

Issue Number 41, February, 2024

London, UK



# A-CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine

*An Exclusive*

## Interview

WITH AWARD-WINNING REALTOR

Why real estate remains a haven for investors amid rising inflation in Nigeria...

- Ngozi Iwuanyanwu

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



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# ABOUT US

A-CHOICES - The African Lifestyle Magazine

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

## Write for US

We're accepting submissions from writers, thinkers, makers, scholars, and readers of online publishing and editorial work. We are 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 or blogged.

Please send submissions to:

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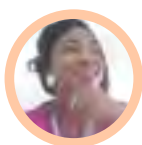
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# MEET THE TEAM



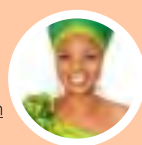
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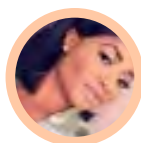
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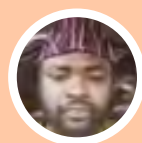
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# EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome to the February issue of A-CHOICES.

Love is the Air. The season of love is upon us! With Valentine's Day right around the corner, it's time to start planning a fun evening. And figuring out what to get that special someone for Valentine's Day. Plus, it's never too early to start thinking about making plans for date night – whether that be for February 14 or beyond.

In this edition, our special Cover Girl is a Nigerian and an award-winning realtor, Ngozi Nwuanyanwu. Ngozi has seen her fair share of ups and downs in the real estate market. In this interview, we go over how she got started in the real estate industry and what agents need to know to be top-producing agents. I found Ngozi a lovely, warm, beautiful, conscientious, professional, and gracious

interviewee.

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# AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH AWARD-WINNING REALTOR -Ngozi Iwuanyanwu

Lifestyle

By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola  
London, UK

In this edition, our special Cover Girl is a Nigerian and an award-winning realtor, Ngozi Nwuanyanwu. Ngozi has seen her fair share of ups and downs in the real estate market. In this interview, we go over how she got started in the real estate industry and what agents need to know to be top-producing agents. I found Ngozi a lovely, warm, beautiful, conscientious, professional, and gracious interviewee.



**A-CHOICES:** You are one of the youngest Real Estate entrepreneurs in Nigeria, a role model worth emulating. Please tell us what inspired you to get into this Real Estate field.

**NGOZI:** My dad inspired me as I watched him make good and bad decisions in real estate while growing up. His love for real estate rubbed off on me.

**A-CHOICES:** For some reason, real

estate remains a haven investment asset class at a time in Nigeria when inflation is sweeping across economies like a whirlwind. When inflation rises, owners of real estate assets are protected would you say that real estate is a good hedge against inflation?

**NGOZI:** It certainly is, with inflation at 28.9%, investing in money market instruments or fixed deposits cannot give yields above inflation. The only asset class that can achieve that is real estate. There is always value appreciation in real estate which helps



*Ngozi Iwuanyanwu*



to hedge against inflation.

**A-CHOICES:** Many members of the Diaspora Nigerian community are drawn to investing in Nigerian real estate. For them, it represents a means of establishing a connection with their ancestral land, contributing to local development, and potentially achieving financial security. However, managing real estate investments from abroad can present challenges. What do you have to say?

**NGOZI:** It has its peculiar challenges because they are far from home and cannot monitor the transactions if purchasing, and managing the asset when already purchased. The best way is to engage a facility management company charged with the responsibility of maintaining the

property and or collecting rent on behalf of their clients where necessary.

**A-CHOICES:** How Nigerians In Diaspora Can Invest In Real Estate In Nigeria Without Getting Scammed?

**NGOZI:** Using reputable real estate firms. Some Nigerian real estate companies have branches abroad which makes transacting easier and more convenient

**A-CHOICES:** Factors to Consider Before Investing in Nigerian Real Estate?

**NGOZI:** Your budget: how much is the property and how much can you afford? Do you have access to finance? Location: where is the property located? Is it accessible, is there water, or electricity? Security and crime rates also have to be considered. Value is also affected by location.

**Use:** what you require the house for will determine the type of property you invest in. If it is for rent, the location and size of the property need to be considered. If it's for dwelling, the number of people who would stay there needs to be taken into account. If it is commercial, it should be located close to the city centre.



**A-CHOICES: Being an Entrepreneur, How do you manage your work-life balance?**

NGOZI: I try to create time to relax and take a break from work from time to time. It's necessary to balance the 2 to avoid burnout.

**A-CHOICES: In your work, what is an average day like?**

NGOZI: I plan my day the night before, draw up a schedule or a to-do list, and pick out the Clothes to wear based on the activities for the day. If I'm going on a site inspection, I wake up early to prepare. I try to get to the site before my clients because I know how important being on time is. My day usually ends around 6 pm and I might go to the cinema or do something exciting to ease the pressure of the day.

**A-CHOICES: During the pandemic-savaged year, when home sales plunged and commercial realty was facing a tough time, how did you manage to do business during this most trying phase?**

NGOZI: Due to the pandemic, we all had to stay at home as directed by the government. Staying at home 24/7 got a

lot of people reassessing their living conditions making many people demand more comfortable and functional accommodation. So despite the pandemic, the demand for housing did not decline and a lot of sales were made during the period.

**A-CHOICES: Which people or books**



**have been pivotal in your real estate journey?**

NGOZI: Good to great by Jim Collins

**A-CHOICES: What marketing materials are considered to be a first point of contact?**

NGOZI: Complimentary card



**A-CHOICES:** Economic Freedom' means making your money work for you. It focuses on investing in assets rather than liabilities. Globally, Real estate is the greatest driver of asset accumulation. Real estate appreciates and is relatively immune to inflation. Can you expatiate on the concept of economic freedom through real estate?

NGOZI: As I had mentioned earlier, real estate is an asset that appreciates, only in rare occasions do you have a depreciation such as it was during the global financial crises of 2008, however, the impact was not greatly felt in Nigeria. A property bought at N100MM today could be worth 250MM in 5 years. No other asset class gives that level of return.

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

NGOZI: My drive to be better than I was yesterday

**A-CHOICES:** If you could inspire a movement, what would it be?

NGOZI: Kick corruption out of Nigeria

**A-CHOICES:** What would you ask for if you were granted three wishes right now?

NGOZI: Have a nursing degree, Be an authority in the real estate sector and have my own projects. Be the first female minister of housing

**A-CHOICES:** How do you stay in shape?

NGOZI: i exercise like twice a week and the running around project sites keeps you in shape whether you want it or not.

**A-CHOICES:** Your favourite designer and perfumes? Gucci Bamboo

NGOZI: Gucci Bamboo

**A-CHOICES:** What words would you use to describe a typical Beraproperties customer?

NGOZI: Discerning and smart

**A-CHOICES:** Any final words for those who are reading this?

NGOZI: Be yourself at all times. You are unique and worthy. Be consistent in all you do and learn from your mistakes



# Carl Weathers, 'Rocky's' Apollo Creed and 'Mandalorian' Actor, Dies at 76

By: **Seyi Awoleye**  
Los Angeles, USA

**A**merican actor Carl Weathers, who starred as Apollo Creed in the first four "Rocky" films opposite Sylvester Stallone, died Thursday, his manager Matt Luber confirmed. He was 76.

"We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Carl Weathers," his family said in a statement. "He died peacefully in his sleep on Thursday, February 1st, 2024. ... Carl was an exceptional human being who lived an extraordinary life. Through his contributions to film, television, the arts and sports, he has left an indelible mark and is recognized worldwide and across generations. He was a beloved brother, father, grandfather, partner and friend."

Weathers also starred in 1987's "Predator" and had a memorable role in Adam Sandler's "Happy Gilmore." He was nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Drama Series for his work in the "Star Wars" series "The Mandalorian.

Born on January 14, 1948, in New Orleans, Weathers appeared in more than 75 films and TV shows during his 50-year screen career.

Weathers showed off his comedy chops in a memorable arc on *Arrested Development*, playing a version of



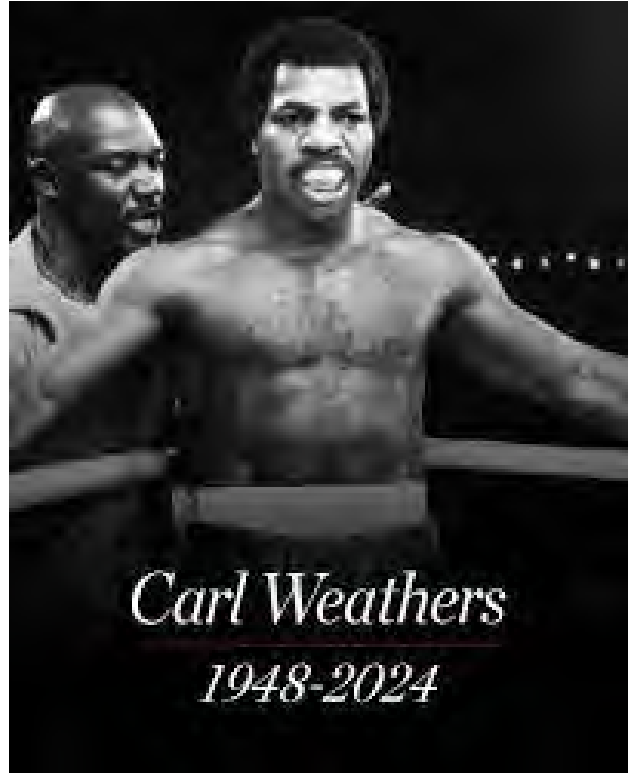
himself as an ad-hoc acting coach who proudly offered tips on saving money at everything from food buffets to airport rides. He appeared in four episodes across the Emmy-winning series' first four seasons.

He also appeared as Police Chief



Hampton Forbes in more than two dozen episodes of the 1989-95 TV series *In the Heat of the Night* starring Carroll O'Connor and Howard Rollins. Weathers was a series regular in the 1993-94 seventh and final season and appeared in the post-series telefilms.

But Weathers is best known for playing Apollo Creed, the heavyweight champion of the world who gave journeyman Philly boxer Rocky Balboa (Sylvester Stallone) a shot at the title in 1976's *Rocky*. Weathers reprised the role in *Rocky II* (1979), which featured a title rematch with Balboa, and 1982's *Rocky III*, where he trained Balboa to



fight the brutish Clubber Lang (Mr. T). Creed's final film in the franchise was *Rocky IV* (1985), where he was killed in the ring by chiseled Russian heavyweight Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren).

# Death Row inmate who survived 18 lethal injections ended up dying of something completely different

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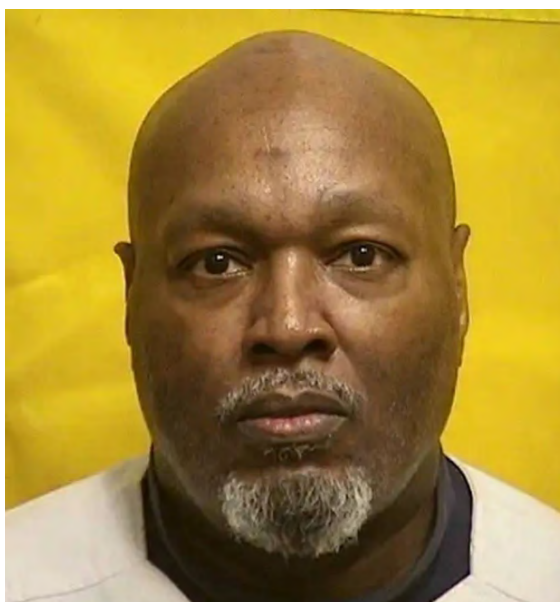
A Death Row inmate who survived his execution after 18 failed attempts to administer a lethal injection instead died behind bars of something else.

He was not the first Death Row prisoner to avoid his execution date due to a failure to deliver a lethal injection, with the recently executed Kenneth Smith surviving his first execution due to a failure with a lethal injection.

American man Romell Broom was sentenced to death for the abduction, rape and murder of 14-year-old Tryna Middleton, who he had killed in September 1984.

Broom had been paroled from prison in May of that year after raping a 12-year-old girl and committing armed robbery in 1975. He was arrested in December 1984 after assaulting and abducting an 11-year-old girl where the child's mother had held onto his car and

screamed for help. That had given two witnesses time to spot his license plate and he was arrested the same day. Broom tried to offer a deal of pleading guilty in exchange for a 30 year sentence but this offer was refused and he was sentenced to death. He spent around 25 years on Death Row before his sentence



was due to be carried out on 15 September, 2009.

However, Broom survived his execution after those meant to administer the lethal injection spent two hours and 18 attempts trying to find a vein to establish a viable IV line. Prison

staff inserted the IV 18 times but were unable to find a suitable vein, and on one attempt they instead struck bone. According to the Death Penalty Information Center, a doctor who examined Broom after the failed execution attempt described the 18 unsuccessful attempts to set an IV line as 'somewhere between malpractice and assault'. Broom then tried to challenge the state of Ohio's authority to execute him, but the state's Supreme Court judged in 2016 that he could be executed.

The first attempt to execute the convicted murderer failed after 18 attempts to deliver a lethal injection, and he died before his second execution date. Credit: Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Justice Judith Lanzinger gave the court's opinion that the 18 attempts to administer a lethal injection did not constitute a botched execution as setting the IV line is a preliminary step and not the actual act of execution itself. The Death Row inmate had tried to claim that another execution attempt would violate laws against placing a person in jeopardy of life twice.

However, the court decided that since his executioners had failed to set an IV line after 18 attempts and not actually



administered the drug his life had not actually been in jeopardy.

The court also denied Broom's claim that a second execution attempt would count as a cruel and unusual punishment, as their assumption was that prison personnel would carry out the execution successfully. Broom's next execution date was set for 17 June, 2020 but in April of that year he was granted a reprieve due to the lack of execution drugs available.

The convicted murderer's execution date was put back to 16 March, 2022 but before he reached that date he died in prison due to suspected complications from Covid-19.



# Pastor sentenced to life imprisonment for rape



By: Joy Gofwen,  
Lagos Bureau Chief

The Ikeja Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence court sentenced founder of iReign Christian Ministry, Feyi Daniels, to life imprisonment for “raping a church member” on Friday, 26 January.



The Judge, Justice Rahman Oshodi, found the Lagos-based pastor guilty of rape and sexual assault of a female worshipper and held that the pastor be remanded for the rest of his life at the Kirikiri prison in Lagos.

Oshodi said that the prosecution established beyond doubt the ingredients of the two offences against him by a 19-year-old church member and a 23-year-old assistant pastor. According to him, Daniels is a liar and does not have any regard for truth.

In his own defence, the pastor who pleaded not guilty, testified that he believed three out of the four women who accused him of sexually assaulting them conspired to turn against him. The prosecution lead counsel, Babajide Boye, established that the defendant had a ‘personal relationship’ with the four women.

Boye alleged that the defendant had counseled one of the women, given the amount of N100,000 to another for hospital treatment, paid school fees for a third, and related with a fourth as a leader in the campus fellowship affiliated with his ministry at Akungba-Akobo in Ondo State.

However, Daniels denied giving money to any of the women for treatment. He said, “I believe all three ladies turned against me, but not (name withheld)

because she later apologised to me.” When queried why the accusations from the ladies were all sexual in nature, the defendant said he didn’t know. Boye also accused the defendant of using his position as a Pastor to manipulate persons, particularly young women who came to him for counseling. “You are a man of God. Are you not? A powerful man of God. You were trained to counsel, and you use wisdom and the leading of the spirit to manipulate,” Boye asked. Again, the pastor denied the allegation, saying, “I am not a powerful man; I am a pastor. I do not use power to counsel people; I am not a manipulator.” The Prosecutor continued, “You visited your Akungba fellowship centre, and



when she (one of the alleged victims) saw you, she hissed. Were you not surprised as a pastor? “No. She was disgruntled because I couldn’t help her financially,” he responded. He also denied tampering with WhatsApp messages between him and one of the alleged victims. The prosecutor during trial tried to tender four statements reportedly written by the defendant while he was in police custody at various intervals





last year.

“There are contradictions between the defendant’s testimony and the contents of the documents. We seek to use them to impeach his testimony. We rely on section 232 of the Evidence Act, that evidence even though obtained improperly is still admissible and we urge the court to admit the same,” Boye said.

The defence counsel, Adebayo Adegbite, raised objections to the admissibility of the statements. He argued that the statements were not made by the defendant and that the pastor was made to sign them under duress.

“The statements are a mixture of confession and denial. We leave it to the court to determine whether they amount to a confession. Right from the

start of this trial, the defendant has denied the charges, that’s his plea. The documents weren’t made voluntarily. Even if there were contradictions, he wasn’t the maker of the documents, they were written by the police,” Adegbite stated.

In his ruling, Justice Oshodi admitted the documents. The judge said, “By section 9(3) and (4) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Law of Lagos State (2021), the presence of a video testimony of the suspect is desirable but not compulsory. I will admit the documents and later consider the evidential value to place on them. The objection of the defence is hereby overruled.”

The Lagos State Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Ministry of Justice in March of 2023, ordered the arraignment

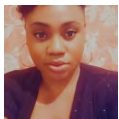
of the Lekki-based pastor, over the alleged rape of an assistant pastor of his church and another lady.

Oluwafeyiropo Daniel is the founder of I Reign Christian Ministry, Ikota, Lekki, he was popular on social media last year for making prophecies about the outcome of the 2023 general elections.

His sentencing is an indication that victims of sexual violence can justice and has further encouraged victims who are hiding to step forward and report the perpetrators. It has also restored some level of trust in the judicial system of the country.

Many women suffer in silence for fear that the perpetrators would be allowed to walk free when reported or would be questioned and blamed for being a victim. His church members still believe the judgement would be overturned.

# Namibian President Hage Geingob dies in a hospital where he was receiving treatment



By: **Clara Mpheza Manda**  
Senior Writer  
Lusaka, Zambia

Namibia's President Hage Geingob, a veteran of the country's liberation struggle and its first post-independence prime minister, died on Sunday. Tributes to the 82-year-old statesman poured in from African leaders who saw him as a hero of the anti-apartheid struggle. And Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz expressed regret that his country had lost "a partner who was committed to the process of coming to terms with Germany's colonial history". Recently,

Geingob supported South Africa's complaint against Israel under the Genocide Convention and condemned Namibia's former colonial ruler Germany for opposing the case. In a post on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter, the Namibian presidency said Geingob's medical team at Lady Pohamba Hospital did its best to help him, but Geingob died with his wife, Monica Geingos, and children by his side. Geingob was undergoing treatment for cancer. The 82-year-old had a



colonoscopy and a gastroscopy on Jan. 8, followed by a biopsy, his office said last month.

Angolo Mbumba, Namibia's acting president, called for calm, saying in the same post that the "Cabinet will convene with immediate effect in order to make the necessary state arrangements in this regard."

Geingob, who was president of the southern African nation since 2015, was set to finish his second and final term in office this year. In 2014, he said he had survived prostate cancer.

Namibia is set to hold elections to choose a new leader in November.

Born in a village in northern Namibia in 1941, Geingob was its first president outside the Ovambo ethnic group, which makes up more than half of the country's population.

He took up activism against South Africa's apartheid regime, which at the time ruled over Namibia, from his early schooling years before being driven into exile.

He spent almost three decades in Botswana and the US, leaving the former for the latter in 1964.

While in the US, he remained a vocal advocate for Namibia's independence, representing the local liberation movement, Swapo, now the ruling party, at the UN and across the Americas.



He suffered a couple of health scares in his later years, having undergone brain surgery in 2013 and heart valve surgery in South Africa in June 2023.

An avid football fan, he played as a young man, which earned him the nickname Danger Point.

He was married three times, in 1967, 1993 and again in 2015 and had as many children.

# 200M Contract Award For Ms. Elizabeth Aminata Amadou

Jadro Lita, also known as Amadou Elizabeth Aminata, is a rapidly emerging Nigerian social media influencer and TikTok sensation recognized as the African AI.

She almost gave up education due to her inability to feed and pay her tuition; today, she is helping her colleagues and community.

She has captivated audiences with her unique talent for emulating AI robots and portraying herself as a cartoon character. Jadro Lita has become a social media sensation, collaborating with numerous Nigerian TikTok influencers and skit makers.

Notably, she has secured a lucrative contract as the face of a Chinese robotic company valued at N200m.

With an impressive following of over 462k on her verified Instagram page, Jadro Lita stands as an inspiration for aspiring content creators, urging them to persevere in their pursuits.



Congratulations to Jadro Lita on her remarkable journey. It's worth noting that no matter the circumstances you find yourself in, Do NOT Give up.

Credit:  
*Joshualekhithah*

# Davido debuted on Billboard Hot 100 ahead of the Grammy Awards

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

**A**frobeats artists Davido and Lojay made their first appearances on the Billboard Hot 100, with featured credits on Chris Brown's "Sensational." Released Oct. 20 via CBE/RCA Records, the song debuts at No. 96 on the Hot 100 (dated Feb. 3) with 15.7 million radio airplay audience and impressions up (14%) and 2.6 million official U.S. streams (up 3%) in the Jan. 19-25 tracking week, according to Luminate.

The song is the second single from Brown's 11th studio album 11:11, released in November. The set debuted and peaked at No. 1 on Top R&B Albums and No. 9 on the Billboard 200. "Sensational" has been building at multiple radio formats: It rises 11-9 on R&B/Hip-Hop Airplay, 16-10 on Mainstream R&B/Hip-Hop Airplay and 16-14 on Rhythmic Airplay and debuts at No. 30 on Adult R&B Airplay. On the all-format Radio Songs chart, it pushes 49-44.

Davido has become one of the most popular Afrobeats musicians, has



released four studio LPs in his career: Omo Baba Olowo in 2012, A Good Time (2019), A Better Time (2020) and Timeless (March 2023). His two most recent albums reached Nos. 170 and 37 on the Billboard 200, respectively, marking his first appearances on the chart.

Davido has also posted 25 songs on the Billboard U.S. Afrobeats Songs chart. On Billboard's World Digital Song Sales chart, Davido has charted 27 songs - 18 of which reached the top 10 - all since 2016. That's the second most among Afrobeats artists, after Wizkid (29).

"Sensational" isn't the first







collaboration between Davido and Brown. The pair additionally teamed up for “Blow My Mind” and “Lower Body,” both in 2019, “Shopping Spree,” also with Young Thug, in 2021 and “Nobody Has to Know” in 2022. Davido has also recorded with Nicki Minaj, Pop Smoke, Popcaan, Quavo, Rae



Sremmurd and Summer Walker, among others.

He’s slated to perform this April at Madison Square Garden on his extended Timeless Tour. He’s also nominated for three Grammy Awards at the upcoming ceremony this weekend: best global music performance (for “Feel”), best African music performance (for “Unavailable”) and best global music album (for Timeless).

As for Lojay, the fellow Nigerian artist tallied his first Billboard chart appearance in 2022 with another Chris Brown collab: “Monalisa,” also with Sarz. The track reached No. 8 on and No. 38 on Rhythmic Airplay.

Lojay has released three Eps: Midnight Vibes in 2017, LV N ATTN with Sarz in 2021, and Gangster Romantic in March 2023.

Afrobeats has gained dominance in the music industry with artists achieving success across the world. It has been referred to as one of Africa’s ‘biggest cultural’ or ‘musical’ exports. It is also an indication that the Nigerian music industry has evolved placing it on the world map.

Its global popularity has been marked by Grammy wins, viral dance challenge and sold-out arena tours.



# AFCO: Results of drug tests for Osimhen, two Super Eagles players confirmed

By: **Linda R. Jones**

Senior Writer

London, UK

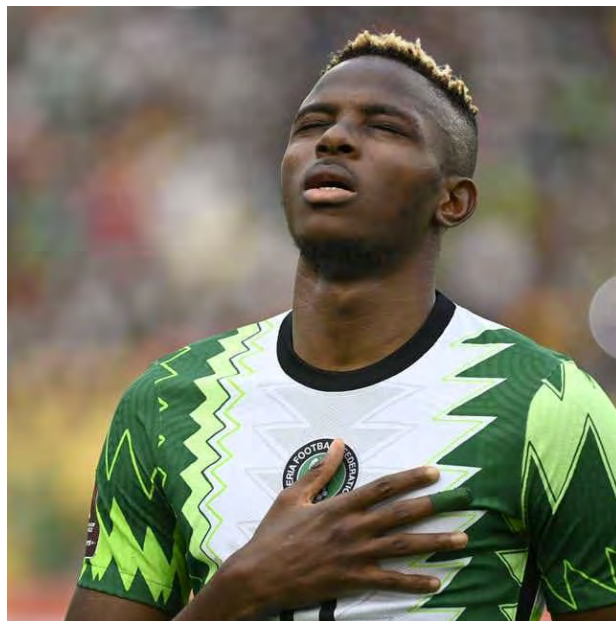
The results of the drug tests conducted on three Super Eagles players at the 2023 Africa Cup of Nations have returned negative.

The tested squad members are striker Victor Osimhen, forward Ademola Lookman and captain William Troost-Ekong.

News of the random tests was reported after Nigeria defeated Cameroon 2-0 in a Round of 16 fixture.

Lookman scored twice in that encounter to send the Eagles into the quarter-

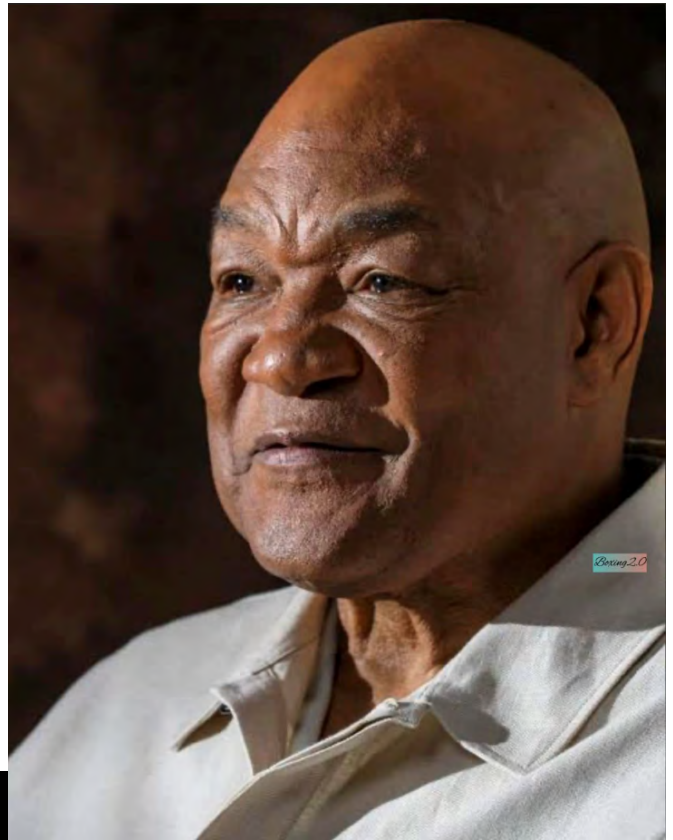
finals.



# Sports

In the 10 years out of the ring I became a minister. Sometimes my car would need a booster, and a stranger would stop by to help me out. I asked how much I owed him. He said, 'Get out of here, big'un. He didn't even realise I was once heavyweight champion of the world but he was so kind to me.

Everyone was so kind to me and I used to think, 'I wish I could be champion again because I should have been nicer to people. When I came back I built my profile up again and I repaid all the people I had been unkind to. The



comeback was my way of saying sorry for being so unkind the first time round. That was the best time of my whole boxing career, when I came back because I gave back. When I was in Reno, Nevada I couldn't sign autographs or shake people's hand because I had sprained my hand, so I just sat by a post and let anyone come over and talk, or take a picture. They



did. I was there for three hours, and it was the nicest time of my life as a boxer. Nothing compared to that moment - not even beating Frazier, or being with Ali in Zaire!

-George Foreman #boxing

# Victor Erouhwo: Former TFL worker forced to sleep on streets after ‘cruel’ Home Office visa delays

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



“I’m shackled” - Victor Erouhwo describes the vicious cycle of losing his visa, then his job, and then his home. A former TFL worker facing deportation has been forced to sleep on the streets of London this winter as the Home Office has been accused of ignoring his visa application, The Independent can reveal.

Victor Erouhwo, 41, has been fighting to remain in Britain after his visa expired and he was unable to afford the costs of applying for an extension. Having moved to Britain from Nigeria in 2007 to pursue studies, Mr Erouhwo eventually gained a Limited Leave to Remain Visa on a 10-year route to indefinite leave to remain.

However, he was unable to afford the fee of more than £4,000 for his visa extension and became classed as an “overstayer” by the government in January 2022.

Mr Erouhwo’s immigration status caused him to lose his job as a maintenance worker for TFL the same month, where he earned less than the national average salary. With no income, the father-of-two was unable to afford his rent and consequently became homeless.

“I’m shackled and can’t do anything for myself,” Victor told The Independent. “I’ve never been homeless before, I’ve never been in this situation. I am helpless and destitute.

“There are misconceptions about being homeless; people think we put ourselves in this situation. But that’s not the case when it comes to me.

“If the government would allow me to work then I would be grateful. All I want is an opportunity to help myself but I can’t.”

For years, campaigning groups have been lobbying against “eye-

wateringly” expensive visa application prices, with charities like Praxis accusing ministers of “treating migrants like cash cows”.

“There are misconceptions about being homeless; people think we put ourselves in this situation. But that’s not the case when it comes to me,” Mr Erouhwo says.

Mr Erouhwo, who says he’s been relying on the generosity of strangers to buy biscuits and spending time in libraries for warmth, continued: “I’ve been living and working in the UK, paying my taxes for years.

“Sometimes I think I’d prefer if I died; things would be easier because then there would be no trouble because there’d be no more me. It’s really hard when there’s no way out of this situation right now.”

Charities have expressed an interest in helping Mr Erouhwo, however they’re unable to assist due to his Home Office application being unresolved as the government is clamping down on migration.

Though visa fee waivers are available for people who apply to the Home Office for assistance, Mr Erouhwo has yet to receive a response following a waiver application he initially lodged in April.

Naga Kandiah, public law solicitor from



MTC Solicitors which is now representing Mr Erouhwo on a pro-bono basis, said: “There are long delays by the Home Office for visa extension applications, during this time, applicants are left in limbo and unable to earn money, in turn, losing their homes and forcing employers to terminate their jobs due to their immigration status.

“Now due to the incredibly cruel new policies which are being implemented by the government, Mr Erouhwo faces destitution and his life is at stake, he is unable to access housing or even sleep in the streets. “Homeless charities have been unable to help our client due to his immigration status and the government has provided no support for Mr Erouhwo in this instance,” lawyer Naga Kandiah says.

“Homeless charities have been unable to help our client due to his immigration status and the government has provided no support for Mr Erouhwo in



this instance.”

Councillor Promise Knight, Brent council’s Cabinet Member for Housing, Homelessness & Renters’ Security, said: “We have complete sympathy for his situation as no one deserves to be sleeping rough on the streets.

“Brent is prevented from helping people like Mr Erouhwo to find a more permanent home because of the rules the Home Office puts in place around immigration.

“However, despite this, we have done everything in our power to help Mr Erouhwo. Our housing outreach team is working with Mr Erouhwo’s solicitor to help with his visa application and we hope his situation with the Home Office is worked out soon.”

A Home Office spokesperson said: “Fee waivers are carefully considered on their individual merits. It is longstanding government policy that we do not routinely comment on individual cases.”

# Devastated Senegal star Lamine Camara is carried off the pitch in TEARS by team-mate Cheikhou Kouyate after his side are knocked out of AFCON on penalties by Ivory Coast

By: **Andrew Collins**  
London, UK

Camara was visibly upset and was gingerly walking off the pitch as he struggled to hold back the tears. The 20-year-old even had a towel over his face, which prompted Forest star Kouyate - who was an unused substitute in the game - to scoop up his team-mate and carry him down the tunnel in a heartwarming gesture. Senegal, the reigning AFCON champions, started the match well and went ahead within four minutes through Al-Shabab star Habib Diallo.

Ivory Coast - who sacked boss Jean-Louis Gasset after the group stage before sneaking through as one of the best third-placed teams - responded well, before Franck Kessie equalised late on from the spot after Nicolas Pepe was fouled by Edouard Mendy.

The clash went all the way to penalties, with Kessie netting the decisive spot kick after Nottingham Forest defender Moussa Niakhate struck the post as the tournament hosts won 5-4.



And, following the game, Camara - who had played 87 minutes before being replaced by Idrissa Gana Gueye - was one of several Senegal players who were distraught with the result. Understandably, this was his first AFCON and he emerged best young player in the group stage. He has also won some laurels at the U-20 Continental stage and doing well in the French Ligue 1.

I hope he gets better quickly and learn defeat only strengthens you for victories ahead. I also hope the team psychologist helps him to understand life is all about winning some and losing some others.

The young man got exposed to winning early in life, he must also get to taste the other side to become stronger.



# Tobi Amusan sets new 60m hurdle record

By: Dr. Funmilayo Awoleye-Beckley  
Abeokuta, Nigeria

**N**igerian athlete, Tobi Amusan, broke the African women's indoor record in the 60-meter hurdles at the New Balance Indoor Grand Prix in Boston on Sunday. The Nigerian sprinter clocked 7.75 seconds, improving her mark of 7.77 seconds that she set in Kazakhstan in January.

Amusan came second in the race, behind American Tia Jones who ran 7.72 seconds to set a new meeting record and a world-leading time for the year. Devynne Chalton of the Bahamas was third with 7.76 seconds in a close finish. This was Amusan's second record-breaking performance of the year after she eclipsed Gloria Alozie's 25-year-old African record in the same event on January 27. That was also her first race of the new athletics season. Another Nigerian athlete, Favour Ofili, also impressed in the women's 300 meters, where she finished second with 35.99 seconds. Ofili was behind Gabby Thomas from the US, who ran a world-leading time of



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

**D**id You Know? American actress Kerry Washington is married to an Igbo man a Nigerian-American former NFL player Nnamdi Asomugha, who has inspired her to embrace Nigerian culture. The actress told InStyle in 2015, “Nnamdi’s parents are Nigerian immigrants. His father passed when he was young. When you marry into the Igbo culture, you get a new name. My name is Ogechi. I wear it on a necklace my mother-in-law gave me.” The couple also gave their children Igbo names. Their daughter’s middle name is Amarachi and their son’s middle name is Kelechi. Happy birthday Kerry Washington.



# Davido Losses Three Grammy Award Nominations at 66th Grammy Awards

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

It was a disappointing outing for Nigerian Afrobeats stars at the 66th Grammy Awards as Burna Boy, Davido, Tems, Ayra Starr, Olamide and Asake failed to win from 10 nominations across five categories.

The Nigerian contingent lost the inaugural 'Best African Music Performance' trophy to South-African singer Tyla who earned the prize with her 2023 track, "Water".

All the categories the Afrobeats stars contended in were announced at the Grammy Premiere ceremony where dozens of prizes are handed out before the main live telecast show.

2021 Best Global Album winner Burna Boy and compatriot Davido lost the



category this year to Shakti. The world fusion band won with the album, "This Moment", besting Burna Boy's "I Told Them", Davido's "Timeless" albums, and others.

Afrobeats star, David Adeleke popularly known as Davido, has lost out on all three nominations at the 66th



Grammy Awards.

Davido was nominated in three categories: Best Global Music Performance, Best Global Music Album and Best African Music Performance but lost all three on Sunday night. Shortly before the award ceremony started, Davido, in an interview with

the Album for Best Compilation Soundtrack for Visual Media, and Billie Eilish and Finneas' song "What Was I Made For?" from Barbie for Best Song Written for Visual Media. Oppenheimer also won the award for Best Score Soundtrack for visual media. The Beatles took home their first



Billboard's Tetriz Kelly at the Pre-Grammy show, said he would go crazy celebrating if he won the award for the Best African Music Performance category.

*Other 2024 Grammy Award winners*

Early Grammy winners include Barbie

Grammy for best music video for "I'm Only Sleeping."

For best country song and best country solo performance, Chris Stapleton won both awards for "White Horse" during the Premiere Ceremony.

Killer Mike won big in the rap categories, scoring the awards for best



40









rap song and best rap performance for “Scientists & Engineers,” and best rap album for Michael. Lil Durk and J. Cole won the Grammy for Best Melodic Rap Performance for “All My Life,” and Victoria Monét won for Best R&B Album for Jaguar II.

BEYONCE and Jay-Z's daughter, Blue Ivy Carter, has graced the Grammy stage at this year's ceremony. Blue Ivy accompanied her dad, Jay-Z, onstage as he received the Dr Dre Global Impact Award at the 2024 Grammys.



# Spanish-British-Nigerian artiste Amal drops highly anticipated single 'God Knows'

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

**S**inger, Songwriter, and renowned Spanish-British-Nigerian artiste Amal Fashanu takes listeners on a soul-stirring journey of love and faith with her latest single, 'God Knows.'

Amal is also a presenter, journalist, fashion designer and activist against homophobia in sports. The heartfelt track explores love, resilience, and the unwavering belief in a higher power. Amal's emotive vocals and poignant

lyrics deliver a powerful message that resonates with the soul.

'God Knows' delves into the complexities of life, love, and the comforting certainty that there is divine guidance. Amal Fashanu's soulful vocals convey various emotions, creating an intimate connection with listeners. The single is a harmonious blend of soul, gospel, and contemporary R&B influences, showcasing Amal's versatility and





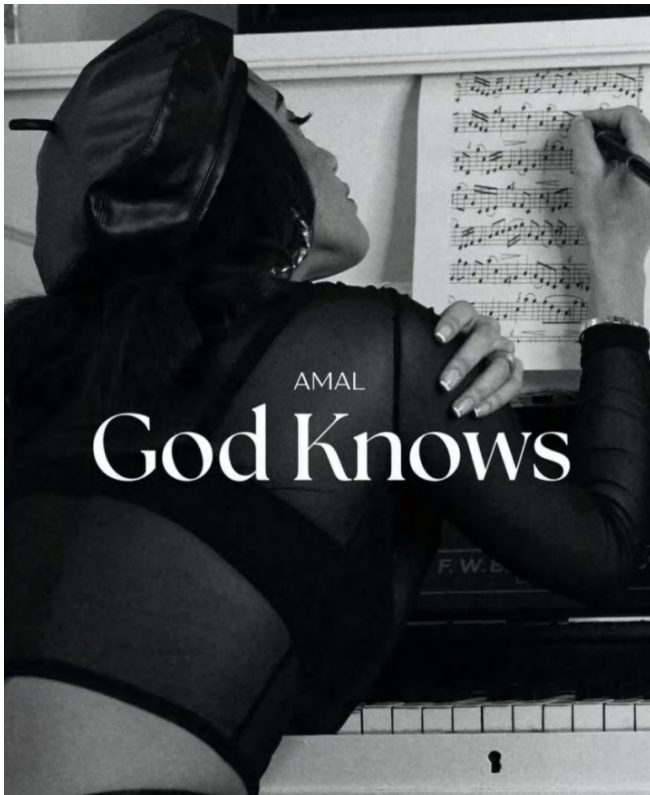
depth as an artiste. The track follows the success of her debut release, 'New Beginnings,' and the resonating 'Detty December,' earning Amal widespread acclaim for her distinctive blend of R&B and Afrobeats.

Fashanu's multicultural roots shine through in 'God Knows,' as she seamlessly incorporates English, pidgin English, and even Spanish into her lyrical arsenal. The song's title emphasises God's omnipotent nature in navigating the human experience.

This soul-stirring composition pushes

the boundaries of genre, offering listeners an immersive musical experience. She draws inspiration from her Spanish-Nigerian heritage, infusing her music with cultural richness and diversity. The single seamlessly blends contemporary urban tempo with Afrobeat rhythms, accompanied by hypnotic Spanish and French poetic lyricism, creating an intimate connection with the listener.

Fans can catch exclusive glimpses of the upcoming release, behind-the-scenes content, and updates by connecting



with her on @amalfashanu. 'God Knows' is available on major streaming platforms, including Spotify, Apple Music, and SoundCloud.

# Rapper Killer Mike Arrested at 2024 Grammys After Winning 3 Awards

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

Rapper Killer Mike was seen being walked out of the Grammy Awards in handcuffs Sunday night. Though it was not immediately clear why he was being arrested just before the Grammys broadcast began, the Los Angeles Police Department later released details about the misdemeanor charges.

In a video uploaded to X by The Hollywood Reporter's Chris Gardner, the "Run The Jewels" rapper was seen being

escorted through Crypto.com Arena by police.

The LAPD said on social media that the rapper was taken into custody because of a "physical altercation that occurred at the 700 block of Chick Hearn Court." They did not provide details on when that incident happened or what the circumstances were.

"The suspect was placed under arrest and was transported to LAPD Central





Division," according to a police statement.

"The suspect has been identified as 48-year-old Michael Render and booked for Misdemeanor Battery," the statement said, adding, "Render has been released on zero bail."

Just a short time before being detained, Killer Mike, aka Michael Render, swept all three categories he was nominated in: Best Rap Song, Best Rap Performance and Best Rap Album for his self-titled 2023 studio album "Michael."

"I'm a Black man in America, and as a kid I had a dream to become a part of music. And that 9-year-old is excitedly dancing inside of me right now," he said in one of his acceptance speeches Sunday.

Beating rap heavyweights like Drake, Kendrick Lamar, and Nicki Minaj, Killer Mike's wins Sunday – which were awarded before the prime-time Grammys broadcast began – marked his first Grammy trophies in over 20 years. He previously won Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group at the 45th Grammy Awards for Outkast's "The Whole World."

"You cannot tell me that you get too old, you can't tell me it's too late, you can't tell me dreams come true! It is a sweep, it is a sweep, it is a sweep!" he exclaimed after he danced around the stage with his third

Grammy of the night.

# 'Water' Hitmaker Tyla Wins Her First Grammy at 2024 Ceremony!

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



"I never thought I'd say I won a GRAMMY at 22 years old," the South African singer said. Although coming up against stiff competition, including massive Afrobeats stars Burna Boy and Davido, Tyla's hit song "Water" proved undeniable for GRAMMY voters. South African singer Tyla's victory at the Grammys, beating four Nigerian nominees, has fuelled the two nations' rivalry as they prepare to face off in a crunch football match on Wednesday. "South Africa won today but Nigeria will win on Wednesday where it matters most" one user wrote on X. Tyla won for her song Water in the Best African Music Performance, over Davido, Ayra Starr and Burna Boy. Nigerians have called on their national

team, the Super Eagles, to avenge them. "No Nigerian won a Grammy, but a South African won. This is Nigerians being generous so that when we win them in AFCON, they will have something to banter with," another user wrote on X. This year saw the introduction of an award for the Best African Music Performance - a move widely





welcomed on the continent, despite some criticism that it was long overdue. Tyla was the first winner and was joyous as she accepted the award on Sunday night.

Nigerian Afrobeats giant Burna Boy was nominated in a total of four categories but did not walk away with a single golden gramophone.

However, his spellbinding performance at the award ceremony left the audience in awe.

Nigerian singer Billy O told the BBC he was disappointed Nigerian singers did not win the award, saying this showed a lack of real appreciation for Afrobeats and Afro RnB by the voters.

"Despite dominating in Africa, I think we are not really well appreciated when it comes to Grammys," he said.

Despite the fierce rivalry between Nigeria and South Africa, three-time Grammy nominee Davido extended his congratulations to Tyla on X and told her to "keep soaring".

South Africa was also represented by comedian Trevor Noah who was at the helm of the prestigious award ceremony, which he hosted for a fourth time.

# Gone But Never Forgotten: Tribute To Milka Botcheva

By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola

**T**he first time I saw you I couldn't believe my eyes.

You looked like an angel and I, just a stranger, An African man in Bulgaria. Was hooked by the second we talked. Almost tears in my eyes I just stared at your smile. How you lifted my spirit up high.

Lost in the moment I stumbled and crawled. See I almost went out of my mind. A few days after, you became part of my family. My children called you Aunty so lovingly...



an extraordinary woman, an inspiring friend, and a beacon of light that will continue to shine brightly in our hearts.

You may be gone, but you will live forever in our memories and in our hearts because you have given us a lifetime of memories filled with laughter, joy, and happiness. On behalf of all your (White and Black) friends- We love you and we wish you a peaceful sleep.

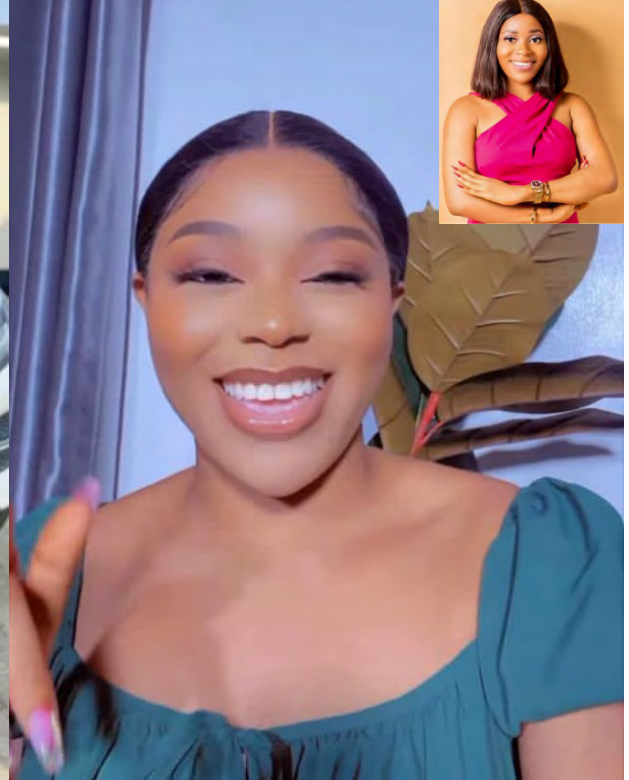




# Happy Birthday To Ngozi Nwuanyanwu

**A** very happy birthday to you, Ngozi. Wishing you a day filled with happiness and a year filled with joy. Sending you smiles for every moment of your special day...Have a wonderful time and a glorious birthday!

Best wishes,  
Gbenga Teejay Okunlola



# In Memoriam

**B**ut She didn't give death the joy of victory. She fought the battle of courage. And despite the nature of her last hours, she left for home in peace. All should have seen her on the deathbed that fateful Monday evening. She made death look like a holiday at the beach.

Mama Aina Aideloje nee Askhia is gone but she is everywhere. Your memory will never fade. In life, we loved you dearly, in death we love you still. God, the omnipotent, said it was time to come back home. You have served and completed your earthly duties as Divinely apportioned.

Mummy, as we all call her, would have been 86 in April. For those of us she is leaving behind, the past few weeks have been harrowing. Now, it's time to shed the robe of sorrow and dry the tears of agony. It's time to start celebrating the 85+ years of life well spent. And celebrate we shall celebrate. Good Night Mama. Rest in heavenly perfect peace.

A-CHOICES



# Happy Birthday To-uncle Gbenga Alaketu

By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola

I wish a fantastic uncle a birthday filled with God's graces, love, and countless blessings. Your presence is like sunshine in my life. May your day sparkle with joy and love! Cheers to the best uncle ever!

Best Wishes From:  
Gbenga Teejay Okunlola





# Nigeria's Aderibigbe emerges first African recipient of Martin Luther King Jr. Award

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

A 20-year-old Nigerian student, Adebola Aderibigbe, was honoured with the Horizon Award at the 15th Realising the Dream Legacy Awards Banquet on January 12 in the United States as she became the first African and the youngest ever to receive the prestigious Horizon Award.

She was recognized alongside former Birmingham Mayor Richard Arrington, Jr. and attorney and former U.S. Senator Doug Jones who both received the Mountaintop Award and the Call to Conscience Award respectively. Aderibigbe is recognised for her advocacy for girls' rights, literacy promotion, and community engagement. She won the International Day of the Girl Child Essay Contest at the age of 15 with her essay titled "What Gender Equality Means To Me."

The annual event recognises a person in keeping with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideals of promoting social justice, peace, and equality providing vision,



courage, and leadership to improve the quality of life for all.



# Happy 50th Birthday Temitope Awoleye

**A** very happy birthday to Mr. Temitope Awoleye. Wishing you a fun-filled fabulous 50th! Hope your 50th celebration rocks – and kicks off an incredible year! Here's to 50 years of incredible you...and an incredible 50 more! Cheers!!!

Best Wishes From:

**A-CHOICES Magazine**



# Be a one-man soldier this year!

By: **Akosua Darko**

Senior Writer

London, UK

There is a hit song in Ghana called Kwaku Ananse - the lyrics in the remix translated succinctly are:

"When I'm quiet, they say I don't like people. When I talk, they say I make noise. Kwaku Anansi, when I'm asleep, they are still talking about me. The little I get I eat, and drink alcohol on top of it. Life is a world carnival let me enjoy it because the coffin is hot. If I have some and I can give, I pass it. I cherish every me MY SPIRIT DEY FREE. If many hate me, many love me... IF I FALL, I RISE. If my family eats and is satisfied, I'm okay. I am not jealous of your shoes Kay; they won't fit me. I can never fall, if I fall and you desert me, thousands will rise and raise me let me tell you. You're not smart so you won't understand how can I teach you.... when I call my God no one is there. My destiny isn't like anyone's. When I am quiet don't take it like I don't like people. In rain and in sunshine I'm walking around. If it was just me, I would sleep, life is a lonely journey, so I strive for my family.

Woyoyii I'm a soldier, one man soldier. I don't fear rain or fire. Let me wrestle and live my life. Live your life and let me live mine. When I'm making and spending money your mother is not in my house. Life is hitting me, so I hit it back. If I fall many times I will get back up. Because of what I will eat I do more work than I can do. I have been through many things only God knows because I only tell him. If I see where I've come and how far I have come, I have swerved their bad thoughts. I can see people really love me."

The original has this, which is the only bit not in the remix. "I don't want to be walking barefoot but if I don't go out my family will sleep hungry. I do this for my family and myself. (Remember he said he's not jealous of Kay's shoes)" This is my motivation for this year. Those of you who have followed my writing know I've been through a lot, as shared in previous stories (check them out!). But just like Kwaku Anansi, the Akan god of wisdom and stories, I keep going. Though some hate me, others

love me equally. I rise after every fall, and as long as me, my family and loved ones are happy, I'm okay. I envy no one's journey, only focusing on mine, ensuring my family and loved ones are well. These are life's most important things: chase your dreams, find success for yourself and those who love you, and don't let negativity hold you back. Life's a wild carnival, but even when it's hard, remember the hot coffin alternative! Cherish each moment, live freely and happily, even during tough times. Make yourself proud; even if some reject you, countless others will support you. So don't be discouraged. Keep going, for life's a lonely journey, but strive for yourself and your family. Ignore the noise, work hard, eat well, and enjoy the ride. This song's wisdom is profound, a lesson for us all. Be a fearless one-man soldier, just like me! I don't know about your experiences or what you have been through. I just want to encourage you to leave the past in the past and focus on the future. We cannot change the terrors or horrors of the past yet if we live in courage, we can find a better future. In the midst of silent battles, we endure in order to survive another day- thank yourself for making it this far. The graveyard is the remains of dreams unrealised, stories untold

and lives unlived. You only have one life and there is only one you, so I suggest you 'carpe diem' and seize the day. As time is the most precious commodity, you can never get it back. I hope you can be stubborn and keep going for yourself and those who love you and laugh at the rain and fire when it comes.

I remember a young girl, me, so afraid to speak or defend herself from the relentless bullying she endured from nine to sixteen. Feeling worthless, unlovable, and like a cursed anomaly, life was not a vibrant carnival, but a torturous journey where everyone seemed worthy of love but her. Imagine the agony, the loneliness, at an age where free-spirited joy should have blossomed. Instead, I despised my very nature because it was branded "weird." Every action became a desperate plea for love, a denial of my true self. The loss of that childhood, the loss of myself during those years, haunts me still. Even after rediscovering my free spirit at sixteen and realizing I was indeed lovable, the turmoil of those years lingered like a phantom pain. I couldn't shake the anger and hurt, the lost years I couldn't reclaim. My own mind became a battlefield, my new, assertive skin fighting to protect the old, wounded

me.

But along the way, I've learned to release that free spirit, to say thank you. Thank you to the girl who fought so hard through those horrible years, who made me the confident, free-spirited, assertive, loving, good, and courageous woman I see today. Thank you for reminding me that I deserve love, that the beauty I see inside and out is worthy of happiness. Thank you for inspiring me to achieve more than those who hated me ever imagined, and for allowing those who loved me to witness my glow and growth.

I know we all have stories of triumph. As you embark on your journey as a "one-man soldier" this year, remember them. Let them be your torch, your reminder that even in the darkest moments, resilience and self-love can light the way.

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnkwWQCTGps> (original)*

*Amerado - Kwaku Ananse Remix feat. Fameye (Visualizer) (youtube.com) (remix)*

# Happy 23rd Birthday Mimi Oyewo

**A** very happy 23rd birthday to you dear Mimi...Here's to another year of adventures, laughter, and endless possibilities! Cheers to happiness, good vibes, and another 23 years. May God shower you with blessings today and always. Cheers!!!

Best Wishes From:  
**A-CHOICES Magazine**



# Good Night Jimi Solanke

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



Jimi Solanke was one of the key shapers of Nigerian theatre and television in the second half of the last century.

The legendary poet and playwright died on Monday at the age of 81. He was said to have died while being rushed from his country home at Ipara Remo in Remo North Local Government Area of Ogun State to Babcock University Teaching Hospital, Ilisan when he succumbed to the cold hand of death. Chief Solanke was said to have been in and out of hospital from December until he died on Monday morning. "It is with a heavy heart that President

Bola Tinubu receives the news of the passing of Nigeria's creative icon, Mr. Jimi Solanke, who died on Monday," presidential spokesperson Ajuri Ngelale wrote in a statement. "Baba Solanke was an actor, dramatist, folk singer, poet, and playwright. Hon Dickson Awolaja representing Remo North State Constituency at the state Assembly confirmed his death on Monday afternoon.

Hon Awolaja said: "I got wind of the demise of Pa Jimi Solanke not long ago." His death is no doubt another big loss to us in Remo North and Ogun State as a whole given his worthy





contributions to the development of our dear nation. "May his soul rest in peace."

Born on July 4, 1942, in Ipara Remo, Jimi Solanke's artistic journey began as a pioneer member of the Orisun Theatre Group, founded by the renowned Wole Soyinka, in 1961.

His contributions to the global entertainment industry spanned seven decades, leaving an indelible mark on various platforms, from the Western Nigeria Television in the 1960s to international festivals in Senegal and Algeria during the 1970s.

Solanke's versatility shone through in epic performances such as "Death and the King's Horseman," "Kurunmi," "Kongi's Harvest," "The Divorce," and "Ovaramwen Nogbaisi."

His captivating stagecraft and theatrical brilliance earned him accolades and recognition, both locally and internationally. The Oxford Times hailed him as a "Skilled Nigerian Actor," and the New York Times recognized him as the star of an "Excellent Troupe" during a performance of Wole Soyinka's "Kongi's Harvest."

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L2100MM W420MM H850MM



MODEL : YS-021006  
L1200MM W1200MM H1000MM



MODEL : CY-13484  
L2000MM W1200MM H750MM



MODEL : DS-16154  
L1200MM W1200MM H1000MM



MODEL : CY-13631-HK  
L3100MM W1700MM H800MM



MODEL : CY-13574  
L1200MM W1200MM H2000MM



MODEL : DS-16079  
L120MM W120MM H120MM



MODEL : DS-16091  
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MODEL : DS-16154  
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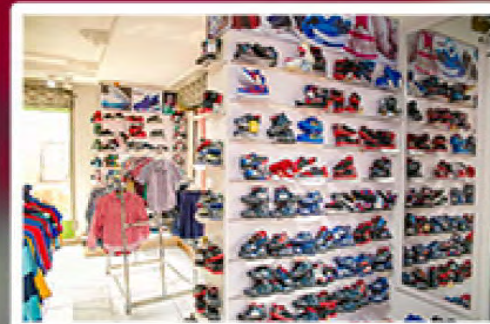
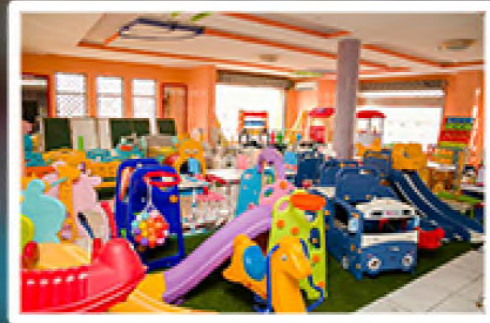
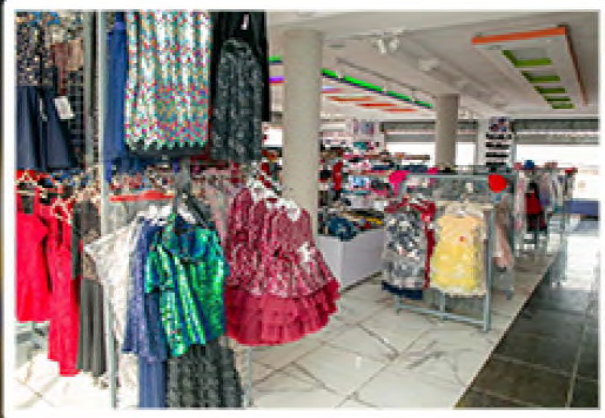
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