contacting them quote ref: a-choices magazine.

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The advertisement features a central image of a white yogurt bottle with a purple cap and a purple label that reads 'Kottis Yogurt'. The bottle is surrounded by a dynamic splash of white milk against a vibrant purple background. In the bottom left corner, there is a small inset image showing two smaller bottles, one pink and one white. The text 'Creamy & Tasty' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, with a thumbs-up icon to its right. Below this, 'Home-made Yogurt' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, the text 'Available in both Sweetened & Unsweetened Variants' is written in a small, white, sans-serif font. Below that, 'Call/Whatsapp' is written in a medium-sized, white, sans-serif font, followed by the phone number '+234 802 033 1116' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

