

BUSINESS DAY
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9 legal reasons
Canada can deny or revoke your stay



CULINARY

Top 5 best amala spots in Lagos



SPORTS

From Uche to Ejuke: Nigerian stars lighting up La Liga

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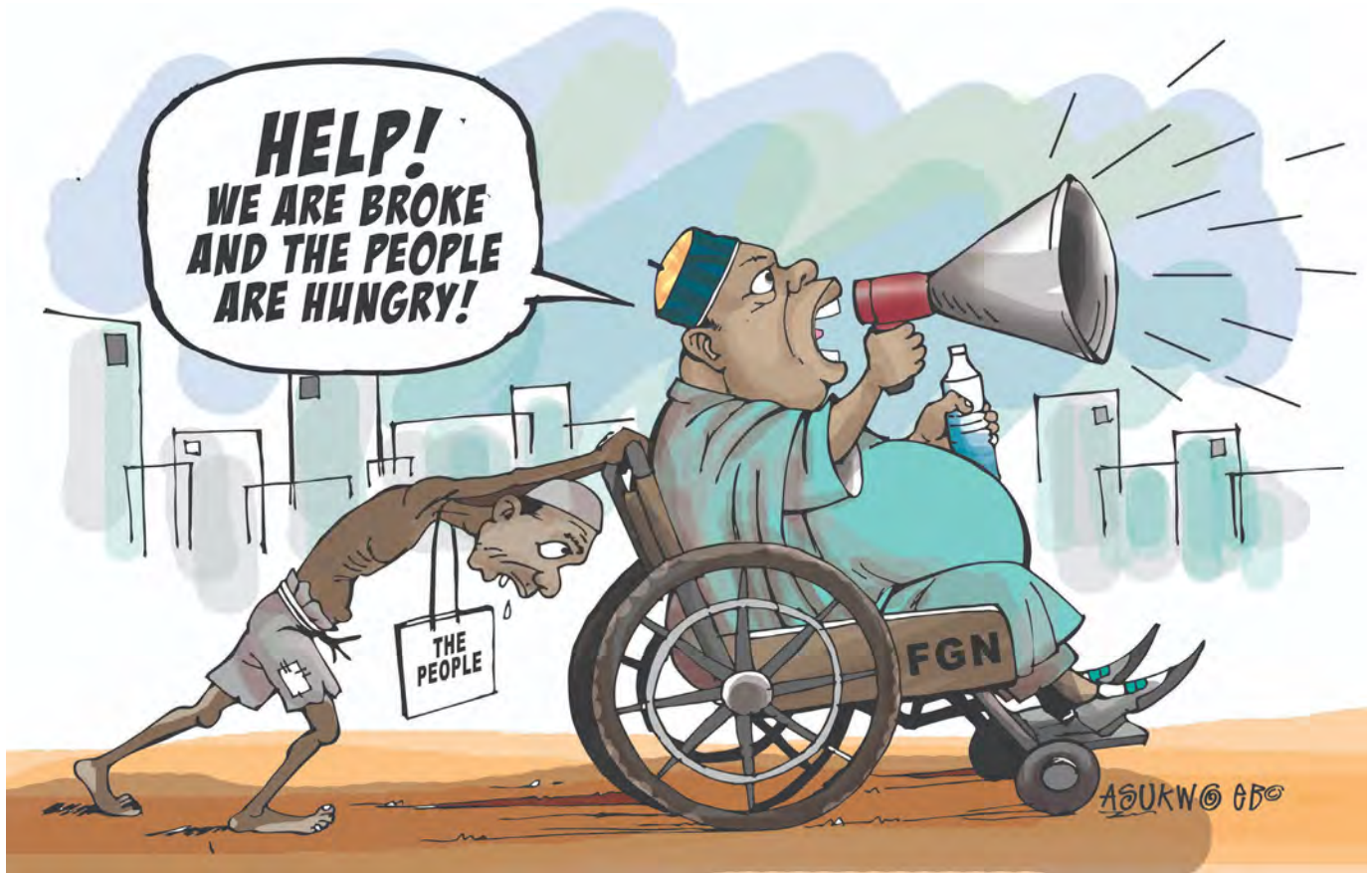
DG NIMC, **Engr. Abisoye Coker-Odusote**

Today, we recognize a remarkable leader whose contributions to the evolution of digital identity have positively shaped the landscape and the Nigerian Identity Management Commission (NIMC).

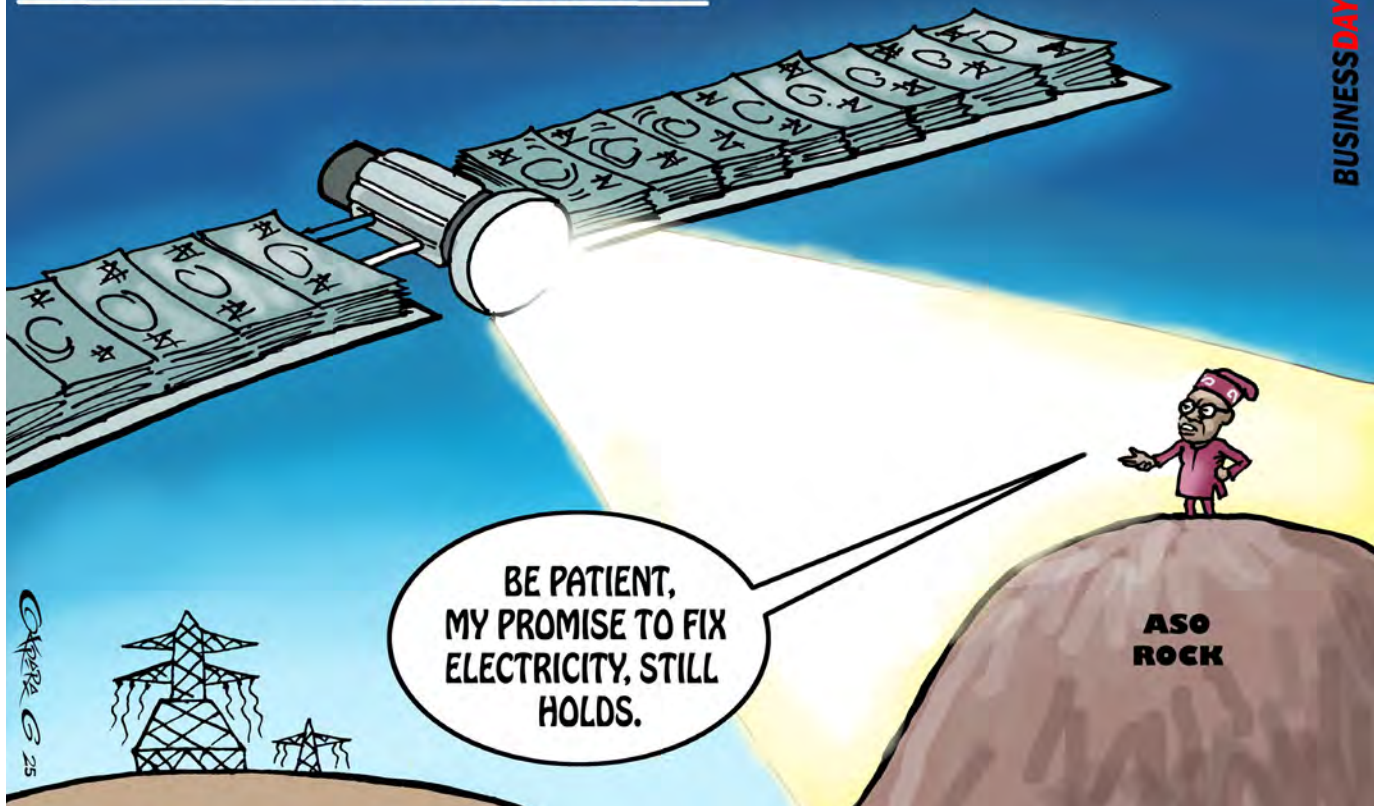
Your thoughtful approach to innovation, strong values, and commitment to private sector contributions to national development continue to motivate and have positive impact both on government and the digital identity eco-system.

From all of us at VerifyMe Nigeria, we extend our warmest wishes for a joyful birthday and continued success as you reach new heights in your leadership journey.





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9 LEGAL REASONS CANADA CAN DENY OR REVOKE YOUR STAY

ESTHER EMOEKPERE



Moving to Canada is a goal for many, but remaining in the country requires strict compliance with immigration laws. According to the Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), there are specific legal grounds that can render a person inadmissible or lead to their removal from Canada. These rules apply not only at the point of entry but also while living or working in the country, regardless of your immigration status, be it temporary, permanent, or under review.

Here are 9 legal reasons Canada may deny your entry or revoke your right to stay, based on official guidelines.

Involvement in security related offences

Canada takes national security seriously, and any activities linked to espionage, subversion, or

violence can lead to inadmissibility. Espionage refers to secretly gathering information for a foreign government, while subversion includes any efforts to overthrow or destabilise the Canadian government. Violence or terrorism covers participation in or support for actions that harm people or create fear, including terrorist activities. Even membership in an organisation involved in such activities could lead to deportation, regardless of direct involvement.

Violating human or international rights

Canada has a strict policy on protecting human rights, and any involvement in war crimes or crimes against humanity can result in inadmissibility. This includes committing actions such as genocide, torture, or other serious violations of international law. Furthermore, being a senior official in a government that is involved in gross human rights abuses or

subject to international sanctions can make you inadmissible. Canada's commitment to human rights is a core reason for enforcing such strict measures.

Committing a crime

Any criminal activity can lead to being deemed inadmissible to Canada. This includes serious offences, such as murder or assault, but also more everyday crimes like driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (DUI). Even a single DUI conviction can be grounds for deportation or denial of entry, depending on the severity of the incident. Canada considers criminal behaviour seriously and will not allow those with a criminal record to easily enter or remain in the country.

Association with organised crime

Membership or involvement in organised criminal activities such as human trafficking, people smuggling, or money laundering can result in being banned from entering or staying in Canada. These activities, often linked to international crime syndicates, are considered a threat to public safety. Canada is committed to maintaining its integrity by denying entry to those involved in organised crime, ensuring the country remains safe for its citizens.

Medical reasons

If you have a medical condition that poses a threat to public health or public safety, you may be deemed inadmissible to Canada. Conditions that could endanger others, such as infectious diseases or those that require extensive medical treatment, may result in your denial of entry. Additionally, if your condition is expected to place excessive demand on Canada's health or social services, it could affect your immigration status. In some cases, exemptions can be made, but these situations are rare and carefully evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Financial inability to support yourself

You are required to prove that you can support yourself and any family members who accompany you when applying for entry to

Canada. If you are unable or unwilling to meet this financial responsibility, you could be denied entry or have your stay revoked. Canada wants to ensure that immigrants do not become a financial burden on the country. The government looks for evidence that you can support yourself without relying on public funds or welfare.

Misrepresentation

Providing false information or deliberately withholding crucial information in your application can lead to serious consequences. Misrepresentation could involve anything from lying about your qualifications to failing to disclose a criminal conviction. The consequences for misrepresentation can be severe, including a ban from reapplying for a visa or permanent residence for several years. In some cases, this could even lead to deportation, especially if it is discovered after you have already entered the country.

Failing to comply with immigration conditions

If you fail to comply with the provisions outlined in the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA), you could be deemed inadmissible. This includes violating conditions of your visa, working illegally, or overstaying your permitted stay. IRPA is a comprehensive set of rules that governs immigration to Canada, and failure to follow its guidelines could lead to your removal from the country.

Having an inadmissible family member

Even if you, as an individual, comply with all the necessary requirements to enter or stay in Canada, having an inadmissible family member could affect your status. For example, if your spouse, child, or other close relative has been found inadmissible for reasons such as criminal activity, human rights violations, or security concerns, you may be barred from entering Canada, or your stay may be revoked. Inadmissibility can extend to family members, especially those listed on the same immigration application.

TOP 5 BEST AMALA SPOTS IN LAGOS

CHISOM MICHAEL



In Lagos, food remains a vital part of everyday life. Among the many dishes enjoyed across the city, Amala holds a special place, particularly in Yoruba communities. Made from yam flour or cassava flour and often served with soups like ewedu, gbegiri, and obe ata, Amala is more than a meal – it is a cultural experience.

Across Lagos, various spots are known for preparing this traditional dish with care and consistency. Below are five locations where Amala continues to draw crowds, each offering something unique.

Here are the top 5 best amala spots in Lagos, compiled by the eyes of Lagos.

1. Amala Shitta, Surulere

Amala Shitta, located in Surulere, has built a strong reputation as one of the most popular Amala joints in Lagos. It consistently delivers well-prepared Amala served with soups such as ewedu and gbegiri, alongside a selection of meats like goat meat and cow tripe.

People visit Amala Shitta because of its consistent quality and reliable taste. The spot also offers a wide variety of meats, and its location in a lively area adds to the experience.

2. Buka 99, Ikeja

Buka 99 in Ikeja is known for serving traditional meals in a relaxed environment. The Amala here is soft and always

accompanied by soups that are full of flavour, including gbegiri and efo roiro.

Customers enjoy Buka 99 because it provides a good setting for both quick meals and group dining. The portions are generous, and the pricing is fair, making it a dependable choice for many.

3. Iya Oyo Amala, Yaba

Iya Oyo Amala, located in Yaba, is run by a woman known as Iya Oyo, who is recognised for her dedication to preparing Amala the traditional way. The spot is simple, but the food speaks for itself, with fresh ingredients and well-prepared soups.

Many people return to Iya Oyo Amala because it offers an authentic experience and has built a loyal customer base. The setting is friendly, and the service is warm, which adds to the appeal.

4. Oshodi Amala, Oshodi

This food stop in Oshodi is always busy, serving people who are either passing through or living in the area. The Amala is smooth, the soups are rich, and meats such as ponmo and beef are available.

People go to Oshodi Amala because of the fast service, especially during peak hours. The prices are fair, and the location makes it convenient for a quick but filling meal.

5. Amala Gold, Lagos Mainland

Amala Gold is based on the Lagos Mainland and offers a slightly more structured dining setup. The Amala is served with freshly made ewedu soup and a choice of meat.

Visitors choose Amala Gold because it combines quality food with a clean and organised environment. It is also suitable for small groups or anyone looking to enjoy Amala in a calm setting.



FROM UCHE TO EJUKE: Nigerian stars lighting up La Liga

ANTHONY NLEBEM

Nigeria's football legacy is steeped in glory, with three Africa Cup of Nations titles, an Olympic gold medal, and unforgettable FIFA World Cup moments. Beyond its domestic achievements, the nation has consistently produced elite talents who've lit up Europe's top leagues, particularly La Liga, where a new wave of Super Eagles is writing its chapter.

From the legendary Finidi George and Mutiu Adepoju to Ikechukwu Uche's heroics, Nigerian players have long been celebrated in Spain. Now, a fresh generation is carrying that torch with flair and determination.

Here are four Nigerian stars currently making their mark in La Liga:

Christantus Uche – Getafe

Signed from Spain's third division at just 21, Christantus Uche has been one of the revelations of the season. He announced his arrival in La Liga with a powerful header on opening day against Athletic Club, then followed up with vital goals in away wins at Real Sociedad and Girona. Initially deployed as a midfielder, Uche's transition to a striker has paid dividends for Getafe. His blend of strength, aerial ability, and playmaking has been crucial to Getafe's push for their best league finish in five years, with manager José Bordalás relying heavily on his versatility.



Chidera Ejuke – Sevilla

Despite missing nine games with a hamstring injury, Chidera Ejuke has been one of Sevilla's bright spots this season. His explosive pace and dribbling have made him a nightmare for defenders.

He etched his name into fans' hearts with a last-minute winner against Las Palmas in September and followed it with a stunning long-range goal in a vital away win at Real Sociedad. Often used as a second-half impact sub, Ejuke's consistency is now prompting calls for a more regular starting role under Garcia Pimienta.





Umar Sadiq – Valencia

Umar Sadiq arrived at Valencia in January on loan from Real Sociedad, with the club embroiled in a relegation scrap. The 28-year-old quickly became a key figure, scoring four goals in four games across February and March to help lift Valencia six points clear of the drop zone.

His presence brought renewed confidence and structure to Valencia's frontline. After showing glimpses of promise at Real Sociedad and starring for UD Almería previously, Sadiq's revitalisation at Valencia earned him a recall to the Super Eagles, proving his enduring quality.

Akor Adams – Sevilla

Joining Ejuke at Sevilla during the winter transfer window, Akor Adams is slowly finding his feet in Spain after spells in Norway and France. Despite a five-game injury layoff, the 25-year-old made his first La Liga start in a recent clash against Atlético de Madrid, showing flashes of his potential. As Sevilla rebuilds for the future, Adams is expected to play a key role, adding depth and power to their forward line. His gradual integration suggests a promising trajectory for the imposing striker.

These four talents are not just holding their own; they are thriving. Their performances are a testament to Nigeria's rich football pipeline and the country's continued relevance on the European stage. As they chase goals and glory, their rise inspires a new generation of Super Eagles hopefuls dreaming of La Liga stardom.





L-R: Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade, Executive Secretary, Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy; Omooba Deji Irawo, Chief Responsibility Officer, Basilia International Communications LTD; HRM Oba Abdulwasii Omogbolahan Lawal CON Abisogun II - Oniru of Iruland; Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu; His Highness Amb. Ahmed Nuhu Bamalli, The Emir of Zazzau; Babatunde Raji Fashola SAN, Former Minister of Works and Housing, Federal Republic of Nigeria; HM Ogiame Atuwatse III CFR, The Olu of Warri at the concluded Roundtable discussion featuring notable Nigerian traditional rulers on day 1 of the Lagos Leadership Summit 2025 hosted by the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy in Lagos, Nigeria.

LAGOS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: GOV. SANWO-OLU, OLU OF Warri, others Urge Youth on Nation-Building

Sanwo Olu, the governor of Lagos State, Olu of Warri emerging leaders, industry pioneers, and policymakers have called on youths to ensure they contribute in their own little ways towards nation-building in Nigeria.

They made this call during the second edition of the Lagos Leadership Summit 2025, which opened on a bold precedent, convening key leaders to have bold conversations on reshaping leadership for national transformation.

Hosted at the Konga Place, Lekki, Lagos, on the 16th of April, the event championed a shared vision: to place youth at the centre of responsive, inclusive, and future-ready governance.

Anchored on the central theme “Transformative Leadership: Developing Responsive, Adaptive and Inclusive Models,” the gathering sparked impactful conversations through masterclasses, keynote speeches, fireside chats, and panel discussions. Key topics for the day included building leadership systems that outlast individual tenures, promoting inclusive governance, breaking gender barriers in leadership, and bridging generational gaps by merging tradition with youth innovation. Each session echoed a common message—the need for ethical, people-centred leadership that responds to today’s realities while shaping a more inclusive and resilient future.

During his fireside chat, Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu called for vision-driven governance and long-term thinking. “There is no one-size-fits-all approach to transformative leadership,” he said. “To build a system that works, leaders must invest early in quality education, define the purpose behind their work, and commit fully. That’s how we create legacies and systems that thrive beyond our presence.”

Buttressing the importance of inclusion in leadership, Former Minister of Works and Housing, Babatunde Raji Fashola SAN, stated, “If the people who work with us and for us are from the same culture, religion, or gender, then we are prejudiced. Inclusion is a mindset. It only becomes real when people can see tangible efforts that make them feel seen, heard, and involved.”

A major highlight of the summit was the dynamic roundtable session on women leadership, themed: “Breaking the Concrete Ceiling”. Discussants challenged gender norms and inspired participants with powerful insights: Femininity is not akin to weakness. Femininity is silk—soft and strong. There is a temperature in your life that only you can feel. Own your light, own your reality, and learn to navigate the world your way.”

Nuggets from royalties in attendance also emphasised the importance of grounding leadership in indigenous values. “Nation-building cannot happen in isolation from our cultural truths. The vibrancy of the youth is essential in accelerating the progress of society. Leadership is a Relay Race; the baton must be passed to the younger generation,” said HM Ogiame Atuwatse III, the Olu of Warri.

Summit Convener and Executive Secretary of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy, Ayisat Agbaje-Okunade, reaffirmed the vision behind the summit: “The Lagos Leadership Summit began with a bold idea — that leadership isn’t inherited, it’s built. As one of the flagship initiatives of the Lateef Jakande Leadership Academy, the summit was thoughtfully curated by and for visionary Nigerian leaders. Here, futures are forged. Here, a new kind of leadership begins to be rooted in purpose, impact, and the power of collective action.”

The Lagos Leadership Summit 2025 closed Day 1 with a renewed commitment to building a generation of leaders equipped to drive inclusive, accountable, and visionary leadership across all sectors of society.



L-R: Arc Olayemi Afolabi; Jacqueline Aki, Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships, GBCN; Oluwaseyi Alabi, Lead Strategic Partnerships and Market Transformation, GBCN; Emmanuel Falude, Executive Director, Education and Certification, GBCN and Arc Omohemi Olayiwola, Executive Director, Research and Innovation at a recent held Green Circle Event in Lagos.

GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL NIGERIA DEEPENS COLLABORATION TO ATTAIN GREENER FUTURE IN NIGERIA

Green Building Council Nigeria, (GBCN), a non-governmental organisation, leading the transformation of the built environment to create buildings and communities that are environmentally responsible, profitable and healthy to live in, has said it would continue to deepen collaborations and leadership in the space to achieve greener future it desires for the country.

Speaking during a stakeholder meeting in Lagos, themed ‘Connecting Industry for Resilient Collaboration and Leadership in the Environment’, Jacqueline Aki, Director Strategic Partnerships, GBCN, said collaborations has remained key to driving the vision of Council.

Aki explained that in its collaborative efforts, the Council remains aligned with international standards by maintaining active affiliation with its global governing body.

“We are registered with the World Green Building Council,” she said. “It serves as the umbrella organisation for all national Green Building Councils and guides the standards we advocate for.”

She noted that education is also a core focus of the Council’s work.

“We invest heavily in public education around the importance and benefits of green building. This includes hosting webinars, organising events, and engaging strategic partners,” Aki said.

She added that the Council’s advocacy efforts extend across the entire built environment ecosystem — from manufacturers and developers to designers and architects — as well as to government stakeholders.



“Our goal is to promote awareness and influence policy that supports sustainable development in Nigeria’s built environment,” she concluded.

Jane Nwaogu, the commercial manager for Kohler in West Africa, and strategic partner for GBCN said Kohler is a leader when it comes to sustainability and that is what it pushes for in terms of products it makes.

“Kohler builds toilets basins, taps, showers, kitchen taps, amongst others. We are deliberate in ensuring that for instance your shower is conservative when taking your bath. We have technologies like the anti-drip and catalyst technology, among others.

“All these Kohler technologies help save water when you shower. We have toilets for a full flush, you use as little as 3.6 liter of water for your flushing. And then, for half flush, you use two liters. So we have technologies that help reduce flow of water, but not compromising on the efficiency as well,” Nwaogu said.

She said Kohler is partnering GBCN because the Council’s vision resonates with what Kohler believes in.

Speaking on the importance of the stakeholder event, Nwaogu said the event helps create awareness of sustainability.

“The architects, developers and many other users need to understand the need for using sustainable products in the real estate industry and to understand that sustainability doesn’t always translate to luxury. You can get sustainable products without having to break the bank. So, it’s more like having to create that market awareness in terms of why we need sustainability,” she explained.

O moyemi Olayiwola, Director of Research and Innovation at the Green Building Council Nigeria (GBCN), acknowledged that while there is still room for progress, recent initiatives by the Lagos State Government under Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu are encouraging signs for sustainability in the state.

“Last year, Lagos State launched a carbon registry aimed at developing a comprehensive database for carbon emissions and exploring pathways for carbon trading, both within and beyond Nigeria,” she said. “It’s a laudable initiative that positions Lagos as a forward-thinking player in climate action.”

She also noted the state’s efforts to promote green buildings.

“At the Lagos State Ministry of physical Planning Office, for instance, you will find a green building department — a sign of commitment to sustainable development. Lagos also leads the country in the number of certified green buildings, which speaks to the tangible progress being made. It’s more than just a buzzword — real action is taking place,” Olayiwola added.

She further highlighted the efforts of stakeholders operating within a niche but growing market.

“There’s a conscious movement toward buildings that are not only visually impressive but are also eco-friendly, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable in every sense of the word,” she said.

These developments, she noted, echo the purpose of the Green Circle event hosted by GBCN — a gathering that brought together industry leaders to foster collaboration and build a network of like-minded professionals working to elevate the green building movement and strengthen advocacy across the sector.





Prada Uzodimma:

Building Nigeria's next generation of legal professionals

CHISOM MICHAEL





At a time when influence is often measured by noise, Prada Uzodimma, is quietly making waves, redefining leadership through purpose, vision, and action.

Her transformative initiative, the Prada Uzodimma Law School Scholarship Grant (PUSG), has empowered over 50 indigent law students across Nigeria, establishing her as one of her generation's most dynamic and impactful education advocates.

At the PUSG launch in 2021, Uzodimma explained, "It began with just five beneficiaries. By 2022, the number doubled to ten; it grew to 15 in 2023, and in 2024, 20 more aspiring lawyers were added to the PUSG family. But the impact goes far beyond the numbers—this isn't just a scholarship; it's a structured pathway to excellence in law.

"Among the most powerful components of the platform is the PUSG Internship Programme, which provides beneficiaries with placements in top-tier law firms, exposing them to real legal practice," she added. One shining example is Aluma Chukwuebuka Harmony, who interned under the programme and, following his stellar performance, secured a position at the prestigious Banwo & Ighodalo—an outcome he calls "life-changing."

To deepen the experience, Prada also introduced the PUSG Fireside Chat—a mentorship series where seasoned professionals coach scholars on passing the Bar Exams and navigating their early legal careers.

The sessions have become a trusted compass for students facing one of the most pivotal transitions of their lives.

The PUSG initiative has attracted high praise from distinguished figures across Nigeria. Notable among them are Mohammed Bello Adoke, SAN, and former Attorney General of the Federation; Doris Nkiruka Uzoka-Anite, Minister of State for Finance; Sunday Umeha, deputy chairman of the House Committee on Justice; Ginika Florence Tor, Federal Commissioner in Federal Character; and COC Akaolisa, Attorney General of Imo State.

Also among the esteemed endorsers is Isa Chiroma, SAN, director general of the Nigerian Law School, who commended PUSG for building future lawyers with competence and character.

Prada's commitment to access and inclusion doesn't end there. She also launched the Prada Uzodimma Imo

Indigene Scholarship Grant (PUIISG), a sister initiative that supports law students from Imo State, her home state.

As the daughter of Governor Hope Uzodimma, Prada embodies the essence of public service, empowerment, and academic transformation. Her advocacy is as personal as it is purposeful.

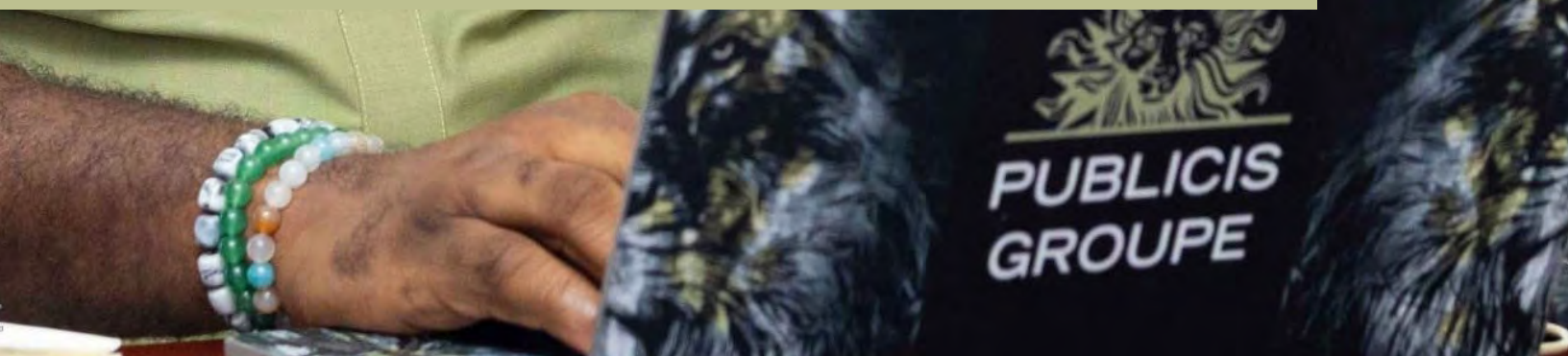
Whether mentoring law students, structuring internships, or advocating for education equity, Prada Uzodimma is a force to be reckoned with.

Her leadership is reshaping how young professionals see their potential and how society can elevate them through opportunity.



FROM TWEET TO CANNES: Aleshinloye's remarkable rise to Media Lions Jury

JULIET ONYEMA





In January 2025, Muyiwa Aleshinloye, head of Media at Publicis West Africa, tweeted a simple but powerful wish: ‘Attend Cannes Lion 2025. Universe do your thing.’ Little did he know, the universe wasn’t just listening—it was conspiring for something even greater.

Not only will Aleshinloye attend the Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity for the first time this year, he’s going as a Media Lions jury member—an extraordinary milestone for both him and the continent he represents. “I am incredibly humbled and honoured to be serving as a Media Lion jury member at the Cannes Lion International Festival of Creativity,” he said.

“From Lagos to the world, I carry with me the incredible boldness of African creativity, the power of community, and that unshakable Nigerian spirit,” he added. This moment, he emphasizes, is bigger than himself. “This one is for all of us—for every colleague, mentor, challenger, and believer. For the culture, for the continent, and the brand we are building each day. Africa is not coming—we are here, and we are just getting started.”

Aleshinloye’s journey is nothing short of inspiring. With over 14 years of experience, he has been a driving force behind the success of brands like Nestlé, VISA, Pepsi, and Samsung across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Currently leading the Publicis Media business in West Africa, he oversees campaigns across 22 countries, reaching more than 600 million people and managing multi-million-dollar budgets with precision and impact. Armed with a Biochemistry background, he marries scientific thinking with creative execution.

He’s renowned for crafting culturally intelligent, data-driven campaigns that resonate deeply with audiences—earning him accolades for his work on iconic brands like MAGGI, MILO, and VISA.

Beyond the boardroom, he is also a mentor and educator. He’s trained professionals worldwide in digital innovation, supported young advertising talents, and championed digital and STEM education through initiatives with organizations like DigiClan Africa.

His appointment as a Cannes Lion jury member is not just a personal achievement—it’s a statement. It affirms Africa’s undeniable creative prowess on the world stage and celebrates the rise of a new generation of bold, strategic, and impactful marketing leaders.

As Cannes Lions 2025 approaches, Aleshinloye will be more than a juror—he’ll be a beacon of possibility, reminding us all that even a tweet can turn into a global moment.

**WE'RE BUILDING A
CULTURE OF SAVINGS,
REASONABLE SPENDING IN
TEENAGERS**

- Founder MinieMoney

IFEOMA OKEKE-KORIEOCHA



Gbolahan Faniran, CEO and founder of MinieMoney, a fintech-edtech Hybrid Company has said through its MinieMoney app, it is helping teenagers build a culture of savings and teaching them to spend reasonably.

Faniran said the app provides a finance mobile application that allows parents/guardians save for their kids/wards while providing financial services such as access to debit cards, savings accounts, in-app cash transfers and financial learning to kids.

Speaking during its maiden partnership with Filmhouse cinemas and the premiere of an animated movie about Jesus called 'King of Kings' on Easter Monday, he said the partnership with Filmhouse cinemas saw the launch of an initiative where teenagers got movie ticket for as low as N3,500 instead of N7,500 which began with the movie 'King of Kings'.

"This particular movie is a movie for the season, basically. It's Easter and fortunately, this movie about Jesus just came out and it's also an animated movie so we just figured out it's perfect for this particular demographic, the kids and the teenagers," he said.

Faniran said MinieMoney has a partnership with VFD and also Sterling Bank and the whole concept is basically to give teenagers access to managing their money quite early.

"Because the world of finance is inevitable and we're in a digital world, we need to get them ready for

that inevitable world of finance. So with this app, they can have access and at the same time their parents are able to monitor everything that they're doing.

"But in real time, they can learn to save money, spend money and all the other things that adults are also doing but on a very controlled and smaller scale. We are slashing the movie cost for the teenagers by 50 percent but it's not like we're taking over the cost. Thankfully, it's a great partnership that works with the management of Film House as well. We approached them, we told them what we wanted to do and they bought into the vision.

"I can remember while I was still in university, there used to be a student price when you're going to the movies. So, we created this initiative, and pitched it to them, they bought into the vision and decided to create this particular product where these kids can have access to cheaper tickets and days that they can come and watch. So, it's not just about King of Kings? This is just what we are using to launch," the MinieMoney Founder explained.

He said in a bid to control what the teenagers have access to watch, he and his team have listed PG movies on the app for the teenagers to pick from.

He said the partnership basically is the company putting its step into creating a lifestyle application for the teenagers.

"So, the idea is that money is supposed to be spent in different places. Money is used in different forms. We've come in and said once you download the app, you can start to save your money. You still have to spend money but in a reasonable way. We've given them access to that also. They can pay for the discounted tickets, buy airtime and data.

"Now, we've done movies. The next key feature for us now is to look at all the touch points where the kids go to spend their money. We can partner with any kind of brand that wants to target the teenagers. From clothing brands to back to school products, these are things that can be done on the app," Faniran added.





Also speaking during the event, Abidemi Olaiye, a teenager who used the app said the MinieMoney app is very simple to use.

"You just use your email and password or you can use your phone. So you navigate to movies, you fill in your details like the location you want, the amount of tickets you want and then you pay. You now enter your PIN and that's it. You get a receipt and everything.

"The app gives teenagers the convenience of not leaving their houses to buy tickets. You can do this days before you watch the movie. This is not like where you sit down here and you're waiting. The discounted rate is also another advantage the MinieMoney app gives," Olaiye said.

Salma Ibrahim also shared her experience using the app. "I downloaded the MinieMoney app yesterday night. And the first thing I noticed was how easy it was to use and how easily accessible it was to send money from other banks and other things to receive money.

"It was a seamless process.

Someone sent money to my account and I got it in less than five seconds. It was easy and seamless to use. Actually, when I used it to purchase my movie tickets yesterday, I noticed a drastic reduction in price from the normal sites that I used to buy tickets. I was shocked to see the huge difference in price," Ibrahim said.



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... fund repurposing of recycled tyres into school sandals

CHARLES OGWO

An African proverb states that “It takes a village to raise a child”, which suggest collaboration in a child’s upbringing. This could have informed the collaboration between NNPC Limited and FIRST E&P to empower public school students with sandals through FREEE Impact Foundation. FREEE Impact Foundation, has been awarded a N25 million grant by the NNPC

Limited/FIRST E&P Development Company Joint Venture, to provide eco-friendly footwear to 2,000 public school students through the elevate programme. The grant will enable FREEE Impact Foundation to distribute 2,000 sandals to pupils across underserved public schools in southwest Nigeria, contributing to a safer learning experience for pupils while reducing environmental waste.

Emmanuel Etomi, the executive director, corporate services at FIRST Exploration and Petroleum Development Company (FIRST E&P), speaking during the award, announced at the Movenpick Hotel, Lagos, said, “As an organisation, we have seen firsthand how meaningful change happens, not in isolation, but through collaboration.

We recognise that NGOs play a vital role in addressing complex social challenges, particularly in communities that are often underserved.

“By empowering and resourcing these organisations, we collectively create ripples of transformation that extend far beyond what any single entity can achieve alone.” By providing this grant to FREEE, NNPC/ FIRST E&P highlights the unique value of environmental interventions that simultaneously address youth poverty and public health risks caused by improper waste disposal.

Seyi Omotowa, chief upstream investment officer of NUIMS, represented by Loveday Minanengiyeofori, the lead of community relations at NNPC Upstream Investment Management Services (NUIMS), speaking at the event said, “At NNPC Limited, we remain committed to initiatives that drive sustainable social change.

“Through the Impact FIRST Grant, we are fostering partnerships with organisations that are making tangible impact in communities.” Ifedolapo Runsewe, managing director at FREEE Recycle, speaking on the award, said, “We’d like to say a very big thank you to NNPC Limited/FIRST E&P Joint Venture for this opportunity and recognising the work we do at the intersection of sustainability and social impact.

This grant allows us to distribute 2000 sandals to schools in southwest Nigeria.”

The initiative exemplifies a powerful dual-impact model: tackling environmental pollution and advancing educational equity through a single circular economy intervention.

FREEE Impact Foundation was selected alongside 11 other organisations after a competitive review process evaluating effectiveness, innovation, community impact, amongst other criteria.

The 12 selected grantees collectively received over N287 million in funding, supporting projects in healthcare, economic empowerment, education, and environmental sustainability.

This year’s ceremony also underscores the growing interest among corporate entities in supporting inclusive development models that deliver long-term social impact.

Founded in 2023, FREEE Impact Foundation serves as the advocacy arm of FREEE Recycle Limited. The firm through its tire recycling and product innovation has helped reduce urban flooding, landfill congestion, and pollution, all while creating value-added goods that promote dignity and inclusion for underserved populations.

This grant adds to FREEE’s growing record of recognition for its environmental and social innovation. With operations set to extend to multiple communities in southwest, the foundation continues to demonstrate how the circular economy can be locally driven, scalable, and rooted in community empowerment.

FREEE Impact Foundation is the advocacy and sustainability-focused arm of FREEE Recycle Limited. The foundation leads innovative projects aimed at driving awareness, engagement, and direct action around circular economy solutions.

7 THINGS YOU CAN NOT GET AWAY WITH AS AN IMMIGRANT IN THE UK

ESTHER EMOEKPERE



Moving to the UK sounds cute until reality checks in. Nobody really warns you about the long list of things you can not do, not because you are lazy, not because you do not want to, but simply because your visa says, "Relax, you are not British yet."

So while you are busy blending in and adjusting to weather mood swings, here are 7 things you can not do as an immigrant in the UK.

Bring family members without approval

Not all visa types allow you to bring dependents. If your visa does not include the right to sponsor family members, inviting them without the appropriate visa will breach immigration laws. Each family member must apply for a visa in their own right or be listed as a dependent in your application, and you must meet financial and accommodation requirements.

Overstay your visa

Remaining in the UK after your visa expires is unlawful. Even if it is a short overstay, it can impact future visa applications. Individuals who obtained their visas under false pretences or stayed past their permitted time may be detained or removed. In some cases, overstaying can also lead to a re-entry ban. Visa holders must monitor expiry dates and submit renewal applications before their status ends.

Work without authorisation

If you are in the UK on a visitor visa, you are not allowed to work under any capacity. This includes taking up employment, doing unpaid internships or work placements, selling goods or services, or even starting your own business. Working without authorisation is a breach of immigration rules and can result in fines, visa cancellation, a ban on re-entry, or removal from the UK. Even volunteering in a role that could be considered work-like may be questioned.

Study without the correct visa

You cannot enrol in further or higher education unless your visa permits it. For example, someone on a visitor visa cannot switch to a student visa within the UK or attend long-term study programmes. However, children between the ages of 5 and 16 are legally entitled to access state-funded education regardless of immigration status, as it falls under compulsory education law.

Vote in general elections

Only British citizens and certain Commonwealth citizens with the right immigration status can vote in general elections. Most immigrants, including those on work or student visas, are not eligible. You may, however, be able to vote in local or devolved elections depending on your nationality and residency status.

Claim public funds

Access to public funds is restricted for most immigrants unless you have indefinite leave to remain or refugee status. Public funds include Universal Credit, Housing Benefit, Child Benefit, Jobseeker's Allowance, and similar support schemes. Your visa conditions will state whether you have "No Recourse to Public Funds." Claiming benefits when you are not entitled to can affect future visa renewals or settlement applications.

Engage in professional sports or coaching without a permit

Taking part in professional sports, including coaching or training roles, is not allowed unless your visa permits it. This applies to athletes, coaches, referees, and other sport related roles. Engaging in these activities without the correct work visa could lead to deportation or refusal of future visa applications.

HOW THIS ISLAND WENT FROM LUXURY CARS AND FREE HEALTHCARE TO ECONOMIC STRUGGLES

CHISOM MICHAEL



Once considered the richest country in the world per capita, Nauru, a small island nation in Micronesia, now faces economic instability. The country was propelled to global attention in the 20th century after rich phosphate deposits were discovered there.

These reserves, used in the production of fertiliser, were heavily mined throughout the century, first by colonial powers and later by Nauruans after the country gained independence in 1968.

During its economic peak, Nauru experienced a level of state-led prosperity rarely seen elsewhere. A 1982 New York Times report described Nauru as having “a per capita income surpassing that of any oil-rich Arab nation.” The island reportedly became “the smallest and wealthiest independent democracy in the world”.

With phosphate money flowing in, Nauru’s government provided public services such as healthcare, education, and transportation at no cost. Citizens received medical treatment abroad, and tertiary education was covered by the state. Despite personal bank accounts remaining modest for many, the country functioned as what some described as “the ultimate welfare state”.

This period of wealth was marked by high-profile spending. A BBC report described how luxury cars, including Lamborghinis and Ferraris, were imported. One police officer reportedly bought a Lamborghini only to realise he could not fit in the driver’s seat. The car was later abandoned. Other high-end vehicles, such as Cadillacs and Land Rovers, have been spotted rusting along the roadside.

In a 2024 video, YouTuber Ruhi Çenet explored Nauru and detailed the visible remains of its past wealth. He shared stories from locals, including one who recalled seeing her grandmother leave a bank with a pillowcase filled with cash during the peak of the phosphate boom. Çenet described the situation as a “frenzy of consumption”.

However, by the 1990s, phosphate supplies were declining. Years of over-mining had exhausted much of the resource. In search of revenue, Nauru reportedly turned to selling passports and became known as an offshore financial centre. These strategies were eventually phased out.

Phosphate mining resumed in 2005, offering a temporary economic reprieve. In recent years, Nauru also began receiving significant aid from the Australian government for hosting asylum-seekers at the Nauru Regional Processing Centre. This facility became a key revenue stream. The country has also benefited from fishing rights in its surrounding waters, though the economy remains vulnerable to external shocks.

Nauru continues to face health challenges. According to MacroTrends, smoking rates were estimated at 48.50% in 2020. A report by NPR links the country’s high obesity rate—over 70% of the population—to limited access to nutritious food, especially following the economic downturn.



NIGERIANS CAN EARN N104.3M YEARLY AS TEACHERS IN CANADA

CHARLES OGWO

A career in teaching can be less lucrative and attractive in Nigeria, especially, in the face of poor remuneration, lack of respect and recognition, among others.

In Canada, a career in teaching is a different ball game because it is a very lucrative venture, with respect and recognition.

Teaching in Canada can be a lucrative career, with teachers earning an average of N104.3 million (\$65,032) per year. Teachers' salary varies in Canada depending on factors such as location, experience, and education level. Some Canadian provinces, such as Nunavut and Yukon, may offer higher salaries due to a higher cost of living and difficulty in finding suitable teachers.

According to cbcnews, a prominent online news source focusing on Canadian immigration, offering updates on

policies, procedures, and events related to the country's immigration system, building teaching experience, and creating a strong portfolio are beneficial.

However, as a foreign, it is required that the individual pass a criminal background check and demonstrate language proficiency.

Teaching in Canada is a regulated profession, which means that to get a teaching job, one must get certified to operate professionally.

Teaching in Canada is regulated at the provincial or territorial level, like most other regulated professions. Hence, it requires that one meets different requirements to teach legally, depending on which province or territory he or she reside in.

The federal government has also recently added education as a category in Express Entry, making it easier for teachers to obtain Canadian permanent residency through Express Entry if they wish to settle in Canada permanently.

How to get certified as a teacher in Canada

To secure a teaching job in Canada, interested applicants need to complete a bachelor's degree, a teacher education programme, and obtain provincial certification. Here are some of the steps to becoming an internationally trained educator in Canada.

Those who want to teach in Canada need to have the following;

Education qualifications:

In most Canadian provinces it is required that applicants must have completed post-secondary degree, most commonly a bachelor's degree from a recognised institution.

Internationally-educated teachers are required to obtain educational credential assessments (ECAs) for any foreign degrees that are necessary to qualify for licensing.

Specialised teacher education programme:

Besides a post-secondary degree, most jurisdictions also require the teacher to have completed specialised training as a teacher. Specific teacher training requirements may vary, but can include length and/or the number of semesters that need to have been completed, in addition to some quantity of practical teaching experience.

Language proficiency:

Canadian school management would want applicants to show proficiency in written and spoken English or French, depending on the course they wish to teach, and the province they want to teach in.

Proof of moral character:

Many provinces also require applicants to prove that they are of good moral character. While the documents submitted vary from province to province, British Columbia (BC), for instance, requires criminal record check results, academic records, confidential character references, and teacher evaluation reports, respectively, if required.

However, some provinces have additional requirements, for instance, It is also mandatory for all teachers in Ontario to complete the College's Sexual Abuse Prevention Programme (SAPP).



In British Columbia, those who have completed their teacher education programme outside Canada must do a familiarisation course approved by the BC Teachers' Council.

Working as a teacher in Canada

In Canada, there are different types of teaching positions available, including;

Working full-time;

Supply teachers are usually under temporary contracts, while long-term occasional teachers substitute teachers who cover a full-time teacher's absence for an extended period, such as maternity leave.

Full-time teachers – permanent positions

Full-time permanent teachers in Canada generally teach for about 10 months per year, while classes are in session. They usually observe breaks from classes, including two to three weeks off at Christmas, a week off during March break, and about two months off in the summer.

Long-Term Occasional Teachers (LTOs)

An LTO is a full-time contract position where a teacher will take over the class of a permanent full-time teacher for an extended period, for example, due to parental leave. LTOs can range from several weeks to an entire academic year. The LTO is a full-time contract position. When the contract ends, so does the job.

In some jurisdictions, supply teachers and LTO teachers may also be unionised, and their work can contribute to a defined benefit pension.

Nigerians interested in teaching jobs can benefit from seeking opportunities in Canada due to high demand, a strong education system, and the potential for a better quality of life.

The Canadian education sector seeks qualified teachers, and the immigration process for qualified professionals is relatively straightforward.

CURATORIAL POWER: Who Gets to Tell Africa's Artistic Story?



We often celebrate the stunning visuals, the deep symbolism, and the cultural richness of African art. But behind every exhibit and gallery wall, there's a storyteller. And here's the catch—many of these storytellers haven't been African.

For the longest time, African art has been viewed through someone else's lens. Western curators and institutions often held the microphone, interpreting the continent's rich artistic heritage in ways that felt distant, sometimes even distorted. Many African artworks were boxed into categories like "primitive" or "tribal," disconnected from the vibrant cultures and histories they came from.

But that's changing. Slowly but surely, African curators, scholars, and artists are taking back the pen and rewriting the narrative. They're not just adding footnotes to an old story—they're creating an entirely new one. This conversation isn't just about art—it's about power, identity, and who gets to define a culture on the global stage. So, the big question remains: who should be telling Africa's artistic story? And what does that look like in a world that's finally starting to listen?

The Backstory: A Longstanding Imbalance

Let's rewind a bit. For decades, African art was often displayed and portrayed in Western museums as materials more useful for historical curiosities than creative masterpieces. No context. No connection. No voice from the communities who made them. It often felt as though one was hearing half of a story and being told that's all that there is.

Western institutions told these stories from their own perspectives, often ignoring the voices and nuances of African artists, historians, and curators. This created a massive imbalance—a one-sided version of Africa's rich artistic narrative that didn't do justice to its depth or diversity.

The Shift: African Curators Take the Lead

With the shift in place in recent years, African curators have taken the bulls by the horn, reclaiming control and changing the game. They are building spaces, launching platforms, and telling stories rooted in authenticity.

This digest is brought to you by Patrons MCAA. Think African art, think Patrons. Patrons is Africa's leading art advisory and dealership firm with deep expertise in African art, helping private and corporate art collectors diversify their wealth through art collection, appraisal, packaging & transportation, storage, insurance, maintenance, and restoration. Purchase or general inquiry? Reach out: art@patronsmcaa.com.



Ghanaian curator, Nana Oforiatta Ayim

Take Nana Oforiatta Ayim, for example—a Ghanaian curator, writer, and force behind the ANO Institute of Arts and Knowledge. She is working to redefine how African culture and art are documented, preserved, and shared. Her work connects contemporary African art to its traditional roots and local communities, bringing into context that Western galleries often ignore.



Ghanaian curator, Nana Oforiatta Ayim
Then there's Adenrele Sonariwo, founder of Rele Gallery in Lagos, Los Angeles, and London. She's creating space for a new generation of African artists—giving them not just visibility but a voice on the global stage.

Like these women, many others like them are flipping the script.

The Roadblocks Still Standing

Granted, these strides are not at all smooth sailing. African curators are still underrepresented in major global art institutions and secondary markets. Many African artefacts—some taken during colonial rule—still sit in Western museums. Albeit the call for restitution is growing louder, progress remains slow.

Even so, there is hope.

Technology is opening new doors. With online exhibitions, digital galleries, and social media, African curators are now able to reach audiences worldwide without relying on traditional gatekeepers.

Why This Matters

This is not just an art issue. It is about ownership, identity, and power. When African stories are told by African voices, the art becomes more than a visual experience—it becomes a powerful expression of heritage, resistance, pride, and evolution.

Think of it like this: would you rather hear a story from someone who lived it, or someone who only read about it?

Where Do We Go From Here?

The answer is clear: we need more African-led institutions, more curators shaping our own narratives, and more support for these efforts—financially, culturally, and politically.

Let's make room for the storytellers who know the rhythms, colours, and spirits behind each brushstroke and sculpture. Let's put the mic in their hands.

Because the truth is, no one can tell Africa's artistic story better than Africans.



Keturah Ovio

Keturah Ovio is an Executive at Patrons Modern & Contemporary African Art. She is also an engineer and Founder of Dukka, a Fintech startup providing bookkeeping and payments solutions for small businesses. Keturah is passionate about African Art and has been collecting art since her early 20s. Now, she advises, curates, and manages collections for individuals and corporate organisations looking to start or diversify their wealth management through art collecting.

She strongly believes that a fine marriage exists between Art and Technology

OSIMHEN, AFRICAN JEWEL'S MOVE TO OLD TRAFFORD, A DANGLING PENDULUM

CHARLES OGWO



Uncertainties continue to surround Victor Osimhen's next club as the season comes to an end. A lot has been said about a possible move to Manchester United at the commencement of the 2025/2026 Premier League.

Manchester United look set for a busy summer in the transfer window, and Ruben Amorim, the head coach, appears keen to replenish his forward line at Old Trafford in the coming months.

The Old Trafford giants are pushing ahead with a £40million deal to sign Victor Osimhen this summer. Amorim has made Napoli forward who is currently on loan at Galatasaray, his top striker transfer target this summer.

The Reds has been having goals draught this season and the coach believes Osimhen is the solution to the team's goals draught problem; bearing in mind his proven goal-scoring prowess.

Osimhen has scored 29 goals from 34 games this season, and his contract with Napoli is winding down at the end of the season.

However, going by the views of David Ornstein, a sports journalist and correspondent at the BBC Osimhen is may not be heading to Old Trafford as he is not on Man United's agenda for this summer.

Ornstein affirmed that the priority for Manchester United in this upcoming transfer window is their attack line.

"They (Man United) are looking at a forward and a number 10 as their main focus."

"They want to get on with it pretty quickly. Their finances are in place to do the deals they would like to do. They do not depend on European football or on sales to sustain them," he explained.

"Their main focus for the number 10 position is Cunha. He has a £62.5 million release clause. He wants to come, but personal terms would still need to be agreed, which is not a formality.



“In the strike position is Liam Delap of Ipswich Town; he’s their number one target. He has a £30 million release clause if Ipswich are relegated. But there are a lot of other suitors for him, including Chelsea. So no guarantee will happen,” Ornstein adds.

Ornstein thinks that if Manchester United is to look at others strikers, it would not be Osimhen, despite the report you might be reading.

“He is not on the agenda of Manchester United. They will have another option because they might have turned to them, or they stick with internal solutions, such as Rasmus Hojlund, and they focus on other positions,” he argued.

No matter what happens, a fact remains that as the world football communities look forward to winding down the 2024/2025 calendar, one name many will not forget in a hurry, especially in Turkey, is Osimhen, the Nigerian lethal striker, and Africa’s foot jewel.

The Nigeria international has been in sublime form for Galatasaray this season, a continuation of his fine forms in previous seasons.

Napoli Football Club broke their bank in signing Osimhen in 2020 to sign Osimhen on a club record fee of \$96 million, making him the most expensive signing in their club history. Two seasons after the club began to reap the gains of investing in the Nigerian lethal strike who helped them to win the Serie A trophy in style.

Osimhen scored 22 Serie A league goals and 4 assists in 27 games to lead Napoli to their first scudetto in the 21st century.

Neapolitans last lifted the coveted trophy 33 years ago, when the late Diego Armando Maradona led the Azure colour army to subdue the likes of AC Milan, Juventus, Roma, and Internazionale Milan, among others, to lift the trophy.

Galatasaray is currently on top of the Turkish League with 77 points, inspired by Osimhen’s goal-scoring magic. Many football-loving Nigerians are optimistic that the Edo State-born striker has what it takes to return Manchester United to its glory days.

Paul Erikewe, the chief coach of Customs Football Club and the man who discovered Osimhen judging by Osimhen’s current form there is no club he cannot play for.

The main challenge for Osimhen, according to Erikewe, his ability to adapt to the new club’s philosophy.

“Every coach has a philosophy, and it is the duty of players to adapt and adjust to it that matters. If he can adapt, then he won’t have many problems at Man U,” he said.

Erikewe does not want to see the young striker being compared to Ronaldo because this will put a lot of pressure on him, which might be counter-productive to his career.

For Shira Yusuf, a National Institute of Sports (NIS) certified football coach, sees no reason why Osimhen will not excel at Man U.

“Why not? It will be a super replacement because he is young, experienced, and very hard working with good goal-scoring records,” he said.



THE 10 DEADLY SINS OF BRANDING: AVOID THESE COMMON PITFALLS

FEYISITAN IJIMAKINWA

Keeping your brand on the straight and narrow will be easier if you can avoid the situations below. None will totally kill a brand, yet any one will weaken its effectiveness.

Reducing your brand name to initials

We call this monogram branding and it's the surest way to drop into the oblivion of alphabet soup brands. "Everyone calls us that, anyway," you say. Not your next new customer who will remember you far better if it's a distinctive name. Look at this way, you wouldn't introduce yourself to anyone using just your initials. Why do that with your brand? If your name is too long, shorten it. Just don't turn it into a three-letter code.

Copying your competition

"We're just as good as the leading brand," has never been a successful brand strategy. The world doesn't need a duplicate of an existing brand. It's looking for something different, and better. I'm not talking about product or service features. You certainly have to keep up with those. But using similar messaging or product naming, or even mimicking a leading brand's color scheme are errors that will dilute your brand and set you back.

Trying to be all things to all people

Brands seeking growth may be tempted to reach beyond their core promise to gain some incremental revenue. Still, you won't see Rolex offering \$75 watches to compete with Timex. BMW is a brand that is focused on performance. It just so happens that many BMWs offer

superior fuel mileage as well. However, you won't see them focusing on that message because it doesn't jive with the image of a performance-based brand.

Leading with how old you are

Ask yourself this: Have you ever bought a product (a car, smart phone, cereal, anything) based on how old the brand is? No. Because you don't care. Would you buy a Honda because it's older than Toyota? No. (They're the same age) So, please resist the temptation to lead with "Since 1934..." or "...with over eight decades experience..." It's simple. No one cares (and, if any, maybe very few). What they care about is what's new. Talk about that.

Making promises you can't deliver

Let's say you're in the food business and you want to build a brand around eating healthy. Yet your products are high in sodium, fat calories and/or sugar. Sooner or later (these days probably sooner) your customers are going to figure out that your products are not that healthy after all. On the other hand, if you position the brand as indulgent, you just might succeed. Speaking in clichés

Lines like "We provide solutions" are generic. Every brand is a solution to something. "Our people make the difference" is another tired phrase that is virtually impossible to prove. Develop messages that set you apart, not ones that sound like everyone else.

Faking authenticity

This is less about the brand promise and more about the brand story or heritage. If you concoct a good story that isn't really true, you'll probably get busted. Claiming locally sourced ingredients has gotten Chipotle into trouble since only a portion of their produce comes from local sources. They have had similar questions raised about their claims of sustainability. Building a brand around a noble goal is fine, but make it real or get ready to play defense instead of offense.

Not communicating with your customer base and other friends of your brand

Keep them updated on what services or products you have available and changes to delivery or service policies. Let them know if you have special offers. Just be careful not to inundate your most important audience segment with excessive communication. The temptation to "send another email" may be greater than ever, but keep an eye on your open rate and dial back your frequency if it is falling.

Begging for customer support

Appreciating your customers is always a good idea, but asking them to patronise your business in ways that may make them feel uncomfortable should never happen. During the global COVID-19 crisis, some businesses won more people with their sensitivity while many lost out to insensitivity. Some companies downplayed the risk of transmission that existed with doing business with them. Even if they were right, they inadvertently alienated otherwise loyal customers who didn't feel the same way.

'Mis'treating your employees

Salary cuts and layoffs are never happy moments but finding ways to show compassion

for your employees can have a positive effect on your brand and how it is perceived. Demonstrating shared sacrifice and recognising the hardship that staff and employees are experiencing could go a long way.

LAST LINE

Brands make targets. As a company creates brand strategies for public consumption, you should be sure to evaluate your ability to deliver on that image, especially when the public attempts to pull back the curtain for a closer look



FEYISITAN IJIMAKINWA

Feyisitan Ijimakinwa is a Reputation and Perception Management expert. He is a prolific writer and researcher who, at different times, served as Head of Corporate Communications of top brands quoted on the Nigerian Stock Exchange. A versatile communications specialist, he practiced extensively as a print journalist and was variously engaged in the broadcast media, working on radio and television. Feyisitan continues to write on corporate communications, brand reputation and perception management, and brand intelligence, among others. He organises the 'Brand Intelligence and the Marketplace' masterclass. Feyisitan advocates a pollution free and sustainable environment

THE EASTER CURSE

UDY OSARO-EDOBOR

Lugard had always been the sort of man who thought the world owed him something. He walked with a swagger, not of confidence, but of arrogance. The kind that stunk up the room before he even spoke. In the town of Alaroko, everyone knew him—not for kindness or charm, but for his cruelty. If he wasn't mocking someone's looks, he was criticizing their efforts, throwing insults like confetti at a parade. And the worst part? He didn't care. Not one bit.

It was the year of the grand Easter carnival at the Alaroko community center. A festive three-day event meant to celebrate unity, resurrection, and renewal. Families came out in their best clothes. Music, food, laughter—it was a slice of joy. But for Lugard, it was just another excuse to ridicule.

The first evening was particularly special. An old woman, Mama Nkechi, stood on the open stage, dressed in bright Ankara with a touch of gold thread in her hair. Her voice trembled at first but then grew in strength as she sang a song about Easter, about forgiveness, and the burden of the cross. The crowd clapped. Children danced. Even elders nodded in rhythm.

Except Lugard

"Someone tell this old hag to join her ancestors already!" he barked, laughing loudly. "She's out here doing karaoke with ghosts!"

The crowd hushed. Gasps cut through the air. But Mama Nkechi didn't flinch. She finished her song, bowed, and walked off the stage with grace.

Lugard kept laughing, throwing more jabs. "Bet her bones are held together with cobwebs."

Still, the woman said nothing

Later that evening, as the crowd dispersed, Lugard strolled to the car park, smirking like he'd won a prize for cruelty. But something stopped him in his tracks. There she was—Mama Nkechi—unlocking the door to an exotic black sedan that looked like it didn't belong in their modest town.

"Oh wow," Lugard scoffed. "Did you steal that from a museum? Or are you doing Uber for ghosts now?" Mama Nkechi slowly stepped out of the car. There was a quiet grace to her, something ancient and unsettling. She squared her shoulders, eyes glowing not with age, but purpose.

She looked straight into Lugard's mocking eyes and said in a voice louder than thunder yet clearer than crystal, "Your eyes will see blood."

And with that, she entered her car and drove off, leaving behind a silence that wrapped itself around Lugard like a cold chain.

For the first time in his life, Lugard felt something new: fear. Real fear.

He brushed it off. Told himself she was just an old woman throwing empty threats. After all, he was Lugard—the storm in other people's skies. The festival continued, but Mama Nkechi never returned.

A year later, on Good Friday, Lugard woke up to a red pillow. His eyes stung like fire. Panicked, he rushed to the mirror and was met with a sight so grotesque it nearly knocked him out—his eyes were bloodshot, and thin trails of blood slid down his cheeks like tears.

Hospitals couldn't explain it. Doctors scratched their heads. It hurt terribly for three days. Then, just like that, it stopped on Easter Sunday. He chalked it up to stress.

Coincidence. But the next year? It happened again.

By the third year, it became a terrifying pattern. Every Good Friday, blood. Pain. Fear. Shame. It didn't take long for his friend Desmond to remind him, "Lugard... don't you remember what that old woman said?" His stomach turned.

Five years passed and the blood never failed to come. Each year was worse than the last. Vision blurred. Screams in his sleep. Isolation.

Lugard changed. Life humbled him. He no longer mocked people. He helped his neighbors. He kept quiet. He worked with his hands. He became a man no one thought he could be. But still, the blood came. He knew the only hope was to find Mama Nkechi and beg for forgiveness. But she was gone. Moved away. No one knew where. Or perhaps they did, but kept it from him. Desperate, Lugard combed old footage of the carnival, clipped her performance, and posted it online with captions begging anyone who recognized her to reach out. It took a year, but he finally got a letter.

Mama Nkechi's daughter responded. She was dead. Had died five years ago.

Lugard was shattered

He couldn't eat. Couldn't sleep. He paced the floor like a prisoner. Suicidal thoughts crept in, but he wasn't brave enough to follow through.

Then, one day, he gave food to a homeless man on the street. As he turned to walk away, the man called him back and said, "Just apologize. Just say you're sorry."

"What do you mean?" Lugard asked. But the man simply smiled and disappeared into the crowd. The words haunted him. He knew what he had to do.

He wrote to Mama Nkechi's daughter again. Begged.

Pleaded. Promised he wasn't trying to paint her mother as a witch—just that he needed to say sorry.

Months later, she agreed. But not without precautions. She brought security, mistrust heavy in her eyes. She pointed to the grave in a quiet cemetery far from home.

Lugard walked to the grave, knees trembling. He stood still for a long time. Then the dam broke. He wept. He fell to his knees. His life, like a movie reel, played in his mind. The mockery, the spitting, the cruel names, the laughter at her Easter song—all of it hit him like blows.

"I'm sorry," he cried. "I'm so, so sorry."

The air changed. It grew lighter. The pain he had carried in his chest for years lifted. For the first time in nearly a decade, he felt peace.

That night, he slept like a child. Good Friday came. No blood. No pain. No tears. He was free.

Before returning home, Mama Nkechi's daughter asked to meet him. She looked at him with a mixture of sorrow and understanding.

"My mother wasn't a witch," she said. "She wasn't the kind to curse anyone. She forgave too easily. I don't know what happened that day. Maybe... maybe someone wanted you to learn a lesson."

Lugard nodded, thankful. It didn't fully make sense, but he didn't question it.

Years later, Lugard stood at the funeral of his best friend Desmond.

A strange group arrived to conduct the rites—robes, chants, an unfamiliar air about them. Whispers floated through the funeral crowd.

Desmond had belonged to a secret sect. One that believed in karma and spiritual justice. One that believed in teaching life lessons... the hard way.

And then Lugard heard it:

"It wasn't the old woman who cursed you. It was Desmond. He gave her words life. To teach you what you refused to learn." Lugard couldn't believe it.

His best friend had put him through hell—so he could become a better man.

And strangely enough, he didn't hate him for it.



Udy Osaro-Edobor

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From Bitterness to Becoming-A Review of Ogugua Ajayi's Love on the Dotted Line

Title: Love on the Dotted Line
Author: Ogugua Ajayi
Year of Publication: 2025
Number of Pages: 433
Category: Fiction

LOVE ON THE DOTTED LINE

UDY OSARO-EDOBOR

If you're a lover of romance, the cover of *Love on the Dotted Line* will likely catch your eye and the contents won't disappoint. Nollywood screenwriter Ogugua Ajayi brings her storytelling flair to the page, crafting a heartfelt tale of love, loss, and emotional reckoning.

At the heart of the novel is Ada, a widow whose lingering anger toward her late husband is both surprising and intriguing. Her bitterness gradually makes sense as the story peels back the layers of her grief, revealing pain that many readers especially women may recognize. The novel, while fictional, strikes a raw chord, echoing the real-life challenges faced by widows in Nigeria, where societal norms can deepen the wounds of loss.

Set in Lagos and Port Harcourt, with a special focus on the Island side of Lagos, the book vividly captures urban life. Readers familiar with these areas will enjoy the sense of place Ajayi creates through detailed and familiar descriptions.

Ada's life seems poised for a breakthrough, but things aren't quite as glossy as they appear. What looks like success on the outside masks emotional turmoil, sacrifice, and tough realities. The phrase "not all that glitters is gold" rings true throughout her journey. While some readers might admire her circumstances, others will be relieved they don't share them.

Ajayi doesn't shy away from difficult topics. The book grapples with trauma, PTSD, and the psychological impact of neglect and broken relationships. Certain characters exhibit toxic behavior, enough to frustrate readers at times but their flaws add depth and realism to the story. Wande, for instance, is both irritating and essential: arrogant yet instrumental to Ada's growth, he embodies the complicated role of support in another person's healing journey.

Themes like self-discovery, imposter syndrome, emotional freedom, and the search for validation are woven seamlessly into the narrative. One character's journey toward liberation stands out as particularly moving. Fictional, yes, but powerfully relatable. Readers may see themselves in this progression and feel nudged toward change in their own lives.

The story also transitions from a business relationship to a more intimate connection, a shift some may see coming while others are caught by surprise. Still, it's the journey, not just the destination that holds the reader's attention.

Forget the book's size, *Love on the Dotted Line* is a smooth, engaging read. Each chapter flows into the next with a rhythm that keeps you hooked. Ajayi delivers a story that blends drama and emotion, ultimately offering readers both entertainment and introspection.

This is more than a love story. It's a reflection of reality, an invitation to empathy, and a gentle push toward self-examination. Whether you're drawn in by the romance or the raw emotional truths, this book leaves a powerful impact.



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WEEKENDER

MOVIE REVIEW

FOOL ME ONCE (2024)

Maya was a pretty, young, vibrant captain in the military, during the cause of her job, she met this charming young handsome man and they decided to get married, after a few years of marriage she lost her beloved sister Claire and four months later she loses her husband. Maya decided to leave work for a while to focus on her daughter and get her head together. Maya was always hallucinating and seeing things, which became quite difficult for her to separate her thoughts from reality. A few months later maya set up a hidden camera only to review and find her dead husband coming into their home to hug their kid, all her efforts to disclose what she saw to her friends and detective fell on deaf ears as they all felt she was seeing things and not mentally balanced. well, you will need to go checkout the movie to see how she was able to prove herself that she was mentally balanced and that indeed she saw her husband. The 8 episodes 55minutes average drama based on books mysteries, crime thriller movie was directed by David Moore and Nimer Rasheed they featured actors like Michelle keegan,Adeel Akhtar,Richard Armitage,Joanna Lumley,Dino Fetscher,Joe Armstrong,Marcus Garvey,Danya Griver and many more.



A LAGOS LOVE STORY (2025)

It was so nice to finally bump into another sweet Nigerian movie, it was just simple and nice if you are searching for a nice romantic story with a happy ending then this will be worth your weekend. Promise Quest as she was called in the movie played the lead role, she was desperate to get a new project that will enable her save enough money to enable her save her parents' home from being acquired by the government. Promise will do anything to save their home, even with putting up with a very terrible boss "Fadakemi Rhodes" while managing the most difficult client in her life King Kator. Promise was asked to make sure he shows up for the events or have herself fired. Well, you will need to go check out the movie to find out if she managed her rebellious client properly, if she got the main project or got fired? if she saved her family legacy and how love almost led her astray. The 90m comedy, drama was directed by Chinaza Onuzo movie was directed by Mike Afolarin, Uche Montana, Chimezie Imo, Gbubemi Ejeye, Jemima Osunde, Susan Pwajok, Veeiye, Ihuoma Linda Ejiofor,



MEET THE KHUMALOS (2025)

Bogi was a lady who ran a travel tour company, as she progressed things grew and they became wealthier, she and her husband decided to move to a high brow area different from where they grew up. On arrival they were welcomed by their new neighbours "The Khumalo's, the family welcome became a total disaster as Bogi and Visu were in shock to see each other again after decades. The two women left the gates angry, screaming and shouting warning their family members, how they must never see, greet and visit the new neighbours. The husbands and kids couldn't understand or fathom what exactly the issues, all efforts to find out what the issues were and to resolve them all went on deaf ears and were fruitless. Well, you will need to check out this funny movie to discover what initiated their fight years ago and if they were able to come to a resolution even after discovering their kids were in love with other. The 92m Comedy, drama movie was directed by Jayan Moodley, they featured actors like Ayanda Borocho, Bonga Dlamini, Charlotte, Khanyi Mbau, Khosi Ngema, Jesse Suntele



LINDA OCHUGBUA

WEEKEND QUOTES



1

Sanity is easy to understand if you have ever been anxious; shouting when you are required to smile
.....WhispersbyTEN

3

Be calm because you can't see everything. However, there is He that sees all things
.....WhispersbyTEN

2

Focus is easy when understand the vision ahead.
.....WhispersbyTEN

4

Association is good and easy when your thoughts and path are aligned
.....WhispersbyTEN