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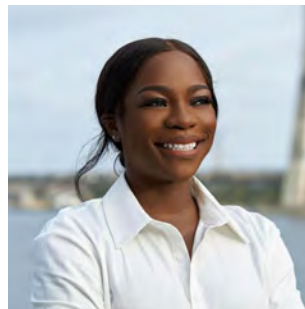
MEET
*Wunmi
Mosaku:*

The Nigerian movie star in Hollywood's trending 'Sinners'



TRAVEL

Inside Kenya's oldest tour company acquired by Aliko Dangote, David Rubenstein



INTERVIEW

Renua Itsueli: Where Architecture Meets Global Relevance

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BUSINESS DAY
WEEKENDER

C O N T E N T



5

LAUGHTER IN THE MIRROR



13

INTERVIEW

Adijat Okuyelu: Empowering communities through finance and culinary arts



19

LIFESTYLE

Micdee: Elevating commercial environment into dynamic workspaces for players across industries

37

EVENT

Grant's Crew
Nights Out:
Celebrating
connections and
shared moments

39

TOURISM

Inside Azuri One,
West Africa's tallest
residential tower

41

TRAVEL

Albania named
best place to visit
in 2025 in new
ranking

61

BRAND

How brand
language impacts
brand identity

65

BOOK REVIEW

Sakadelli

67

MOVIE REVIEW

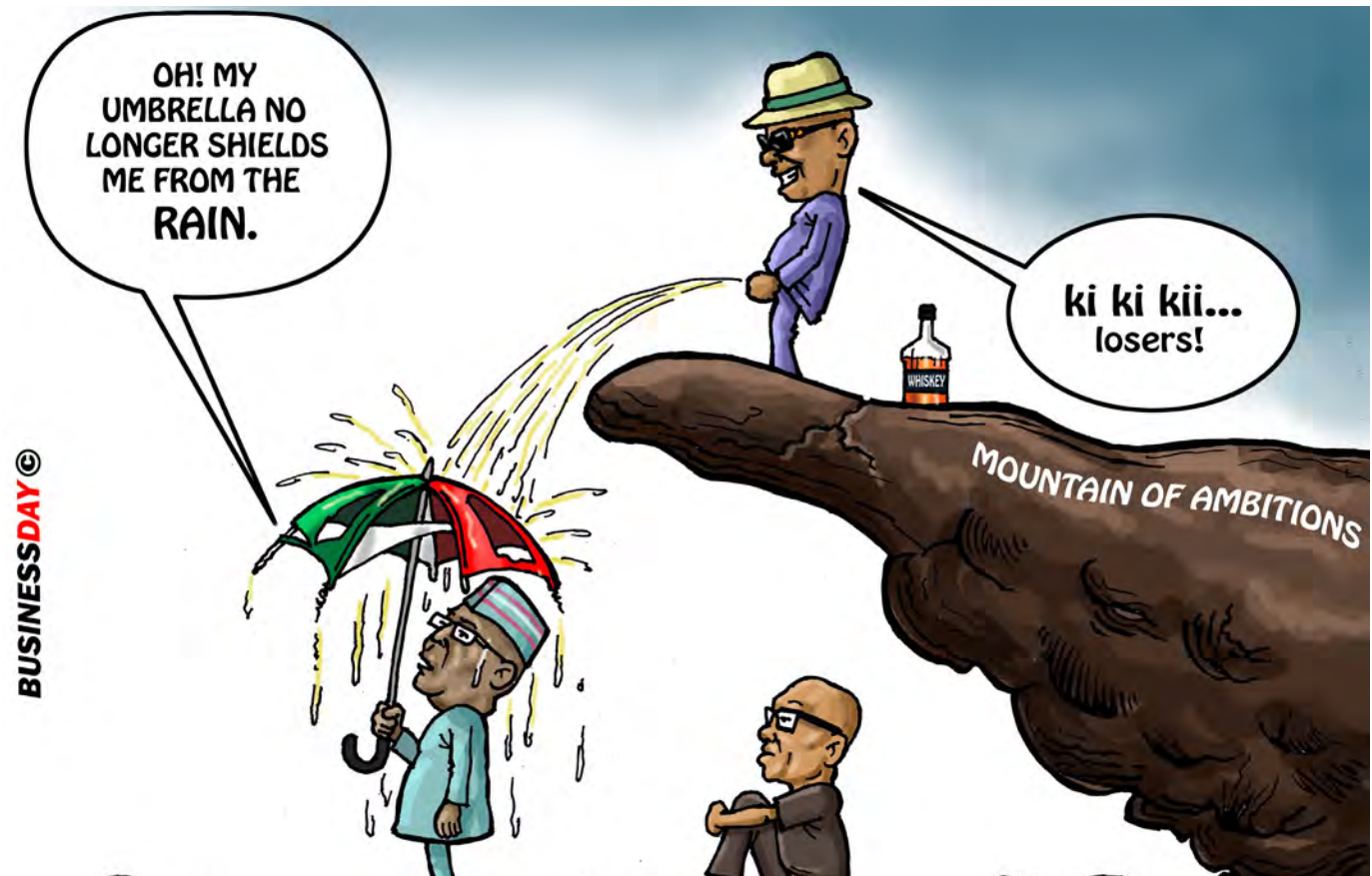
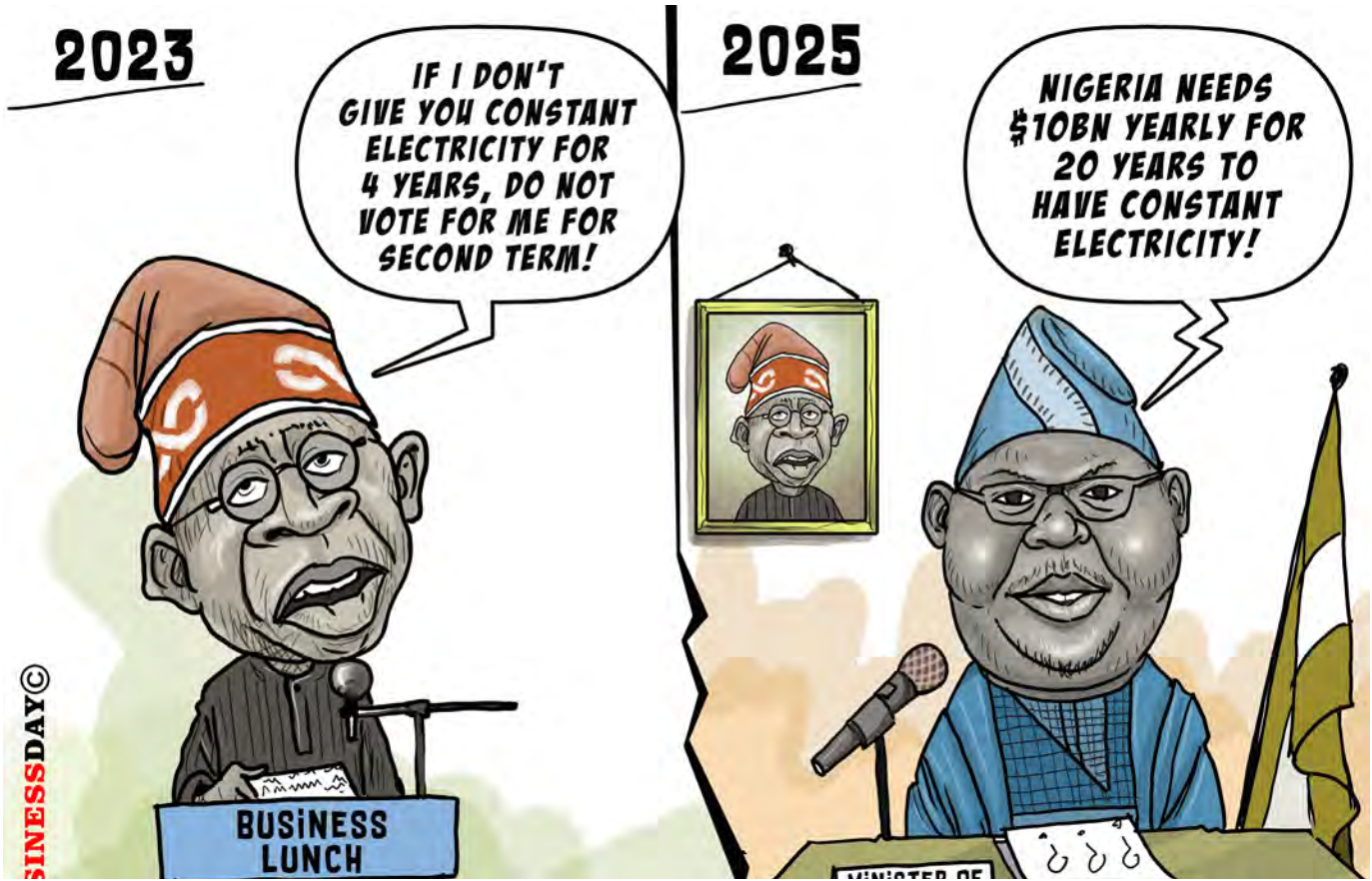


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MEET WUNMI MOSAKU: The Nigerian movie star in Hollywood's trending 'Sinners'

ESTHER EMOEKPERE



From the moment you start watching *Sinners*, there's something about it that feels intimate. Yes, it is a supernatural tale set in the 1930s Mississippi Delta, filled with spells, spirits, and hidden truths, but at the core of the mystery lies a quiet, pulsing essence. That essence is Annie.

She is not flashy or loud. A Hoodoo priestess with a complex background, Annie embodies the emotional weight of the film like a carefully held thread, steady, taut, and unyielding. She perceives what others miss. She listens when others scream. She bears a kind of sorrow that often eludes description, and this is

precisely why she lingers in your thoughts. In a story filled with twins, ghosts, and gods, Annie is the one who makes it feel real.

Wunmi Mosaku portrays her with subtle intensity. Originally from Zaria, Nigeria, and moved to the UK at the age of one, Wunmi did not grow up surrounded by traditional Yoruba beliefs. However, taking on the role of Annie meant more than memorizing lines or learning rituals, it evolved into something much more profound. "Doing the research introduced me to a part of me and my ancestry," she shares. "It reminded me of who I'm from, where I'm from."



“Horror isn’t solely about specters,” Wunmi ponders. “At times, it concerns the fear of forgetting your origins. The fear of losing your identity.” This is why Annie is significant, not just as a figure, but as an embodiment of cultural remembrance. In her stillness, there’s resistance. In her pain, there’s preservation.

Wunmi does not spend much time reading online reactions. “I have not gone searching for anything,” she said. And yet, audiences and critics alike have noticed, her performance gives the film its emotional shape. She is the weight, the memory, the ache beneath the magic.

When asked to list her personal heroes, Mosaku included her grandmother Anike Adisa, whom she described as having “taught me so many lessons”; actor Albert Finney, who was her inspiration for attending

RADA; her colleague and former instructor at RADA, William Gaskill; Paul Newman, whom she admired not just for his acting but also for his philanthropic efforts; and Oprah Winfrey, whom Mosaku considers “a superwoman”.

Outside of acting, Wunmi Mosaku is also an ambassador for ActionAid, an international charity that works with women and girls living in poverty. She started supporting ActionAid in 2018 and visited Ghana in March 2019 to meet with survivors of domestic violence and to learn about the organization’s work in helping them access justice. Her trip was also a personal journey into her family history, as she reflected on the story of her grandmother who fought against a forced marriage upon returning to Nigeria.

And perhaps that’s why Wunmi Mosaku stands out, not because she demands attention, but because she gives her roles so much of herself. In *Sinners*, she doesn’t play Annie. She becomes her.

Before *Sinners*, she had already made a name for herself in film and television. After training at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), she received praise for her roles in *Moses Jones* (2009), *I Am Slave* (2010), and *Damilola, Our Loved Boy* (2016), the latter winning her a BAFTA. Her career includes impactful performances in *Luther*, *Lovecraft Country*, *Black Mirror*, *Loki*, and most recently, *Deadpool & Wolverine*. However, *Sinners* was not just another part to her. During production, Wunmi had been studying Yoruba for five years, and everything finally came together. The language started to resonate with her. The character of Annie felt like home. “Now that I’m a mum, reconnecting with where I come from feels even more important,” she explained. “I want my daughter to grow up with that sense of identity. Not merely the tales, but the names, the language, the values.”

This sentiment profoundly resonates in Annie’s character. In *Sinners*, Annie finds herself between different realms, past and present, seen and unseen. Her silence carries sorrow, and her gaze reflects memory. While the film delves into West African spiritual customs like *Ifá*, it’s Annie who allows you to sense the significance of what has been lost and what years to be remembered.



INSIDE KENYA'S OLDEST TOUR COMPANY ACQUIRED BY ALIKO DANGOTE, DAVID RUBENSTEIN

IFEOMA OKEKE-KORIEOCHA

In the heart of Nairobi, Kenya's vibrant capital, stands Pollman's Tours and Safaris, a legendary name in the world of African travel.

For decades, the company had been weaving magic for adventurers, romantics, and explorers alike. Its story was one of passion, discovery, and the untamed beauty of Africa.

The company's history began with its founder, John Pollman, a British expat who fell deeply in love with Kenya's wilderness.

John's vision was simple yet profound: to share the breathtaking landscapes, diverse wildlife, and rich cultures of Africa with the world. With a small group of dedicated staff, Pollman's Tours and Safaris started as a family-run operation, offering bespoke safari experiences that catered

to the unique interests and preferences of each guest. As the years passed, Pollman's became synonymous with exceptional service, expert guides, and unforgettable experiences. The company's team of seasoned guides knew the secrets of the African bush, and its drivers navigated the rugged terrain with ease. From luxurious safaris in the Maasai Mara to adventurous treks up Mount Kilimanjaro, Pollman's tours offered something for everyone.

One of Pollman's most famous tours was the "Tanzanian Odyssey," a 10-day journey through the Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and Tarangire

National Park.

Guests on this tour witnessed the Great Migration, one of the most spectacular wildlife events on the planet.



They marveled at the majestic elephants of Tarangire, the predators of the Serengeti, and the stunning scenery of the Ngorongoro Crater.

Pollman's commitment to sustainable tourism was unwavering. The company worked closely with local communities to ensure that its operations benefited both the environment and the people. It supported conservation efforts, promoted cultural exchange, and provided economic opportunities for local guides, drivers, and artisans.

The company's reputation grew, and travellers from far and wide flocked to Pollman are, drawn by its promise of authentic African experiences. Pollman's guides were masters of their craft, able to read the subtle signs of the wilderness and reveal the hidden wonders of the savannah. Guests felt like they were part of the landscape, connected to the land and its creatures in a way that few other experiences could match.

Then, in a move that would shape the company's future, Africa Travel Investments, backed by Aliko Dangote and David Rubenstein, acquired Pollman's Tours and Safaris. The investment marked a new chapter in the company's history, one that would bring fresh opportunities for growth, innovation, and exploration.

With the backing of these visionary investors, Pollman's Tours and Safaris were poised to reach new heights. The company would continue to prioritize sustainability and community engagement while sharing the wonders of Africa with an even wider audience.

The future looks bright for this beloved tour company, and the adventures that lay ahead would be nothing short of extraordinary.

Under the new ownership, Pollman's would expand its offerings, introducing new tours and experiences that would showcase the diversity and richness of African culture and wildlife. The company would invest in its staff, providing training and development opportunities that would enable them to deliver even more exceptional service to guests. As Pollman's looked to the future, it remained committed to its core values of sustainability, community engagement, and exceptional service.

The company's legacy would continue, inspiring a new generation of travellers and explorers to experience the magic of Africa. With Africa Travel Investments at the helm, Pollman's Tours and Safaris was ready to embark on a new journey, one that would take the company to new heights and create unforgettable experiences for generations to come.

RENUA

ITSUELI:

WHERE ARCHITECTURE MEETS GLOBAL RELEVANCE





Renua Itsueli is an international architect with over a decade of experience designing and delivering complex projects across global cities from London and New York to Dubai and Lagos. She is currently pursuing an Executive MBA at London Business School as a Leadership Scholar while also professionally leading the adaptive reuse of heritage and commercial assets in the City of London for one of the most innovative companies in design and architecture.

Educated at the University of Cambridge (Bachelor/Master of Arts), Parsons School of Design (Master of Architecture), and now London Business School (Master of Business Administration) Itsueli combines cultural depth with technical and commercial rigour. She is a licensed architect in the U.S., and her academic and professional path reflects a commitment to interdisciplinary excellence and global relevance. She has contributed to architectural education as a visiting critic and lecturer at institutions including Columbia University and NYU. She is a founding committee member of The Diaspora Salon in Marrakech, a convening dedicated to fostering dialogue between Black creatives across the global African diaspora. The initiative seeks to connect architects, artists, designers and entrepreneurs working across geographies and disciplines, building a community that values exchange, leadership and long-term collaboration.

With roots across Africa, Europe and the U.S., Itsueli is part of a new generation of African globalists shaping the built environment and the cultural landscapes that surround it. In this interview with IFEOMA OKEKE-KORIEOCHA, she speaks on what inspires her design approach when working across diverse urban environments, lessons from her experiences that can be applied to support more sustainable urban development and values that continue to

anchor her approach to architecture, amongst others. You've contributed significantly to award-winning projects across the Middle East, advanced sustainability-led competition entries in Nigeria, and played a key role in reimagining commercial workspaces in the UK.

Working within leading international firms, your portfolio reflects deep engagement with a wide range of urban environments, each with distinct environmental and cultural priorities. What inspires your design approach when working across such diverse urban environments, and how do you ensure your work remains both globally innovative and locally grounded?

I am most inspired by the belief that when architectural design is really successful, it is able to capture something intangible about a place through the tangibility of spatial layouts and building materials. I believe this requires every project to begin with a deep understanding of context, not just geographically, but also culturally.

Innovation is inseparable from context. It must reflect the specific needs and realities of a place. When designing in Lagos, it might mean rethinking how locally available materials can be used more efficiently. In other settings, it might involve the integration of cutting-edge technologies. Neither is more valid than the other.

This is why I think the starting point for every project should be about making sure I am asking the right questions, and listening closely to what is being said, both explicitly and implicitly. Understanding what matters most in a particular place guides the design process in ways that lead to solutions that are both locally relevant and genuinely innovative.

The relationship between context and innovation is a strong theme in your projects, and a key driver of global sustainability goals in design. Having led the management of design teams on projects internationally recognised for both design excellence and environmental performance, what lessons from these experiences can be applied to support more sustainable urban development in African cities?

A key lesson has been the value of working with what already exists. On a recent project I managed, we were tasked with repositioning an existing commercial building to meet new expectations around performance, wellbeing, and flexibility. The challenge was to retain most of the existing fabric while radically improving energy efficiency and user



experience. This meant careful coordination across design, engineering, and construction, reinforcing the importance of systems-wide thinking and resource efficiency in approaching design in a sustainable way.

When it comes to urban development in African cities, I feel there is often an assumption, or perhaps an expectation, that development has to mean demolishing what is there and starting from scratch. Through what I have learnt, I hope to see more of an evolution of design practice that does not begin with how much can be removed, but rather with how much we can do with what might already exist. This also means recognising that such an approach does not necessarily mean sacrificing quality or experience, but that it can also be a driver for design excellence.

One of the most recognised projects you have been part of is celebrated for its immersive spatial qualities, integration with landscape, and ambitious net-zero goals. What do you think is most important when guiding a multidisciplinary team and maintaining design intent through the complexity of delivery?

I think the most important part of guiding a multidisciplinary team is creating a shared understanding of the design intent early on, and then finding practical ways to protect that intent through every stage of delivery.

With regards to the project referenced, it was a large-scale public building delivered under a fixed timeline, with parallel design and construction packages. We were able to hold the vision not only through clarity of intent and decisive leadership, but by building trust across disciplines, enabling teams to work collaboratively and be integral to developing holistic design solutions.

The project went on to become one of the city's top three attractions and received multiple accolades which was a testament to what is possible when cross-disciplinary teams are aligned not only around delivery but around a common design ambition.

You are currently pursuing an Executive MBA alongside your design leadership. How is this business education shaping your understanding of leadership in architecture?

Architecture is a collective practice, no one can deliver a project alone. Designing and delivering complex buildings requires the ability to lead through others. The more tools you have to build consensus, manage uncertainty, and support others in doing their best work, the more effectively you can deliver meaningful outcomes.

Pursuing an Executive MBA alongside my design leadership has sharpened this understanding. It has given me a broader perspective, one that is not only about finding design solutions, but about creating the conditions that allow others to thrive. It has also helped me think more strategically about how architecture sits within larger systems, financial, organisational, and political, and how leadership in this field increasingly demands fluency across those layers.

Looking across your journey so far, what values continue to anchor your approach to architecture, and how do you see those evolving in the years ahead?

What continues to anchor my approach is the belief that architecture can be both a platform for creative and cultural exchange within its immediate environment, as well as a tool of soft power that supports broader global narratives. Looking ahead, I'm interested in how to continue applying what I've learned across different geographies and scales, and in staying open to the questions each new context, client and community asks of design.

ADIJAT OKUYELU:

Empowering
communities
through
finance and
culinary arts





Adijat Adeola Okuyelu is a seasoned finance executive and visionary entrepreneur with over two decades of experience in leadership, strategy, and global business development. As the Director of Finance and New Global Initiatives at Maynard Leigh Associates, she plays a pivotal role in steering the company's expansion into international markets, including recent ventures in India and the United States. A Chartered Management Accountant (ACMA, CGMA), Okuyelu joined Maynard Leigh in 1999 after earning her degree in Accounting & Finance. Her strategic financial oversight has been instrumental in positioning the firm as a prominent player in the global learning and development sector.

Beyond her corporate achievements, Okuyelu is deeply committed to social entrepreneurship. She is the founder of the Enatta Foundation, an organization dedicated to empowering underserved communities through education and economic initiatives. Additionally, she established Crusties Bakery, merging her passion for culinary arts with community development. Adijat also serves as a director of ADG Foods Ltd, a UK-based bakery and specialty food company known for its artisanal products under the brand Art de Gâteau.

Renowned for her mentorship and leadership, Adijat is a natural people developer who believes in nurturing individual potential to enhance collective success. Her multifaceted career reflects a harmonious blend of financial expertise, entrepreneurial spirit, and unwavering dedication to social impact.

In this interview with IFEOMA OKEKE-KORIEOCHA, she takes us through her journey of joining Maynard Leigh in 1999 to becoming Director of Finance & New Global Initiatives. She also speaks on how she balances financial

strategy with social impact in her leadership roles and how she merges culinary arts with community development, amongst others.

Can you share your journey from joining Maynard Leigh in 1999 to becoming Director of Finance & New Global Initiatives? What key experiences shaped your career?

Absolutely, I would be happy to share my journey. I joined Maynard Leigh in 1999, and to be honest, I did not have a crystal-clear vision of where it would all lead. I initially found myself less drawn to financial accounting and more intrigued by management accounting, which offered a more dynamic lens into how businesses operate. It allowed me to explore how financial principles can be used to solve real business problems and create value for both businesses and individuals. This analytical yet creative approach resonated with me and shaped much of my professional thinking. After joining Maynard Leigh, I discovered a deeply people-centred, values-driven organisation, one that prioritises humanity at its core. It was here that my passion for understanding people, appreciating the unique value they bring, and applying that insight to my professional and socio-entrepreneurial journey truly came together. This convergence marked the beginning of a career where both purpose and performance could flourish side by side.

In the long run, through dedication and hard work, I have progressed through different finance positions to my current role as the Director of Finance & New Global Initiatives.

As a Chartered Management Accountant, I have developed expertise in financial control and strategic management, which has been instrumental in driving growth and shaping the business direction of the company. One of the most enriching aspects of my journey has been working within Maynard Leigh's creative environment. This has significantly influenced my ability to solve complex problems through creative thinking. My role has also taken me across diverse cultural landscapes including the UK, Nigeria, India and the U.S. where I have learned to navigate diverse business standards and leadership systems which range from communication styles and decision-making processes to expectations around hierarchy and collaboration which differ according to culture.

The innovative solutions we foster at Maynard Leigh, combined with my passion for people and purpose, have been pivotal to my success not only in leading the company's global initiatives, but also in the wider impact work I do. This includes my involvement with the Enatta Foundation, a non-governmental organisation focused on furnishing Nigerian fisherwomen in underserved riverine communities with relevant tools for success through financial and empowerment programmes. Also, Crusties Bakery is another significant enterprise that I am invested in. It is a community-driven business that provides employment and training opportunities for individuals from underprivileged backgrounds.

These social-impact expressions reflect my commitment to blending strategic leadership with community development. In all, my journey has been a learning curve, full of rewarding experiences that have sharpened my cultural intelligence and enriched both my strategic and people-centred leadership.

How do you balance financial strategy with social impact in your leadership roles?

In my opinion, financial strategy and social impact are not competing priorities. They are complementary forces that create long-term value when aligned. In my leadership roles, I focus on embedding purpose into performance by ensuring that commercial decisions are guided by ethical, inclusive and sustainable principles. At Maynard Leigh, I work to align financial strategy with our mission of unlocking people's potential, ensuring that investments support both profitability and cultural transformation.

I also carry this ethos into my work outside the corporate sphere. While my financial acumen ensures operational discipline and strategic clarity, my commitment to social entrepreneurship fuels initiatives that empower underserved communities like the Enatta Foundation as I have previously noted. Whether I am leading a business expansion or a grassroots programme, I always ask: "Does this decision serve both our financial goals and our wider responsibility to the society?" This mind-set propels me to drive sustainable growth with purpose at the core.

What advice would you give to aspiring finance professionals who want to make a global impact?

I would say start by grounding yourself in the fundamentals. This is much more than understanding the numbers but more importantly, understanding what they mean. Finance is not just about spreadsheets and forecasts; it is about telling the story of a business and helping shape its direction. If you can see finance as a tool for insight and impact, rather than just compliance, you would find it easier to apply such a perspective when it comes to making a global impact.

Second, you must develop your curiosity. Making a global impact means stepping outside your comfort zone. This includes learning about different markets, cultures and ways of doing business. You have to listen and sometimes unlearn what you think you know.

Finally, being open-minded is important. Your path may not be linear, and that is okay. Some of the most valuable lessons I have learned came from unexpected challenges or roles that were not finance related, but they gave me a broader view and made me a better leader





What inspired you to establish the Enatta Foundation, and how do you measure its success?

The Enatta Foundation stemmed from a desire to empower women and create lasting, positive transformations in underserved communities. One of the most powerful moments that inspired the foundation was a first-hand encounter with the challenges faced by local fisherwomen whose livelihoods were limited by a lack of resources and infrastructure. Their resilience and potential motivated me to establish the foundation as a platform to provide them with the tools and opportunities to thrive.

A standout initiative is the Boat Project. We started with the donation of just two boats to a community and this immediately transformed the ability of the fisherwomen to reach more profitable fishing areas. In recent times, what began with two boats has been increased to 16 boats across 8 communities. This growth has had a profound impact: greater fish hauls, higher profitability, and increased financial stability for families. Additionally, the initiative has strengthened community ties, as the women work together to maximize the boats' potential and support one another.

Success for the foundation is measured not just by financial outcomes, but by the personal stories of transformation.

Through the Boat Project, we have seen women gain greater independence, children access better education and communities build resilience. These stories of empowerment and sustainable growth are what truly define the success of our work.

Can you tell us about Crusties Bakery and how it merges culinary arts with community development?

Crusties Bakery is more than just a business; it is a social enterprise with a mission to blend the art of baking with community empowerment. At its core, Crusties Bakery aims to create job opportunities, build skills and foster a sense of pride among local communities through the culinary arts. We focus on training and employing individuals from underserved backgrounds, helping them develop both technical baking skills and soft skills like teamwork and leadership.

The bakery serves as a platform for collaboration where business, creativity and social impact intersect. By integrating local ingredients, supporting small-scale farmers and investing in sustainable practices, we create products that reflect our commitment to both quality and community. Every loaf, pastry and dish we serve tells a story of empowerment, whether it is a young person gaining their first job or a local supplier benefiting from a steady income.

At Crusties Bakery, we believe that food has the power to bring people together and through this venture, we aim to create both delicious products and lasting, positive change in our community.



How do you see social entrepreneurship evolving in the next decade, and what role do you hope to play?

In every regard, I am convinced that social entrepreneurship is set for significant growth in the coming decade. As the world faces increasing challenges—whether climate change, inequality, or social unrest—businesses must play a more active role in solving these problems. The future of social entrepreneurship lies in its ability to scale impact, integrate sustainability into business models and generate long-term solutions that are beneficial both to people and the planet.

I believe that the next phase of social entrepreneurship will be characterized by more collaborations between the private sector, governments and communities. The focus will shift from isolated projects to systemic change thereby creating ecosystems that allow for sustainable and community-driven developments.

As for my role, I aim to continue leading initiatives that bridge the gap between business success and social impact. Through the Enatta Foundation, Crusties Bakery and other ventures, I want to be at the forefront of this evolution, helping communities and women unlock their potentials and creating pathways to self-sufficiency. I hope to inspire other leaders to see social entrepreneurship not just as a trend but as a critical driver for a better future by focusing on sustainability, inclusion and empowerment.

You're known for your mentorship and leadership. What qualities do you look for in a mentor or leader?

In both mentorship and leadership, I am of the opinion that the most important qualities are empathy, integrity and a commitment to continuous growth. For me, a great mentor or leader is someone who is genuinely interested in the development of others and takes the time to listen, understand and guide them. They should be able to inspire confidence and trust, not just through their expertise but by demonstrating authenticity in their actions and decisions.

I also value humility; that is, mentors who are open to learning, who are not all-knowing but are willing to seek out new perspectives. Strong communication skills are important as well because a leader's ability to clearly share their vision and bring others along with them is what makes real progress possible.

Lastly, I am of the opinion that a good leader should be committed to creating an inclusive environment where individuals can thrive. It is about more than just achieving goals; it is about lifting others up, fostering their growth and ensuring that everyone feels seen, heard and valued in the process.

How do you nurture individual potential to enhance collective success in your teams?

I have no doubt that every team member brings a unique set of skills, perspectives and experiences. Therefore, it is my role as a leader to create an environment where these strengths can flourish in varying ways.

I often begin by fostering a culture of trust and sincerity where individuals feel safe to express their ideas, take risks and learn from failure. Regular feedback and personalized support are key methods I adopt in helping team members develop themselves, as well as providing them with opportunities to step outside their comfort zones and take on new challenges. I also empower team members by giving them ownership of projects, while also offering mentorship and guidance to help them grow.

Moreover, I encourage collaboration and cross-functional teamwork because the collective intelligence of a diverse team can solve complex problems more effectively than any one individual. By aligning personal goals with the broader team vision and mission, each team member can see how their contributions are vital to the bigger picture. This sense of purpose, combined with the belief in their own growth, drives both individual and team success.



What advice would you give to young professionals looking to develop their leadership skills?

My advice for young professionals looking to develop their leadership skills is for them to embrace continuous learning and seek opportunities to step outside their comfort zones. Many young professionals miss out on the opportunity to lead because they are held back by fear or sheer laxity which is very limiting. Also, leadership is not about being all-knowing, but about developing the ability to listen to others and guide them toward achieving a common goal. Furthermore, you should seek to be mentored by experienced individuals who can offer guidance and help you navigate the complexities of leadership. You should equally be open to mentoring others as this is one of the best ways to refine your own leadership skills.

Lastly, as a leader, always keep people at the centre of your leadership. A great leader inspires and empowers their team, creating an environment where everyone can thrive. Personally, I have applied these principles and they have helped me in becoming a better leader.

How do you navigate cultural differences in your global business ventures?

Working across different countries—from Nigeria to the UK and beyond—have helped me understand that listening intentionally and approaching every interaction with respect, makes all the difference when it comes to navigating cultures. Each culture comes with its own strengths and nuances, and I see those differences not as challenges, but as opportunities to learn and grow.

I consciously try to learn about local contexts, values and communication styles wherever I am working. I have also noticed that small acts of awareness make huge differences, whether it is adjusting how I lead a team meeting, tailoring a financial presentation to suit different decision-making norms or simply being mindful of language and tone.

Ultimately, I believe that cultural intelligence is about empathy. It is about creating spaces where individuals feel heard and are able to make contributions regardless of their backgrounds or qualifications. When you lead with that mindset, collaboration becomes more meaningful and the impact becomes truly global.

What opportunities and challenges do you see in expanding business into emerging markets like India and Nigeria?

Well, going into any market space often presents a unique blend of opportunity and complexity and it is safe to say that this is also the case with emerging markets like India and Nigeria. These countries have an abundance of talents, entrepreneurial energy and growing consumer bases which make them highly attractive for business expansions. These regions also present the potential to drive meaningful impact through the creation of solutions that address local needs in innovative and sustainable ways.

However, going into these markets requires a deep understanding of their socio-economic dynamics, regulatory landscapes and cultural contexts so as to maximally benefit from them. Unfortunately, infrastructure gaps, currency fluctuations and policy shifts can pose real challenges to business expansions in these areas. In these countries, success often hinges on adaptability and a willingness to engage deeply with communities rather than applying general models.

What excites me most is the potential for collaboration with local leaders, businesses and change makers to build inclusive growth strategies that are both commercially sound and socially responsible. With the right approach, expanding into markets like India and Nigeria will not only be profitable, but also foster growth and transformations in these countries.

What drives your passion for social impact and entrepreneurship?

My passion for social impact and entrepreneurship is grounded in a strong belief that economic empowerment can be a powerful driver of sustainable change, especially when it is people-led and purpose-driven. I have always been drawn to opportunities where I can use my skills not just to grow businesses, but to make a real difference in people's lives.

This vision came to life through both the Enatta Foundation and Crusties Bakery. At Enatta, initiatives like the Boat Project, which we began with giving out just two boats and have now commissioned 16 across 8 communities, have shown me how targeted support can shift entire local economies and give women greater control over their futures. Similarly, with Crusties, I have been able to merge culinary creativity with community development, offering employment opportunities and skills training that uplift the underprivileged.

As a Chartered Management Accountant, I bring a commercial lens to everything I do, but my drive comes from seeing the tangible impact of aligning finance with purpose. Whether in a rural fishing village or a growing local business, I am motivated by the potential to build inclusive and expandable solutions that leave a lasting legacy.



Micdee



**MICDEE:
Elevating commercial
environment into dynamic
workspaces for players
across industries**

CHISOM MICHAEL



In Africa, the way people live and work is beginning to change, as having a good workspace helps transform work culture and drive productivity.

Having quality physical workspaces undoubtedly impacts productivity, helps shape company culture, and amplifies brand identity.

At the top of the business of crafting unique workspaces in Nigeria today is the name Micdee, which stands out as a design studio that transforms commercial environments into dynamic and functional experiences.

Founded by an architect and powered by a collective of designers, strategists, and innovators, Micdee's work goes beyond aesthetics alone; it crafts spaces that help organisations thrive.

With a philosophy rooted in strategy, detail, and purpose, Micdee's work over the years has cut across a diverse range of industries to create environments that inspire action, foster innovation, and leave a lasting impact. Its strength lies in its ability to adapt and innovate across various sectors, a testament to the company's versatility. Whether shaping the future of telecom, education, fintech, or energy, the studio demonstrates a deep understanding of how space influences behaviour, productivity, and brand perception.

For MTN, Africa's leading telecom brand, Micdee designed an experience centre that redefines customer engagement. The space blends cutting-edge technology with intuitive design, creating an interactive environment where visitors connect with the brand in meaningful ways. This project exemplifies its ability to translate a company's vision into a physical space that resonates with its audience.

In the education sector, Micdee has designed forward-thinking learning environments that prepare students for

the future. The JADA hub, a pioneering space for data and AI education, reflects the studio's commitment to fostering talent and innovation.

Similarly, their collaboration with Nexford University resulted in a physical community hub that supports global digital learners, bridging the gap between online education and real-world interaction.

The fintech industry has also benefited from its innovative approach. With Pocket by Abeg, the studio crafted a workspace that mirrors the brand's bold, youthful identity.

The design captures the energy of Nigeria's fast-growing fintech sector, creating an environment that fuels creativity and

collaboration.

Micdee's work extends to the energy sector, where they partnered with NLNG and Schneider Electric to launch Nigeria's first oil and gas innovation and experience centre. This industry-first facility was designed to foster new ideas in energy, demonstrating Micdee's ability to tackle complex, technical spaces while maintaining a human-centred approach.

What ties these diverse projects together is the company's meticulous process and deep understanding of each client's mission, culture, and audience.

The studio doesn't believe in one-size-fits-all solutions. Rather, it works closely with its clients to craft unique, impactful, and enduring spaces. From the earliest strategy sessions to the final details of execution, Micdee oversees every element to ensure the space not only looks stunning but performs effectively.

User experience, functionality, and material selection are at the heart of its design philosophy. The studio stays attuned to trends in architecture, technology, and workplace culture, ensuring that each project is both contemporary and timeless. More than just designing environments, Micdee designs experiences—spaces that inspire, connect, and energise people.

Their cross-industry expertise is made possible because of the company's creative vision and their craftsmanship for practical adaptability.

Through its work, Micdee certainly proves that design is not just about what you see; it is about what you experience and, ultimately, what you achieve with it. From education to energy, tech to telecom, Micdee isn't just building spaces, it is building the future, and they stand out not just for what they create, but for how and why they do so.



SOT CONFAB: Certification, innovation, trade access & women empowerment take centre stage

IFEOMA OKEKE-KORIEOCHA

Aimed at empowering African entrepreneurs to navigate the complexities of local and international trade, Science of Trade Conference (SOT), an initiative of the Ascend Studios Foundation, has continued to promote African trade.

SOT partners with countries worldwide to facilitate trade in Africa, bringing together essential sectors of the trade ecosystem to explore the science behind trading with one another.

Inya Lawal, entrepreneur and Founder of the Ascend Studios Foundation recently concluded a three-day Science of Trade Conference 2025 delivering bold vision for Africa and setting a pace for easy business certification, innovation, trade access and women empowerment.

The event brought together government officials, trade experts, entrepreneurs, investors, and changemakers from across Africa and the diaspora, emphasising the theme “Access to Market” and highlighting Africa’s potential as a global leader in innovation, sustainable production, and inclusive economic growth.

The conference commenced with a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the 7th anniversary of NICERT, Nigeria’s certification body. Annabel Kamuche, Group Managing Director of NICERT, emphasised the importance of certification for African products in the global market, stating, “We started NICERT because we believed African products could compete globally if they met the right standards. Today, our accreditation is a bridge—connecting small businesses to the world.” NICERT also offered three



free HACCP certifications and provided essential guidance at their exhibition booth throughout the conference.

During the launch and official opening of the Nexus of Nature Hub, Bisola Olusanya, Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, highlighted the urgent need for urban-centered agricultural solutions.

She emphasised Lagos State's commitment to building resilient food systems, stating, "Nature-based solutions and regenerative farming are no longer a luxury but a necessity in cities grappling with population growth and climate change. We must reimagine food production in a way that is climate-smart, tech-enabled, and community-driven. The Nexus of Nature is a prototype for the future of food in African cities."

Olusanya praised The Nexus of Nature Hub founder Olusola Sowemimo for fusing innovation with sustainability and reiterated the government's support for private sector partnerships that empower smallholder farmers, women, and youth in agribusiness.

On the second day, Margaret Olele, the CEO of the American Business Council, delivered a keynote address, stressing the importance of strategic partnerships and private-sector collaboration in expanding market access. JoEllen Gorg, Acting U.S. Consul General in Lagos, followed with a powerful message on "Strengthening U.S.–Africa Trade Ties," reaffirming the United States' commitment to supporting African small and medium enterprises.

Ayo Sotinrin, managing director of the Bank of Agriculture, delivered a keynote address during the Public-Private Synergy session, passionately discussing the need to unlock capital for Africa's small-scale farmers and producers. "The continent cannot scale trade without first empowering the base of its production pyramid," he remarked. He noted that agriculture remains the backbone of African economies, yet financing gaps and infrastructure deficits continue to hinder value-chain development.

Grassroots trade leaders also played a vital role in the discussions. Alhaja Adiat Apena, Iyaloja General of Ikeja, passionately advocated for women's inclusion in trade, stating, "Market is money, and money is market. If we don't open up access to women in trade, we're shutting the door on half of Nigeria's economy." Her message resonated throughout the conference, underscoring the need for inclusive market access.

Another key highlight was the official unveiling of Chow Noodle Bar's Ultimate Sauce, a flavour-packed innovation designed to elevate Africa's fast-food experience. Victoria Ajayi, founder of Chow Noodle Bar, shared her inspiration behind the product, stating, "We created the Ultimate Sauce as a bridge between tradition and convenience. It's bold, rich, and rooted in the flavours we grew up with—brought into every modern kitchen." The session, themed "From Kitchens to Markets," underscored how food entrepreneurs can scale authentically African brands that meet global demand without compromising cultural identity.

Also making its debut was Oyin Ade, a premium honey brand founded by actress and entrepreneur, Ade Laoye.

The product launch captivated attendees with its story of purity, sustainability, and African pride. "Oyin Ade is more than honey; it's a celebration of nature's finest gift, packaged to global standards but inspired by our roots," said Ade Laoye.

With growing interest in clean, organic products, Oyin Ade signals a strong future for African wellness exports, positioning itself as a luxurious yet accessible staple in both local and international markets.

A standout feature of the conference was the inaugural Digital Trade Protocol Hackathon, launched by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Olusegun Olutayo, Senior International Trade Policy Expert, encouraged participants to think locally and build globally, stating, "What Africa needs for Africa is already in Africa. We must simply unlock it through strategy, partnerships, and belief."

After three days of intense collaboration and mentorship, the team Export PLUG emerged victorious, winning 20,000,000, 2nd Runner-Up Team GET AI won 10 Million E-Commerce Regulatory Sandbox Innovation Prize (courtesy of NITDA), while the most innovative team received an additional 10,000,000. Amazon Web Services also presented a special prize to the winning team.

Kryptr, led by CEO Emmanuel Tarfa, hosted two sold-out business masterclasses and a Business Support Grant Pitch Session, awarding 250,000 each to eight entrepreneurs, totalling 2,000,000. Winners included: SundryAgro Ltd, Mom and Me Whole Foods, Londya Foods and Farms Ltd, Unique Hybrid Agro Enterprises, Oyine Special Enterprise Ltd, Kayp Kehindephilp, Flunks Food and Beverage Industries Ltd, and Sherrine Lynne Boseman-Rives.

Fashion entrepreneurs also made a significant impact during the FashionEVO session in collaboration with Olorisupergal and Made in Africa. FashionEVO is a platform for fashion business leaders and creatives. Dr. Yetty Ogunnubi, the founder, highlighted the importance of African fashion, stating, "When we discuss African fashion, we're addressing jobs, exports, identity, and legacy." The session featured a fireside chat with Adenike Ogunlesi of Ruff 'n' Tumble, who shared her inspiring journey in the fashion industry. Lanre Da-Silva Ajayi, Kola Kuddus, and a host of other panelists

Discussions included a provocative debate on the effectiveness of "Dancing Reels" in marketing, with judges awarding the FashionEVO grand prize of 500,000 to the Legs Apparel Fashion School team for their compelling arguments.

Adding to the conference's focus on women's empowerment, Mrs. Nnenna Jacob-Ogogo, Head of SheVentures, one of the conference sponsors, stated, "Supporting women entrepreneurs is not just a moral imperative; it is a strategic necessity for economic growth. At SheVentures, we believe that empowering women in trade will unlock immense potential for innovation and job creation across Africa. The Science of Trade Conference provides an essential platform for these voices to be heard and celebrated."

As Inya Lawal remarked, "Trade is the engine, but people are the power. What we've built here is a new trade ecosystem that puts Africans at the centre of their economic destinies. And this is just the beginning." The Science of Trade Conference 2025 not only highlighted the importance of trade but also activated it, demonstrating that with certification, creativity, collaboration, and courage, Africa's entrepreneurs can lead global conversations on their terms.





ARB AMONG FINALISTS AT MAKE MUSIC LAGOS BATTLE OF THE BANDS

ANTHONY UDUGBA

ARB, a Lagos-based alternative music band, known for their socially conscious lyrics and captivating performances, has been selected as one of the three finalists at the Make Music Lagos Battle of the Bands, held at Alliance Francais in Ikoyi.

This achievement secures their chance to represent Lagos at the Make Music Lagos event on World Music Day, June 21, 2025.

ARB took the stage with a bold new look, blending the soulful tones of existing vocalist Lamisingz with the fresh energy of newcomer Leez. Led by the creative force DrT, also known as Anthony Osasamwen Osunde, they

performed two striking songs: the evocative 'Hunger' and an unreleased single, 'Vibrate'. It was 'Vibrate' that stole the show, its pulsating fusion of Afrobeats and Reggae igniting the audience. The crowd couldn't resist moving to its rhythm, swept up by the song's infectious energy.

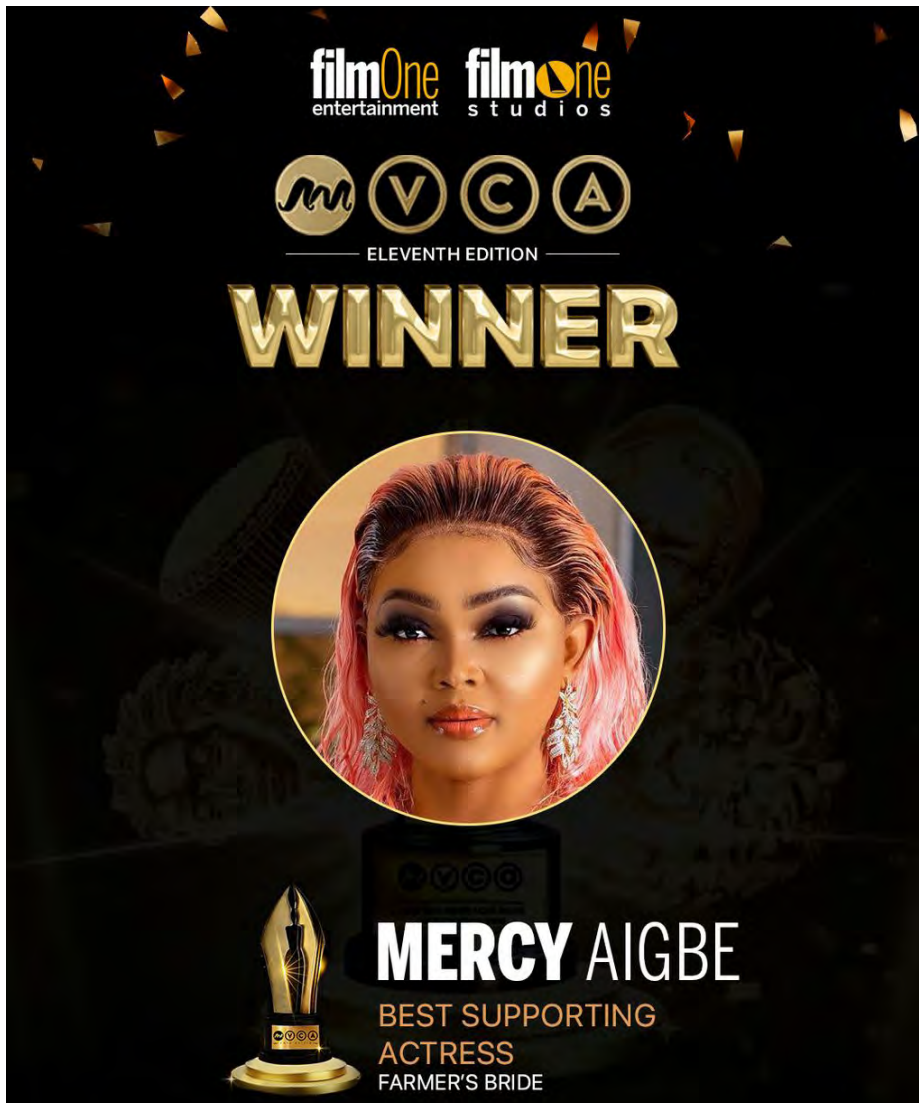
The six judges—Made Kuti, Efe Omorogbe, Rotimikeys, Schullzz, and Efe Macro—watched intently. They were particularly captivated by 'Vibrate', commending its originality and unique sound. The track's creative blend of genres, paired with a vocal tempo that was both passionate and emotive, showcased ARB's artistic flair. The judges' praise underscored the band's ability to stand out in a fiercely competitive lineup.



As the performances concluded, anticipation filled the air for the announcement of the three finalists who would represent Lagos at Make Music Lagos on World Music Day, 21 June 2025. When the names were revealed, ARB stood tall alongside Lovesick and Young Crez & The Frolicks Band. The trio had earned their spot through sheer talent and dedication, a moment of triumph for ARB after their electrifying display.

For ARB, this achievement marked a significant milestone in their journey, a reward for their innovative spirit and musical passion. As they gear up for the final performance in 2025, the band is poised to continue captivating audiences, their unique sound echoing far beyond the stage at Alliance Francais.

FILMHOUSE GROUP CELEBRATES MAJOR AMVCA WIN FOR “FARMER’S BRIDE”



Farmer’s Bride, the emotionally resonant Nollywood drama distributed by FilmOne Entertainment, has secured a major win at the 11th Edition of the Africa Magic Viewers’ Choice Awards (AMVCAs), marking a proud moment for the Group and its commitment to commercially successful, culturally relevant storytelling.

The film, which captivated audiences nationwide and grossed over 166 million at the Nigerian

box office, had Mercy Aigbe take home the award for Best Supporting Actress, further cementing its status as one of the most successful and impactful Nollywood releases of the year.

Commenting on the win, Kene Okwuosa, Group CEO of Filmhouse Group, said:

“This award is a celebration of every voice, skill, and vision that brought Farmer’s Bride to life. It affirms the power of collaborative storytelling and reminds us why we invest in films that both move hearts and drive the industry forward. We are immensely proud of this recognition.”

Ladun Awobokun, Chief Content Officer of FilmOne Entertainment, added:

“Farmer’s Bride” was not just a film, it was a journey of cultural reflection, emotional depth, and audience connection. This win is a testament to our strategy of supporting stories that matter and pushing Nollywood to new creative and commercial heights.”

Produced by Filmone

Entertainment, Farmer’s Bride

was part of FilmOne’s growing slate of Nollywood originals and international acquisitions, aligning with its broader mission to elevate the African cinematic experience and showcase stories with global appeal.

The win adds to the company’s continued momentum in 2025, following key industry partnerships, box office leadership, and ongoing investments in content development and talent collaboration.

NIGERIAN MUSIC GETS A BOOST AS ANDRE VIBEZ LAUNCHES NEW HUB FOR YOUNG TALENTS

...signs GoodGirl LA

FAVOUR OKPALE



The Nigerian music industry is witnessing a fresh surge of energy as legendary music producer Andre VibeZ unveils his latest venture, VibeZ Music Factory (VMF), a record label dedicated to discovering, nurturing, and showcasing the brightest talents across the country.

Amidst the launch is the signing of one of Nigeria's most promising young artists, GoodGirl LA. Known for her powerful vocals, captivating performances, and genre-blending style.

David Adeyemi of VMF in a statement, emphasized Andre VibeZ's legendary status in the Nigerian music industry stating "With over a decade of experience, Andre VibeZ has earned a reputation for excellence and talent discovery. The launch of VMF alongside the signing of GoodGirl LA signals a new chapter for Nigerian music, one that will resonate globally," he said.

He also said that VMF represents more than just a traditional record label. It is a visionary platform focused on world-class production, bold storytelling, and empowering artists to make meaningful cultural and global impacts.

According to him, Andre VibeZ, who has shaped some of the biggest Afrobeats hits including Rema's smash "Calm Down" and Ayra Starr's "Rush," will serve as CEO and personally oversee all aspects of music production from songwriting through post-production ensuring every release meets the highest standards of quality and creativity.

"GoodGirl LA is one of the most exciting talents to emerge from Nigeria in recent years. With her powerful voice, captivating stage presence, and genre-bending sound, she has won the hearts of music fans across the country. Her signing to VMF is

a testament to her hard work and dedication to her craft. With Andre VibeZ's guidance, GoodGirl LA is poised to take her music to new heights and inspire a generation of young artists.

"VMF is a state-of-the-art record label dedicated to nurturing and showcasing the best talents in Nigerian music. With Andre VibeZ at the helm, the label promises to produce music that is innovative, timeless, and inspiring."

SEEDS OF CHANGE: HOW FINANCIAL INNOVATION IS HARVESTING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR NIGERIAN AGRICULTURE

FEYISHOLA JAIYESIMI



Abubakar Suleiman, MD/
CEO, Sterling Bank Limited

In the heart of Nigeria's agricultural landscape, a revolution is underway. Financial innovation is emerging as a game-changer, empowering farmers with access to capital, technology, and market linkages. This fusion of finance and agriculture is unlocking new possibilities, enabling farmers to increase productivity, adopt sustainable practices, and mitigate risks associated with climate change and market volatility.

The State of Agriculture in Nigeria

Agriculture is a vital sector in Nigeria's economy, contributing significantly to the country's GDP and employing around 35 percent of the workforce. The sector spans four key sub-sectors: crop production, livestock, forestry, and fishing. However, despite its potential, the sector faces deep-rooted challenges, including low productivity, inadequate infrastructure, climate-related shocks, post-harvest losses, and limited access to finance.

Breaking Down Barriers

Despite Nigeria's vast arable land, many farmers have long been cut off from the financial tools they need to grow. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), only 7% of farming communities secured bank credit in 2022, leaving millions unable to scale operations. *Emerging players like Sterling Bank are proving that banks can be more than lenders—they can be partners in transformation*:

- Digital solutions that deliver weather analytics, remote diagnostics, and market intelligence directly to farmers
- Customized financing options, including low-interest loans and value chain financing
- Strategic partnerships that empower farmers, boost yields, and strengthen food systems

A Framework for Success

Sterling Bank's Agriculture Finance Value Chain Model (AgFin) has been instrumental in channeling billions of Naira in financing to smallholder farmers, processors, and aggregators. This framework has enabled farmers to scale operations sustainably, increasing productivity and efficiency. Through its HEART strategy, the bank has invested in the agricultural sector, providing financing and support to farmers and agribusinesses.



Olushola Obikanye, Group Head of Agric Finance and Solid Minerals at Sterling Bank

Agriculture Summit Africa (ASA)

Sterling Bank convenes leading voices and changemakers at its flagship annual platform, Agriculture Summit Africa (ASA), a policy-driven forum advancing innovation, inclusive market access, and strategic collaboration across the agricultural value chain. Over the years, ASA has drawn the support and participation of respected partners, including the Mastercard Foundation, Benue State Government, Leadway Assurance, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), among others.

Real-World Impact

The Palm Valley story is a testament to the power of financial innovation in agriculture. Through Sterling Bank's financing, Palm Valley has been able to expand its operations, benefiting thousands of farmers and cultivating hundreds of hectares. In 2021, the company secured N276 million to finance rice and maize production for 1,500 farmers. By 2022, this support grew to N250 million, benefiting 1,700 farmers and cultivating over 1,313 hectares.

Strategic Partnerships and the Road Ahead

Sterling Bank's inclusion in the Nigerian Food Systems Transformation Alliance underscores its role in shaping the country's agricultural future. This multi stakeholder platform seeks to build a resilient and inclusive food system by 2030. Looking ahead, the bank is committed to expanding access to finance, bridging the gap between supply and demand, and ensuring farmers get fair pricing and timely payments.

Where Strategy Delivers Results

Nigeria's agriculture sector stands at an inflection point. With smart financing, inclusive platforms, and tech-driven solutions, Sterling Bank is proving that food security isn't just a policy goal – it's an achievable reality. Through its innovative approaches and strategic partnerships, the bank is empowering farmers, boosting yields, and strengthening food systems. With over one million farmers financed, 500 billion in agri-loans disbursed, and 22,000+ farmers trained in modern farming techniques, Sterling Bank is harvesting a brighter future for Nigerian agriculture.

'WHY WE'RE IGNITING AFRICA'S WEB3 REVOLUTION IN LAGOS WITH DECENTRALISED NIGERIA'



Nova Phoenix, a New York-based entrepreneur and founder of LyfebloodDAO, and Rume Ophi, a Nigerian blockchain advocate and analyst has said that together, they aim to shift Africa's digital narrative from adoption to innovation through the Decentralised Nigeria Conference.

The goal of Decentralised Nigeria, according to the organisers is to amplify the continent's blockchain potential by aligning education, policy, and technology with the aspirations of a young, digitally native population.

On July 5, 2025, the Civic Centre in Lagos will become the epicenter of a new digital awakening as blockchain leaders, Web3 enthusiasts, investors, and developers converge for the Decentralised Nigeria Conference.

At its core, the conference will showcase how Web3 technologies such as blockchain, NFTs, DeFi, and tokenization can be harnessed to build inclusive, transparent, and economically sustainable systems across Africa.

Nova Phoenix and Rume Ophi, though from different continents, are united by a common vision: to create

decentralised systems that uplift individuals and communities. Nova, whose background spans television production and social media entrepreneurship, pivoted fully into the blockchain space in 2020 after years of following cryptocurrency trends.

His project, LyfebloodDAO, merges social media engagement with decentralised finance and NFT marketplaces to create an ecosystem that not only supports creators but also funds community initiatives.

Rume Ophi, based in Lagos, brings a wealth of experience as the former Executive Secretary of the Blockchain Association of Nigeria. As a crypto market analyst and blockchain educator, he has dedicated his career to simplifying the complexity of blockchain for the Nigerian public. His work has focused on public education, media engagement, and policy advocacy — pillars that continue to shape the conversation around blockchain in Nigeria.

Their decision to co-convene the conference is rooted in the belief that Africa's Web3 revolution must be led by Africans, with support from allies who understand the socio-economic context of the region.

The decision to host the inaugural edition of Decentralised Nigeria in Lagos comes at a time when the continent is at a crossroads. According to the Chainalysis 2022 Global Crypto Adoption Index, Nigeria ranks second globally in terms of cryptocurrency usage.

This is driven largely by high inflation, currency instability, and limited access to traditional banking services — conditions that make decentralised financial tools both necessary and attractive.

Nigeria's population, 70 percent of which is under the age of 30, is also among the most digitally connected in Africa. With growing mobile phone penetration and increasing exposure to digital technologies, the youth are actively seeking tools that allow them to build wealth, access global markets, and express creativity. Web3 technologies provide these capabilities through decentralised exchanges, smart contracts, DAOs, and NFTs.

The July 5 conference will present an opportunity to not only highlight success stories but also to engage policymakers and regulators in crafting frameworks that support responsible innovation. It aims to connect startups, creatives, engineers, investors, and regulators under one roof for real-time discussions on building Africa's decentralised future. Decentralised Nigeria is designed to cover a wide spectrum of topics relevant to both Nigerian and African audiences.

The agenda includes key themes such as decentralised finance (DeFi), tokenization of real-world assets, NFTs in the creative economy, digital identity, and the future of governance through decentralised systems.

Special focus will be given to the role of blockchain in sectors such as agriculture, education, healthcare, and real estate. For instance, blockchain-based land registration can address long-standing issues around property rights, while decentralised voting platforms can enhance election transparency.

One of the major issues facing the adoption of blockchain in Nigeria and across Africa is the lack of clear and enabling regulations. While some progress has been made — notably the Nigerian Securities and Exchange Commission's 2022 guidelines on digital assets — the policy environment remains ambiguous.

The conference will serve as a platform for direct engagement with regulators, with the goal of encouraging a shift from restrictive policies to inclusive and informed regulation. Discussions will explore how stablecoins, decentralised exchanges, and cross-border payment solutions can operate within existing legal frameworks.

Another critical area of focus is infrastructure. Despite the rapid growth of crypto and blockchain activity, many parts of Nigeria still lack the digital infrastructure required to support full Web3 adoption. Issues such as internet accessibility, data costs, and electricity reliability continue to pose challenges.

The conference will provide a forum to explore public-private partnerships aimed at addressing these systemic issues.

Education remains a cornerstone of sustainable blockchain adoption. Both organisers have championed education as a tool for demystifying blockchain and promoting innovation. In recent years, there has been a surge in grassroots efforts to teach blockchain development, smart contract writing, and crypto literacy in schools and universities.

The long-term vision is to create a continent-wide Web3 talent pipeline that not only fills roles in global blockchain companies but also seeds homegrown startups with local solutions. This vision is particularly relevant as international blockchain firms increasingly look to Africa for talent.

The economic case for blockchain adoption in Africa is compelling. According to a 2024 World Bank study, blockchain could contribute over \$25 billion to Sub-Saharan Africa's GDP by 2030 if integrated effectively into public administration, agriculture, supply chains, and financial services.

The creative economy, long hindered by piracy and limited distribution channels, is also poised for transformation. The global NFT market surpassed \$40 billion in 2023, and African artists are beginning to tap into this space. With the right tools, local creatives can bypass middlemen, retain more revenue, and reach global audiences instantly.

Similarly, the tokenization of real estate, agriculture yields, and other traditionally illiquid assets presents opportunities for shared ownership, transparency, and broader access to capital.

Although this is the inaugural edition, Decentralised Nigeria is part of a broader strategy to build a pan-African web3 movement. Plans are already underway for future editions in Ghana, Kenya, and South Africa. The organisers envision a decentralised network of conferences, learning hubs, and innovation labs that can foster continental collaboration.

The long-term ambition is to see African-led blockchain projects not only succeed locally but shape global standards in governance, finance, and community building. With African developers and creators building tools for their own communities, the continent has the potential to become a net exporter of innovation.

As Nigeria prepares to host this seminal conference, the stakes couldn't be higher. The convergence of global blockchain leaders, local innovators, and eager youth at the Civic Centre is more than symbolic — it is a statement of intent.

The continent is no longer content with being a consumer of foreign technologies. Through initiatives like Decentralised Nigeria, it is positioning itself as a co-creator of the Web3 future. And if Nova Phoenix and Rume Ophi have their way, Lagos will be remembered as the city where Africa's decentralised revolution truly began.

The future isn't just arriving. It's being built — block by block, chain by chain.

THE PITFALLS OF PICTURE-PERFECT: WHEN DIGITAL BEAUTY UNDERMINES REAL-LIFE ENCOUNTERS

EMMANUEL OKOROAFOR



In today's image-driven world, many individuals invest heavily in curating an idealized version of themselves online. With the help of filters, airbrushing apps, and professional touch-ups, social media and business profile pictures often showcase a flawless, enhanced version of reality.

While such images can be aesthetically pleasing and even boost personal confidence, they may come at a hidden cost—especially when they set expectations that reality fails to meet.

It is natural to want to present one's best self to the world. In a sea of digital impressions, a striking profile picture can attract attention, open doors, and spark interest. For influencers, entrepreneurs, job seekers, or those navigating online dating and networking platforms, a polished image can feel like a strategic advantage. But problems arise when the image portrayed online is dramatically different from one's actual appearance.

Take, for instance, Linda, a freelance marketing consultant who used an airbrushed photo taken ten years ago for her LinkedIn profile. When she arrived for a meeting with a potential client, the client kept glancing awkwardly, clearly confused. The encounter felt strained, and the client later admitted he was unsure if she was the same person he had researched online. The contract went to another consultant who felt more "genuine."

Or consider Chuka, who had become a sensation on a dating app thanks to his heavily filtered pictures—complete with sharpened jawline, flawless skin, and digitally enhanced physique. However, during his first real-world date, his companion was visibly taken aback. The mismatch between expectation and reality killed any chance of a connection. "I felt like I was meeting a stranger," she later told friends.

Take the case of Tony, who used a perfectly lit, six-year-old gym selfie as his WhatsApp DP. Shirtless, ripped, jaw clenched like he was holding a grudge—he looked like a movie hero. When he showed up at a friend's wedding looking more like someone's accountant, even the bride asked, "Who's that?" The disappointment was almost audible.

Or Chioma, a fashion entrepreneur, who had the most glamorous Instagram profile you've ever seen. High cheekbones, porcelain skin, glowing like she swallowed the sun. But during a business lunch with a major investor, he kept blinking like his glasses were fogged. "You look... different," he said politely, while trying to figure out if he had been catfished by a board member.

These aren't isolated experiences. Whether in social or business settings, face-to-face encounters eventually reveal the unfiltered truth. When the contrast between a person's digital image and their real-life appearance is too stark, it can lead to awkwardness, disappointment, and even a loss of trust.

In professional environments, where credibility is paramount, such discrepancies may be particularly damaging. A business partner or potential client may subconsciously question not just the person's appearance but also their integrity. If someone appears to be hiding behind an overly edited image, what else might they be exaggerating?

Authenticity, after all, is becoming a premium value in an era of digital façades. People crave genuine connection, not diNNNNNNNNNgital illusions. While there's nothing wrong with using flattering pictures, it's wise to ensure that those images still resemble the person behind them. A good rule of thumb is this: your display photo should be a polished but honest reflection—enhancing, not reinventing, who you are.

Ultimately, the best impressions are those that align closely with reality. A little authenticity can go a long way in building trust, strengthening relationships, and ensuring that the admiration you receive online carries through to real-world interactions.

So yes, use a nice photo. Take good lighting. Clean up the background. But don't morph into a whole new species. Because the best compliment isn't "Wow, you look so different in person,"—it's "You look just like your photo!" And that is how you avoid being the human equivalent of false advertising.

Emmanuel Okoroafor is a public affairs analyst

STAYING INFORMED, STAYING AHEAD: A REVIEW OF THE INVESTMENT AND SECURITIES ACT 2024

ADERONKE ALEX-ADEDIPE

Introduction

On March 29, 2025, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, signed into law the Investment and Securities Act (the "Act") 2024, repealing the Investment and Securities Act ("ISA") of 2007. The Act introduces significant changes to the Nigerian capital market which aims to expand the regulatory oversight of the Securities and Exchange Commission, strengthen market regulation and enhance investor protection.

In this newsletter, we highlight some of the notable provisions of the Act.

Merger Notification by Public Companies

A key change introduced by the Act is the modification of SEC's regulatory oversight concerning mergers. Under the previous ISA, SEC had regulatory oversight over mergers and restructuring of all companies. However, with the enactment of the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act which empowers the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) with regulatory oversight over mergers of all companies, the authority of SEC has now been streamlined to oversee mergers and restructuring of only public and listed companies.

In addition, the Act empowers SEC to assess whether all shareholders involved in a transaction are treated fairly and equitably. For instance when a takeover bid is proposed as outlined in the Act, SEC shall ensure that shareholders and directors of an offeree are aware of the identity of the acquirer and offeror, they have reasonable time to consider the take-over offer and are supplied

with sufficient information necessary to assess the merits of such takeover offer. The Act aims to ensure transparency in acquiring voting rights and control of a company.

Classification of Exchanges

The Act introduces a new classification of securities exchanges, categorizing them as either (i) composite securities exchange or (ii) non-composite securities exchange. A composite securities exchange permits the listing of all types of securities, financial products and instruments on its platform, for instance, shares, bonds or virtual assets. A non-composite securities exchange, on the other hand, may be registered with SEC to list a single type of security, such as either shares or virtual assets but not multiple types of securities. It may also operate as an alternative trading system, a platform or facility that enables or facilitates the trading of securities between buyers and sellers.

In addition, the Act expressly provides that any person intending to operate a securities exchange must first register the exchange with SEC. Failure to comply may result in a term of imprisonment of up to five years or a fine of not less than the prescribed paid-up share capital of an exchange, or a daily penalty of at least 100,000 for the directors or promoters of the company. Furthermore, the company will be prohibited from continuing its operations.

The Act also introduces specific responsibilities for securities exchanges to ensure the proper governance of their operations. These responsibilities include: (i) conducting business in a fair and transparent manner, with due regard

for the rights of members, participants, and their clients; (ii) ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Act by its members and participants in relation to listed securities; (iii) promptly notifying the SEC of any issue that may pose a risk to the financial markets upon becoming aware of such issue; and (iv) informing SEC immediately upon the commencement of any insolvency proceedings, among other obligations.

Virtual Assets

Another significant addition to the Act is the regulation of virtual assets. In the previous ISA, securities were limited to debentures, stocks or bonds issued by the government or by a corporate body. They also included rights or options in respect of any such debentures, stocks, shares, bonds or commodities futures. In the wake of the adoption of cryptocurrency transactions worldwide, SEC in 2022 issued the Rules on Digital Assets Issuance, Offering Platform, Exchange and Custody with the aim of regulating digital and virtual assets. The Act, however, strengthens the credibility of crypto assets backed transactions by expanding the definition of securities to include virtual assets.

Prohibition of Ponzi Schemes

The Act expressly prohibits the operation of Ponzi schemes and other unregistered investment schemes. It describes a Ponzi scheme as an investment arrangement in which returns are paid to existing members from funds contributed by new members, typically with a promise of high returns and little or no risk. It also includes any scheme where participants earn money primarily by recruiting new members. The Act provides that operators of such schemes will upon conviction be liable to imprisonment for up to ten years, a fine of five million naira or both.

Access of User Data

In addition to its regulatory functions, the Act empowers SEC to obtain subscriber's data or records held or maintained by internet service providers, mobile network operators, and other electronic communication service providers in Nigeria in the event of a violation or suspected

violation of the provisions of the Act by the subscriber. This may include payment details, or the content of communication connected with the violation.

Investments and Securities Tribunal

There are also significant amendments and additions made to the Investments and Securities Tribunal (the "Tribunal") in relation to the constitution of the tribunal and resolution of capital market disputes. In the previous ISA, the Tribunal was constituted by 10 persons appointed by the Minister of Finance, however in the Act the Tribunal will now be constituted by 12 persons appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister of Finance. The Minister also possesses the power to recommend disciplinary actions to the President against the members of the Tribunal. Secondly, the Act has also provided a breakdown of the jurisdiction of the Tribunal, providing matters the tribunal has original jurisdiction over and matters it has appellate jurisdiction over. In respect of its original jurisdiction, the Tribunal shall exercise original jurisdiction over matters such as (i) complaints against a direct action of SEC; and (ii) a matter referred to SEC where SEC fails to act on such matter within sixty days of filing a complaint. While in respect of its appellate jurisdiction, the Tribunal shall handle matters such as (i) disputes involving stakeholders in the capital market e.g. between SEC and any person in respect of the capital market, capital market operators and their client or an investor and a securities exchange etc; (ii) matters arising from the management or operation of collective investment schemes; and (iii) matters arising from the approval, regulation of mergers, takeover and restructuring of public companies.

Conclusion

The Act introduces key reforms aimed at improving market transparency, and regulatory clarity. The Act also intends to protect investors by totally prohibiting Ponzi schemes and other similar investments thereby creating trust in the Nigerian capital market. With stronger provisions and regulatory clarity, the Act positions Nigeria's capital markets for sustainable growth and investments.

REDESIGNING NIGERIA'S SOCIAL FABRIC: FROM PYRAMIDS TO CIRCLES OF EQUALITY

EYESAN TORITSEJU

One of my most impactful realizations about life as an adult was realizing how limited and somewhat overstated the role sheer hard work plays in achieving success, particularly in Nigeria. In Nigeria, every work is hard, and it seems that the lower you descend the economic ladder, the harder the work becomes. It sounds backward, because it is.

Look around, the evidence is everywhere. The woman frying akara in the scorching heat of Oshodi market earns less in a week than the procurement consultant in a government office, who spends most of his time forwarding emails. The bricklayer who builds luxury apartments in Lekki can barely afford a decent room in a nearby slum. The security guard, who risks his life watching over the car of a wealthy politician, earns less in a month than that politician spends on a single Saturday brunch. This is the labor pyramid: a structure built on the sweat and silence of the many. To avoid sounding utterly naive, I acknowledge that economic models often justify this reality by citing the scale of impact and scarcity of skills to explain the disproportionate earnings at the top. The logic is that, for example, a tech CEO creates a product used by millions, thus generating immense revenue, while a surgeon possesses a rare skill that saves lives. However, this rationale, while acknowledging the role of scale and skill, fails to account for the essential value of all labor and the systemic inequalities that perpetuate the pyramid. Systemic inequalities that are arguably, more extreme and pervasive in Nigeria than in almost any other part of the world.

To understand how we got here, we have to look back. The roots of this inequity go deep, reaching back to colonial rule, when British administrators created a structure where they extracted labor and resources while Nigerians did the hard, physical work. Our ancestors farmed, carried, built, and dug.

They were taxed for the privilege. The colonizers sat at the top of the pyramid, collecting revenue, setting rules, and enjoying the view. It was a system of exploitation, and when independence came, we hoped the pyramid would be dismantled. Instead, it was inherited.

Post-independence, the Nigerian elite replaced the colonial administrators. They inherited not just power, but the architecture of inequality. Government became a gateway to wealth, not service. Those at the top no longer needed to produce value, they just needed to control its flow. Following this, the effects of some programs in the 1980s and 90s, which gutted public services and pushed millions into the informal economy. While these policies were intended to stabilize the economy following the oil windfall from the 60s and 70s, they had profound adverse effects on the Nigerian populace. The devaluation of the naira led to increased prices for imported goods, exacerbating inflation. Trade liberalization exposed local industries to international competition, resulting in factory closures and job losses. Privatization often transferred public assets to individuals with political connections, reinforcing existing inequalities. Most notably, the reduction in public spending severely impacted essential services like healthcare and education, eroding the social safety net that many Nigerians relied upon. The message was clear, the state would no longer protect you. You were on your own.

So Nigerians, with their characteristic resilience, adapted. They hustled with fierce determination. They forged new economies out of necessity: informal transport services, like the iconic okada and keke; skilled technicians, boldly transitioning from the shrinking formal sector into personalized retail services; and a generation ingeniously learning design on YouTube. They work long hours, multiple jobs, often with no benefits or security. Yet still, the reward remains out of reach. The more they labor, the further comfort seems. Why? Because labor in Nigeria is not what brings wealth, Proximity is. Proximity to power, to privilege, having the right surname or being a member of the right inner circles.

We are often told, "Work hard and you will succeed." However, reality shows something else. In Nigeria, working hard often just keeps you tired. The people who earn the most are not the ones lifting, cleaning, building, or fixing. They are the ones collecting rent,

not only on properties but entire industries, running rackets exploiting loopholes and political connections, or passively sitting on oil blocs, while others tweet about “monetizing your network” while a generator hums in the background.

This is not just about income. It’s about dignity. In the labor pyramid, those at the bottom are invisible. We do not see them in economic plans or startup pitches. They are not featured in TED talks about innovation. Without them however, the system would collapse. The informal worker, the artisan, the domestic staff are the ones holding up the pyramid. The tragedy is that they do so while remaining poor or even destitute.

This inversion of effort and reward is not accidental, it’s structural. The modern Nigerian economy, like many post-colonial systems, rewards ownership over output. To own land, capital, or networks is to command income without labor. Ironically, to possess only your body and your time is to earn little while giving much. And over time, this message seeps into the national psyche: real wealth doesn’t come from hard work; it comes from escaping it.

How about the middle you might ask? The middle is burning out. These are the salary earners, the freelancers, the young professionals with Canva portfolios and multiple streams of stress. They are not at the bottom, but they can see it clearly. They are not at the top, but they are aspiring to perspire. They live in rented apartments with Pinterest dreams. They go on LinkedIn and see posts that say, “While you sleep, I earn.” They go to church and hear, “Your miracle is coming.” Then they go home, open NEPA bills that threaten to bankrupt them, and remember that, in Nigeria, the biblical prince of Persia, in the form of systemic challenges and infrastructural failures, is a powerful and persistent force.

I hesitate slightly as I write this, because I don’t want to paint an entirely bleak picture, as that’s not the full story. The encouraging truth, the vibrant counter-narrative, is that Nigeria thrives on the sheer brilliance, the unwavering grit, and the boundless resourcefulness of its people. Every single day, millions of young Nigerians are rewriting the rules of what’s possible. They’re not just adapting; they’re innovating. They’re transforming okadas into agile logistics startups, connecting communities and delivering goods with speed and efficiency.

They’re wielding their phones, not just as tools for communication, but as powerful engines of commerce, building businesses and reaching customers across the country. They’re channeling their pain, their frustrations, their experiences, into powerful poetry, into music that moves us, into art that challenges us to see the world differently. They are not simply hustling to survive; they are actively creating, relentlessly building, boldly imagining a new Nigeria.

How do we make this imagination of a few become the freedom of the many? Firstly, we need to rethink what we value. We need to stop calling some work “unskilled” when it requires strength, precision, and patience. We need policies that protect labor, reward effort, and provide basic dignity. We need a culture that stops gaslighting the poor with divine and economic justifications for their situation while exploiting their labor for our ease and prosperity.

We must interrogate our obsession with ease, with wealth without work, because when labor is systematically devalued, society becomes unsustainable. Innovation thrives not when the few extract from the many, but when the many are empowered to create.

Pyramids, by design, serve the top; their very structure necessitates a base that bears the weight. But what if we stopped building pyramids altogether, these monuments to inequality? What if we dared to imagine a new shape, probably a circle, where value flows not in a single direction, but in a continuous, interdependent cycle. A circle where no one has to be diminished, no one has to sacrifice their inherent worth, just to belong. Because ultimately, our shared humanity isn’t a hierarchy; it’s a network of interconnectedness, and it’s time our economic and social systems reflected that truth.

Eyesan Toritseju is a graduate of Civil Engineering from Covenant University turned serial entrepreneur and corporate strategist. Passionate about society and the cultural ideologies that shape us, he explores how these forces propel or inhibit progress through his writing. In his column, *Cosmopolitan Nigeria*, Eyesan examines how young Nigerians navigate the complexities of culture, religion, and identity in a rapidly evolving world.

GRANT'S CREW NIGHTS OUT: CELEBRATING CONNECTIONS AND SHARED MOMENTS



The evening was fused style, sound, teamwork work and community spirit as Grant, the official sponsor of the After-Party, activated its Crew Nights Out initiative — celebrating authentic connections and shared moments through an evening that

As the curtains closed on the final day of the Unleashed 4 Takeover 3.0 conference that took place recently at the Balmoral Convention Center in Lagos, Grant's Whisky took the spotlight at the Gala and Awards

Night After-Party — creating a vibrant close to a day filled with conversations on innovation, leadership, and progress in Africa's property sector and awarding its key role players in the industry.

This edition of Unleashed 4 Takeover, themed 'NextGen Nation Builders: Youthful Impact, Limitless Possibilities,' gathered industry professionals, government officials, and young trailblazers.



Guests came dressed to impress in their tailored tuxedos, Kaftans, to stunning gowns, and they made the most of it at the multiple Grant's media walls stationed across the venue, capturing stylish memories and soaking in the festive atmosphere.

They enjoyed Grant's cocktails and were entertained by a line-up that included DJ Casper Sandra, live boys band; Alternate Sound, and popular music artist Shoday, who brought the night to a close.

Attendees included notable figures such as Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Olawande Emmanuel Ayodele, the Minister of Youth

Development; Idris Aregbe – Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Tourism, Arts & Culture; Desmond Elliot – Member, Lagos State House of Assembly and other key leaders from real estate, fintech, and the creative industry.

As a brand rooted in bringing people together and fostering relationships, Grant's continues to champion unforgettable gatherings — where conversations flow, glasses clink, and real connections are made.



INSIDE AZURI ONE, WEST AFRICA'S TALLEST RESIDENTIAL TOWER

IFEOMA OKEKE-KORIEOCHA

Azuri One is the crown jewel of West Africa's tallest residential tower, standing majestically at 145 meters in the heart of Eko Atlantic City.

This premier development is more than just a residence - it's a lifestyle that redefines luxury living.

Imagine waking up to breathtaking panoramic views of the Marina, surrounded by the tranquillity of three water bodies, and enjoying a sophisticated, pedestrian-friendly urban center that caters to your every need.

Azuri Towers, comprising Azuri One and Azuri Two, offers luxurious living at its finest, with Villa-style apartments that epitomise, 'World Class Luxury Lifestyle.'

Each apartment is a masterpiece of design, crafted with the finest materials and smartly controlled for ultimate convenience. From the moment you step into your spacious living room to the moment you retire to your serene bedroom,

every detail is designed to pamper you with comfort and sophistication.

With four levels of parking and state-of-the-art amenities like concierge services, swimming pools, and gymnasiums, residents can indulge in a life of luxury and leisure. Imagine having access to:

Private roof gardens with stunning Marina views, fully equipped fitness centers and yoga studios, sparkling swimming pools and relaxation lounges, secure, 24/7 concierge services, exclusive access to Eko Atlantic City's finest restaurants and shopping outlets.

But Azuri Towers is not just a residence; it's also a savvy investment opportunity. With high inflation rates in Nigeria, real estate investment provides a stable store of value, and Azuri Towers' apartments project a rental yield of six percent per annum. The starting price of \$425,000 offers potential for significant growth in asset value, making it an attractive option for investors looking to diversify their portfolios.



Located in the Marina District of Eko Atlantic City, Azuri Towers boasts a prime location that makes it a choice real estate asset. The city's master plan, designed by South Energyx Nigeria Limited, promises a self-sufficient and sustainable community with:

- Its own power generation and clean water supply
- Advanced telecommunications and high-speed internet
- Spacious roads and tree-lined streets
- State-of-the-art security and surveillance systems

Eko Atlantic City, sprawling over 10 million square meters of land reclaimed from the ocean, is poised to become a hub of innovation and progress. With its 8.5 kilometer long sea wall and Manhattan-like skyscraper district, this dynamic new city is set to redefine the urban landscape of West Africa.

Whether you're looking for a luxurious lifestyle, a smart investment opportunity, or a chance to be part of a groundbreaking urban project, Azuri Towers has something to offer. Nigerians can now experience the future of living in West Africa's most exciting new city. Azuri Towers is the perfect blend of luxury and innovation.

ALBANIA NAMED BEST PLACE TO VISIT IN 2025 IN NEW RANKING

CHISOM MICHAEL



A recent ranking has named Albania as the top destination to visit this year. The list was compiled by HelloSafe, an insurance comparison website, which evaluated countries based on safety, affordability, climate, and social media engagement.

Albania scored 75.8, placing it ahead of 19 other countries. The ranking reflects a growing interest in Albania as a travel destination, offering an alternative to more popular Mediterranean countries like Greece and Croatia. Albania's coast has been identified as Europe's top trending destination for 2025, according to the same report.

Among the places recommended for visitors are Ksamil and Dafina Bay. Ksamil is noted for its unique coastline, consisting of small coves, islands, headlands, and lagoons. Dafina Bay is a protected nature reserve on the Karaburun peninsula, known for its natural environment.

Beyond the coast, Albania's inland areas also offer attractions. The preserved valley of Theth, located in the country's Alpine region, is highlighted as a top site to visit. This area features pastures, pine forests, and lakes set against a backdrop of mountain peaks.

The report considered multiple factors to arrive at the rankings. Safety measures and affordability were key elements. The climate index accounted for rainfall levels and temperatures deemed ideal for travel. Social media engagement was included to reflect how much interest destinations generate online.

Following Albania in the ranking are Colombia, which scored 72.2, and Laos with 71.9. Both countries offer diverse experiences and continue to attract visitors looking for new destinations.

The top 20 destinations cover a wide geographic area, including countries from different continents. Among the list are El Salvador, Serbia, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Bhutan, Bahrain, Guatemala, Mongolia, Armenia, Puerto Rico, Ghana, Uruguay, Andorra, Tanzania, Samoa, Moldova, and Sri Lanka.

This ranking provides travellers with options for destinations that balance safety, cost, pleasant weather, and popularity on social media platforms. For those planning trips in 2025, Albania and the other top-ranked countries offer opportunities to explore new places with growing appeal.

7 UK WORK VISAS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE A JOB OFFER IN 2025

CHISOM MICHAEL



The United Kingdom is expanding opportunities for international workers in 2025, offering several visa routes that do not require a job offer before arrival.

These visas enable individuals to live, work, and study in the UK with greater flexibility. Options include heritage-based visas, post-study work opportunities, and the prestigious Global Talent visa, designed to attract world-class professionals.

This move aims to welcome skilled and talented individuals, allowing them to explore career paths and settle without needing employment lined up in advance. Whether you're a young professional, a recent graduate, or have exceptional skills, the UK's diverse visa options provide a promising pathway to build a new life.

Here are 7 UK work visas that do not require a job offer in 2025, according to DAAD Scholarship.

British National (Overseas) Visa (BN(O))

The British National (Overseas) Visa (BN(O)) is available to individuals from Hong Kong who hold BN(O) status, along with their eligible family members, allowing them to live, work, and study in the UK for up to five years. It provides access to public services such as the NHS and education, and holders can work in any sector, be self-employed, or start a business. To be eligible, applicants must hold BN(O) status, be ordinarily resident in Hong Kong or the UK at the time of application, and show proof of financial independence. This visa also offers a pathway to permanent residence and British citizenship.

Graduate Visa

The Graduate Visa allows international students who have recently completed a UK degree to stay and work in the UK for up to two years, or three years for PhD holders, without a job offer or sponsorship. Graduates can work in any role, full-time or part-time, be self-employed, switch jobs, or pursue unpaid internships. To qualify, applicants must have completed a UK bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree and hold a valid Student visa at the time of application. This visa provides recent graduates with the flexibility to gain UK work experience and explore long-term visa options.

Youth Mobility Scheme Visa

The Youth Mobility Scheme Visa enables young people from select countries aged 18 to 30 (or 35 for some) to live and work in the UK for up to two years without a job offer. It is part of a reciprocal agreement between the UK and countries including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, and South Korea. Applicants must be citizens of participating countries, meet the age criteria, and have sufficient funds to support themselves. This visa allows full access to the UK labour market with the freedom to change jobs and work across sectors.

India Young Professionals Scheme Visa

The India Young Professionals Scheme Visa offers Indian nationals aged 18 to 30, holding at least a bachelor's degree, the chance to live and work in the UK for up to two years without sponsorship. Applicants must be selected through a visa ballot, prove financial support, and meet other eligibility criteria. This visa aims to give early-career Indian professionals international work experience and the freedom to work across different industries in the UK.

Global Talent Visa

The Global Talent Visa is for individuals recognised as leaders or emerging leaders in fields such as science, engineering, humanities, arts, and digital technology. Applicants must be endorsed by an approved UK body and can live and work in the UK for up to five years without needing a job offer or sponsorship. The visa allows working for employers, freelancing, or starting a business, with no minimum salary threshold and the ability to bring dependents. It offers a direct path to permanent residence and citizenship.

High Potential Individual (HPI) Visa

The High Potential Individual (HPI) Visa is available to recent graduates from top global universities outside the UK, allowing them to work and live in the UK for up to two years, or three for PhD holders, without sponsorship or a job offer. Applicants must have graduated within five years from a university on the UK Home Office's list, demonstrate English proficiency, and prove financial independence. This visa supports globally educated graduates in launching their careers with freedom to work across all sectors.

UK Ancestry Visa

The UK Ancestry Visa allows citizens of Commonwealth countries who have a UK-born grandparent to live and work in the UK for up to five years without a job offer or employer sponsorship. Applicants must be aged 17 or over, prove their ancestry, show intent to work, and have sufficient funds. This visa offers the freedom to work in any job, be self-employed, or study further, while providing a route to permanent residence and British citizenship. Dependents such as spouses and children can also be included.



HOW NIGERIANS ARE REDEFINING CITIZENSHIP TO NAVIGATE GLOBAL TAX CHALLENGES – DAVID LESPERANCE

CHISOM MICHAEL



David Lesperance, an international tax and immigration advisor, provided insights into how individuals, especially Nigerians, are re-evaluating their personal and financial positions in response to global immigration shifts in an interview with Businessday's Chisom Michael. The global economy continues to evolve, as

does the concept of citizenship and mobility, particularly for high-net-worth individuals and professionals navigating complex tax environments.

Lesperance, who has advised clients for over three decades, emphasises the importance of aligning one's citizenship and mobility strategy with both personal goals and regulatory realities. "It depends on where you're at and what your goals are," he said. "The goals of a recent graduate who wants to do graduate work or start their career would be different from a business person whose children are already out of the house," he said.

Identifying these goals is essential before considering destination countries or specific immigration routes. For example, a young graduate looking to pursue education in the United States may find it more appealing than a businessperson approaching retirement who is concerned with tax exposure.

Lesperance highlights how some jurisdictions are adapting their immigration and tax policies to attract individuals with significant capital and skills. Countries like Italy and Greece have introduced attractive flat-tax regimes for foreign residents, while others, like the United Kingdom, have tightened rules, leading to a migration of wealth.

For Nigerians, the United States remains attractive for those seeking higher education or starting careers. However, for businesspeople or retirees, the US may be less appealing due to its tax implications. “They want to do business, they want to invest, they want to maybe visit their kids or grandkids, but they don’t want to get caught up in the tax net,” Lesperance explained.

He also noted a key contrast: “The problem with the United States right now is that immigration is political.” Policies are often shaped by debates around unskilled migration, which can obscure the needs of skilled professionals. “When you say immigration in the US, it’s all muddled into one thing,” he said.

In contrast, “Other countries are a little more strategic about it. Canada, for example,” Lesperance observed. “But Canada again has great programmes, though their bureaucracy is not particularly well exercised.” He explained Canada’s recent political shift may improve its responsiveness and efficiency in handling skilled immigration.

In this evolving landscape, Lesperance pointed out that countries able to offer favourable tax policies, streamlined immigration processes, and efficient bureaucracy are best positioned to attract mobile wealth. “Whichever country can do that mix will benefit,” he stated.

Nigeria’s growing diaspora and interest in dual citizenship reflect a desire for greater global mobility and wealth-building opportunities. Lesperance pointed out that while the Nigerian government controls its tax policy, it has limited influence over visa-free travel, which depends on foreign governments’ perceptions.

He suggested that Nigeria could explore trade deals that include rights for citizens to live and work abroad, similar to arrangements within the European Union or between Canada, the US, and Mexico. “Nigeria is a commodities-based economy, like Canada, and can leverage this in negotiations,” Lesperance said.

One trend Lesperance has seen is the increasing interest in second citizenships and residence-by-investment programmes. These programmes offer more than just a travel document—they are part of a broader strategy to gain mobility, mitigate risk, and protect wealth. “They want the ability to move freely, access global markets, and ensure security for their families,” he said.

However, he warned that poor advice and misinformation—often from salespeople pushing investment products—can lead to costly mistakes. “You don’t go to a tax authority for tax planning advice,” Lesperance said. “And you certainly don’t rely on someone with a commission at stake to advise you on citizenship planning.”

He urged families to seek independent, experienced advisors to understand the full implications of their choices, including tax liabilities, residency obligations, and family law. A failure to do so can have long-term consequences, pointing to the importance of integrated, long-term planning.

For digital nomads and younger millionaires, the rise of remote work has opened new doors, but it also presents new challenges. Lesperance pointed out that even digital nomads need to navigate visa rules and tax obligations carefully. Many countries now offer digital nomad visas, but not all provide a path to residency or citizenship.

On the question of compliance, he notes that global tax enforcement is becoming increasingly digitised and integrated. Technologies like blockchain and digital IDs are making it easier for governments to track financial activity. “It’s a public ledger,” he said of blockchain. “The better strategy is to legally not be obligated to pay tax, rather than trying to hide income.”

As for the future, Lesperance believes the concept of citizenship itself is undergoing a shift. Traditional notions tied to birthplace or ancestry are being replaced by a more fluid understanding, tied to opportunity, stability, and access. “You want to maximise optionality—for both your assets and your wellbeing,” he said.

7 WAYS TO AVOID OVERSPENDING ON YOUR NEXT VACATION

ESTHER EMOEKPERE



Holidays are meant to be a break from stress, not a new reason to check your bank balance with dread. But between booking flights, indulging in local food, and grabbing “just one” souvenir, your travel budget can vanish before you have even unpacked. And the last thing you want is to come home relaxed but broke.

So, how do you make the most of your trip without draining your savings? Here are seven practical tips to help you avoid overspending

Set a realistic daily budget

Do not just budget for the big things like flights and hotels, factor in the

daily bits: meals, transport, entry fees, snacks, and yes, those unexpected “YOLO” moments. Setting a daily spending limit helps you pace your expenses instead of blowing it all in the first two days. Use a simple spreadsheet to log your spending as you go.

Book early

Flight and hotel prices fluctuate, but early birds usually get the better deals. Accommodation platforms often give discounts for booking weeks or even months ahead. Sign up for fare alerts and check multiple platforms before you click “Book.”

Say no to shopping at the airport

Airports are built to tempt tired travellers. That bottle of water? Triple the usual price. A snack? Nearly the price of a full meal elsewhere. Pack your own snacks, a refillable water bottle (many airports now have water stations), and entertainment for the journey. If you know you'll need a meal during a layover, scope out affordable options in advance.

Use public transport

Taxis are convenient but add up quickly. Most cities have reliable public transport, and many offer daily or weekly travel passes that save you money over time. Plus, it's often a more authentic way to explore. Apps like Google Maps can help you figure out routes and timings easily. In some cities, bike hire or shared scooters can also be cheap and fun alternatives.

Think before you spend on foreign exchange

If you are paying with a card abroad, choose to be charged in the local currency, not your home currency, it usually gives a better exchange rate. Look into travel-friendly banks or cards with low or zero foreign transaction fees. Also, avoid

exchanging too much cash at once, especially in tourist-heavy areas where rates can be poor.

Rethink souvenirs

You do not need to prove you went somewhere by buying keychains for the entire office. Focus on meaningful keepsakes, like a small artwork from a local market or a packet of spices you can actually use at home. Better still, take photos, write in a travel journal, or collect ticket stubs and postcards. Not only are they lighter on your luggage, they are usually lighter on your wallet too.

Pick experiences over excess

Some of the best travel memories come from simple moments, a sunset walk, a street food meal, or chatting with a local, not from overpriced tourist traps. Choose one or two standout experiences to spend on (like a cooking class or boat ride), and keep the rest low-key.

Check for free walking tours, discounted museum days, or community-run events. These not only save money but often give a more personal insight into the place you're visiting.

7 THINGS YOU SHOULD NEVER PUT ON YOUR FACE

CHISOM MICHAEL



You have just watched a viral video with millions of views. Someone is slathering toothpaste on their spots, rubbing lemon juice all over their skin, or mixing sugar and olive oil like they're making a salad dressing. Before you reach for that DIY "miracle" fix, pause. Your face is not an experiment.

Some things just do not belong on your skin, and not because they are gross or weird, but because they can cause real damage.

Here are seven common items you should avoid putting on your face, no matter how convincing the internet gurus sound.

Toothpaste

People swear by toothpaste to dry out pimples fast. It's true toothpaste contains ingredients like baking soda and hydrogen peroxide, which can reduce moisture. But these same ingredients are designed for teeth, not skin. Toothpaste can dry out your skin excessively, cause redness, burning,

and even peel the top layer. Instead, use spot treatments specifically designed for acne that contain ingredients like salicylic acid or benzoyl peroxide.

Lemon juice

Lemon juice is acidic, with a pH between 2 and 3, which is far lower than your skin's natural pH of about 5.5. This acidity can disrupt your skin's protective barrier, leading to dryness, irritation, and increased sensitivity to sunlight. Worse, it can cause hyperpigmentation (dark spots) if you do not wash it off properly before heading outdoors. So, while lemon is great in your water or on your salad, it is best to keep it off your face.

Baking soda

Baking soda is alkaline, meaning it raises your skin's pH and disrupts the natural balance that protects against bacteria and moisture loss. Regular use can cause dryness, redness, and inflammation. It's fine for cleaning surfaces, but your skin needs gentle, balanced products.

Raw eggs

Some beauty hacks suggest using raw egg whites to tighten pores or firm skin. Aside from the obvious hygiene risks, raw eggs can carry salmonella, and applying them to the skin can pose a risk of infection, especially if there are any cuts or blemishes. Egg whites can also cause allergic reactions and irritation. Plus, they don't offer any lasting benefit that a proper skincare product can't do better and safer.

Hairspray

Some people spray hairspray on their face to "set" makeup or tame flyaway hairs. Hairspray contains alcohol and fragrances that dry out skin and may cause breakouts, redness, and irritation. It is not designed for skin contact, so keep it strictly for your hair.

Sugar scrubs

Exfoliating is important to remove dead skin cells, but sugar scrubs can be too abrasive. The coarse grains can create micro-tears in your skin, leading to irritation and sensitivity. Instead, opt for gentle exfoliants which dissolve dead skin without damage.

Hot water

A hot shower feels relaxing, but washing your face with hot water strips away natural oils, leaving your skin dry and irritated. It can worsen conditions like eczema and rosacea. Lukewarm water is ideal for cleansing, it cleans effectively without harming your skin's natural moisture barrier.

HERE ARE 7 ESSENTIAL BOOKS YOUNG NIGERIAN ENTREPRENEURS SHOULD READ

CHARLES OGWO

Reading books, especially business-oriented ones, offers numerous benefits to entrepreneurs, enhancing knowledge, skills, and overall success.

Books broaden horizons, improve cognitive abilities, foster creativity, and boost entrepreneurship skills.

Studies have shown that books have long been a source of wisdom for entrepreneurs, offering guidance on everything from financial strategy to business leadership development. Experts posit that certain books have stood the test of time, selling millions of copies and earning praise from business icons, investors, and top executives.

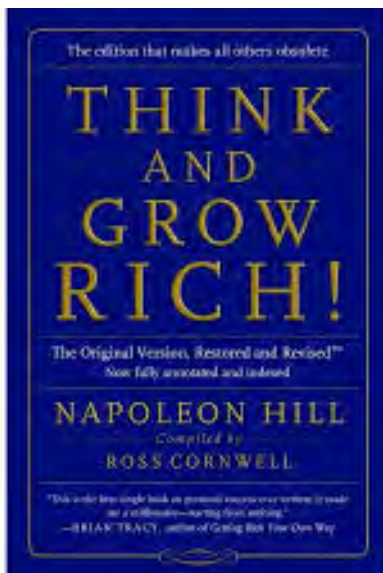
Here are some books that can help a young entrepreneur develop his or her business leadership skills, and build a profitable company, or develop a better financial mindset.

Think And Grow Rich By Napoleon Hill

Napoleon Hill originally published the book, 'Think and Grow Rich' in 1937, and it has sold over 100 million copies worldwide.

The book has earned distinction as one of history's best-selling personal development books.

This is based on the author's research into the habits of wealthy individuals, including Andrew Carnegie and Henry Ford.



It presents a plan for achieving financial success through mindset and persistence. Readers often praise the book for its emphasis on the power of visualisation and goal-setting.

The Lean Startup By Eric Ries

Eric Ries published the book 'The Lean Startup' in 2011, and has since become a must-read for entrepreneurs, especially those in tech and venture-backed startups.

The book introduced the concept of the minimum viable product (MVP). This principle encourages businesses to test ideas quickly before investing too many resources. The book has sold over a million copies, and its concepts are popular among Silicon Valley companies.

Business icons such as Elon Musk have praised lean startup principles as essential for rapid innovation.



Rich Dad Poor Dad By Robert Kiyosaki

With over 32 million copies sold, Rich Dad Poor Dad remains one of the most influential personal finance books ever written.

Robert Kiyosaki juxtaposed the financial mindsets of his two father figures, one who followed a traditional career path and another who built wealth through investments and entrepreneurship.

Rich Dad Poor Dad has been widely embraced by self-made millionaires and real estate and finance influencers, including Grant Cardone and Dave Ramsey. Some critics argue that it lacks concrete investment strategies.

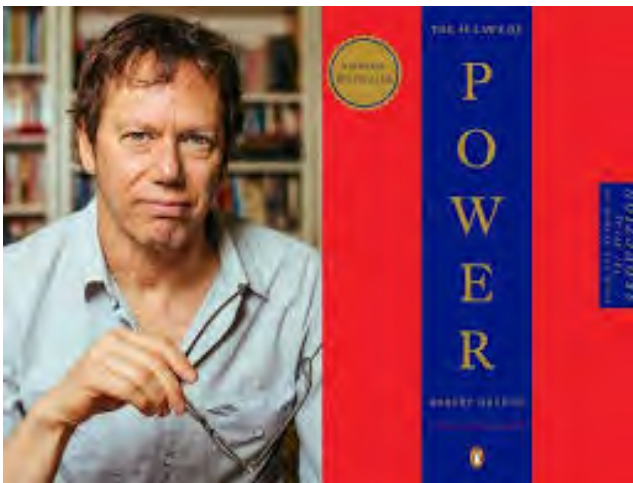
The 48 Laws Of Power By Robert Greene

The 48 Laws of Power has sold over 1.2 million copies since its publication in 1998.

The Robert Greene publication has also gained a strong following among business leaders, strategists, and even celebrities. The book outlines historical power dynamics and strategies used by influential figures, from Napoleon Bonaparte to modern corporate executives.

While controversial due to its unapologetic take on manipulation and influence, it has been praised by business icons such as Jay-Z and 50 Cent.

Both rappers say they have incorporated the book's lessons into their business empires. The book remains a staple in discussions about negotiation, leadership, and corporate strategy.



How To Win Friends And Influence People By Dale Carnegie

More than 30 million copies of How to Win Friends and Influence People have been sold since its first publication in 1936. It remains one of the most recommended books for improving communication and leadership skills. The book teaches techniques for building trust, handling difficult conversations, and winning people over without force or manipulation.

Chief executive officers, sales professionals, and public speakers frequently cite it as a game-changer for networking and relationship-building. Warren Buffett has publicly credited the book for shaping his approach to business negotiations.

Zero To One By Peter Thiel

Peter Thiel, the billionaire co-founder of PayPal, outlines his unique approach to business strategy in Zero to One.

Published in 2014, the book quickly became a favourite among startup founders and venture capitalists. It went on to sell over a million copies. Thiel argues that the best businesses don't compete in existing markets but create entirely new industries.

Many startup accelerators and business schools use the book as a framework for disruptive innovation. Tech moguls like Mark Zuckerberg and Jeff Bezos have praised the book for its innovative approaches.



The \$100 Startup by Chris Guillebeau

For aspiring entrepreneurs looking to start small, The \$100 Startup offers practical advice on launching a business with minimal investment.

Since its publication in 2012, the book has sold over 500,000 copies and has been particularly popular among freelancers and digital nomads.

The book features real-life success stories of individuals who built profitable businesses with little capital. Readers appreciate its accessible writing style and actionable insights, making it a favourite for those seeking financial independence through small-scale entrepreneurship.



WHY NIGERIAN SCHOOLS SHOULD HAVE SPORTS-SPACES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

CHARLES OGWO



Supporting activities are instrumental in early childhood education, and development. Sport can help build a child's identity, wellbeing, and confidence and communication skills, supporting holistic development from a young age.

Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa and an advocate for education, once said, "Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand."

This notion of sport as an accessible and powerful language is especially evident during early childhood, a critical foundation period where children, well before they can read and write, are able to move, be active and use sport as a powerful vehicle for developing key physical, social, emotional and cognitive skills.

Unfortunately, many private and some public schools lack sport playing grounds and facilities.

Emeka Enyadike, director at Digital Sports, Africa speaking on the need for Nigeria to rethink investment in sports called on government, policymakers, and stakeholders, among others to embrace sports venture to optimise the economic benefits.

Enyadike reiterated that the country is full of talents but lacks the ecosystem and facilities to develop and harness these talents.

He insisted that Nigeria must create more viable sports ecosystem amidst abundance of talents and to put in place infrastructure, commercialisation and human capacity development.

To achieve this viable goal, schools serve as a good window to introduce children into the sport activities and career development.

Using an early childhood education setting such as a kindergarten and the sport such as football to illustrate the impacts of sports on a child, experts argue that sport does not need to be competitive and/or formal.

Research shows play-based learning, including sport, plays a significant role in social and emotional development, supporting children in enhancing their social skills such as communication, cooperation and conflict resolution.

Learning through play additionally encourages creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking, helping children explore new skills and ideas in a safe, engaging environment.



Participating in physical education, achieving personal milestones, such as kicking a ball for the first time, and receiving encouragement from peers and teachers also helps children build confidence and a sense of accomplishment.

These experiences play a crucial role in shaping children's self-awareness and fostering a strong foundation for their personal growth and identity.

James Aina, a coach, frowned that in Nigeria the sports calendar and education does not accommodate each other. They are on parallel lanes; they could see and wave to each other but never meant to meet.

Aina emphasised that a child must be made to engage in education in order to engage in sports.

“Our educational system needs an overhaul. A system where a child will enter the classroom by 8:00am and leave by 4:00pm, is not ideal for talents developing.

“Nigerian educational system lacks facilities for sports development and even the facilitators of sports need orientations on the value of sports in education and life,” he said.

When children engage in sport, they experience a range of emotions, from excitement and joy to frustration and disappointment. Through these experiences, they learn how to cope with their emotions in healthy ways, such as managing frustration after not winning a game or celebrating success in a group.

By learning to handle both the highs and lows of sports, children develop crucial emotional resilience, which plays a vital role in supporting their overall well-being.

In the face of this , the government should insist that before a school is approved, it must make provision for sports space and facilities.

NIGERIANS, OTHER INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS FACE STIFFER UK POLICY HURDLES

... as immigration rules are tightened, the residency requirement is increased

CHARLES OGWO



Nigerians and other African students interested in pursuing their educational fulfillment in the United Kingdom (UK) are in for tougher times, as the government is set to tighten immigration rules and increase residency requirements. According to The Economic Times report, Britain is set to tighten immigration rules, and international students and universities will be affected.

“A levy on tuition fees is planned. The residency requirement for settlement will increase. The Graduate Route visa duration will be shortened.”

The UK government, according to the report, aims to reduce net migration; hence, these changes seek a more controlled immigration system.

Consequently, the government is prepared to apply stricter immigration policies that will directly impact international students and universities.

These changes are part of a broader effort to reduce annual net migration by 100,000, as per the white paper released by the Home Office.

In the UK, a total of 18,900 Nigerians were issued study visas in 2024. This represents a decrease compared to previous years, with a significant drop of 43 percent in the first six months of the year alone. The number of “main applicant” student visas granted to Nigerians in the first six months of 2024 was 4,669, compared to 14,772 in the corresponding period in 2023.

The UK government’s significant measure is the introduction of a six percent levy on tuition fees paid by international students.

According to the estimates from Universities UK, universities will be required to pay this levy to the government, potentially raising an estimated £600 million (about N1.3 trillion) per year.

The levy is intended to shift financial responsibility for migration away from the taxpayer and towards the institutions that benefit economically from international enrolments.

Currently, foreign nationals can apply for permanent settlement in the UK after five years. Under the new policy, the minimum residency requirement will double to ten years.

According to a report by The Times, this move will affect around 1.5 million people and is intended to reduce the number of migrants permanently settling in the UK.

Another major change includes the reduction of the Graduate Route visa duration from two years to 18 months. This visa allows international students to remain in the UK after completing their studies to find graduate-level work.

Under the new rule, if graduates do not secure suitable employment within this shortened period, they will be required to leave the country.

Universities across the UK have raised concerns that these changes could hurt their competitiveness. Many institutions rely on revenue from overseas students to fund operations and research, especially as domestic funding remains limited.

The changes are expected to force universities to re-evaluate recruitment strategies and financial planning.



OVER 300 INDIGENT STUDENTS' EDUCATION PURSUIT BOOSTED THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

...as Dare Adeboye Foundation commits to students' empowerment

CHARLES OGWO



Going by the philosophy of Desmond Tutu, a former African Anglican bishop, which states that a person is a person only through other persons, and that one's humanity is caught up in others, emphasising the interconnectedness of humanity and the importance of recognising the value of all individuals.

The Dare Adeboye Foundation is making a difference in the lives of many Nigerians, as at least 300 underserved students from Ogun and Osun states have received scholarships at the 2025 Dare Adeboye Annual Scholarship Scheme Award Ceremony.

The event, which was held at the Dare Adeboye Innovation Hub, Redemption City in Ogun State, brought together beneficiaries, parents, educators, and key stakeholders to celebrate academic excellence and the foundation's vision of supporting the next generation.

Leke Adeboye, chairman of the board of trustees of the Dare Adeboye Foundation, in his address during the award ceremony held in Ogun State, emphasised the importance of education as a transformative tool in society.

"Education is the key to unlocking potential and creating future leaders. Through this initiative, we are not just awarding scholarships; we are investing in the future of Nigeria," he said.

Established in honour of the late Oluwadamilare Adeboye, son of globally respected Pentecostal leader Pastor Enoch Adeboye, popularly known as Daddy G.O., the foundation remains dedicated to fostering education for students from underprivileged backgrounds.

This year's beneficiaries include students in senior secondary three (SS3) who received financial support of N50,000 each to ease the burden of paying for their West African Examination Council (WAEC) fees, to further their education, and encourage their academic pursuits.

The scholarship recipients included students from African Church Grammar School, Abeokuta Grammar School, Remo Secondary School, Iganmode Grammar School, Asero High School, Comprehensive High School, Baptist Girls College, Community High School, Magboro, Akinorun Grammar School, Ikirun Anglican High School, Ansarul-Islam Grammar School, Ifon-Osun Edunabon, Apostolic Grammar School Ilesa, and Aromolaran Grammar School, Ilesa; among others.

The scholarship scheme was held in partnership with Ogun and Osun State governments, with four screening examination centres in Ogun, and two in Osun with over 1,827 applications across both states, with a total of 356 students sitting for the screening examination in Osun State, while 370 students sat for the screening examination in Ogun State.

After the screening process, 300 top-performing students were awarded scholarships based on their outstanding academic performance.

The ceremony provided a platform for encouragement and inspiration, as students and parents expressed gratitude for the life-changing support extended to them.

With an ever-growing impact, the Dare Adeboye annual scholarship scheme continues to serve as a beacon of hope, paving the way for a generation empowered by education.

THE ETHICS OF CURATION: Balancing African Heritage and Innovation

African art isn't just beautiful—it's powerful. It holds history, culture, and identity. From ancient carvings to futuristic digital works, it tells the story of who we are and where we come from.

But here's the big question: How do we honour that rich heritage while embracing new, modern ways of showing and sharing it?

Today, curators must walk a fine line between preserving tradition and welcoming innovation.

Many African artefacts still sit in Western museums, taken during colonial times. Countries like Nigeria and Ghana are now demanding their return—and building state-of-the-art museums to house them.

At the same time, technology is reshaping how we engage with art. Think VR tours, digital archives, and interactive displays (as discussed in this publication). But with all this progress, the mission stays the same: to protect the past and connect it meaningfully to today.



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.

TOP PICKS FROM OUR COLLECTION



Title: Article 15
Artist: Aza Mansongi
Medium: Acrylic on cotton canvas
Dimensions: 24 x 24 in | 61 x 61 cm
Available on Request



Title: Les yeux sont la fen tre de l'âme - 2
Artist: Falhone Ogoun
Medium: Acrylic and pastel oil on canvas
Dimensions: 11.8 x 11.8 in | 30 x 30 cm
Available on Request



Title: Lady Poses
 Artist: Lambert Shumbusho
 Medium: 300+ aged ironwood
 Dimensions: 20.4 x 12 x 13 in | 52 x 30 x 33 cm
 Available on Request

Reframing the Past: Innovation Without Erasing Identity

Heritage isn't stuck in time—it evolves. Still, there's a thin line between evolution and dilution. In today's fast-moving art world, curators must ask: are we enhancing history or just decorating it?

This is where ethical innovation comes in. Let's be clear—technology isn't the enemy. In fact, it can bring old stories to life in amazing ways. Augmented reality can walk visitors through ancient rituals. Interactive installations can make oral traditions feel visceral. Digital archives can protect fragile artworks for future generations.

But it all comes down to intent. Are we using tech to serve the story, or are we using the story to serve the tech? When done right, innovation doesn't overshadow heritage. It extends it. It creates bridges between the elders and the youth. Between rural stories and global screens.

That's the true goal of ethical curation—progress with purpose.

Tech Meets Culture: Tools, Not Trends

Innovation must be more than just a trend. It has to make sense within the cultural context. Throwing VR goggles at an exhibit won't make it better unless it adds depth.

Projects like the Museum of West African Arts Lunch and Learn Series: Preserving African Heritage in the Digital

Age are leading this digital charge. They are helping African curators digitise collections and train in new tech.

But here's the catch—innovation must be respectful. Art isn't just content. It's culture. That means digital versions should honour the meaning behind each piece. And creators must get community consent, especially when sacred or symbolic works are involved.

Also, tech isn't everything. Not every visitor has access to fancy tools. A great museum blends new ideas with old-school storytelling. Sometimes, a simple story that is told well hits harder than the flashiest app.

Centering the Community

Ethical curation starts with people. You can't tell someone's story without letting them speak.

That's why curators like Nana Oforiatta Ayim are taking museums to the people. Her mobile museum project in Ghana is a powerful example. Instead of waiting for people to visit a building, she brings the art to them. This kind of engagement makes the art feel alive. It's not just history—it's part of daily life. When communities are involved, museums become places of dialogue, not just display.

Balancing heritage and innovation isn't easy. But it's necessary.

Africa's art deserves to be seen, understood, and celebrated by both local communities and the world. That means protecting what came before while boldly exploring what comes next.

When curators respect the past and welcome fresh voices, the result is powerful. Art becomes more than objects. It becomes a living, breathing connection between generations.

Let's keep that connection strong.



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

AINA, IWOBI, SALAH ARE MY TOP AFRICAN PLAYERS IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE—NDIDI

ANTHONY NLEBEM



Despite Leicester City's confirmed relegation from the Premier League, the Foxes remain determined to end the season on a high. Ahead of their weekend clash with Ipswich, Nigerian midfield powerhouse Wilfred Ndidi opens up about the campaign's harsh lessons, three standout African players this season, what it means to represent Nigeria, and his time playing alongside the legendary Jamie Vardy.

With the upcoming AFCON, how much are you looking forward to joining the Nigerian national team? What does representing your country mean to you?

It's a privilege to represent Nigeria. It's an honour. Every time you get called up, it gives you goosebumps. It's something that makes your family back home really proud. So, for me, it's amazing.

But honestly, we're not thinking about AFCON right now. Our focus is on qualifying for the World Cup, which is the most important thing at the moment. After that, we'll look forward to AFCON.

The Premier League has seen a lot of standout African talent this season. Who are your top three African players of the campaign?

Ola Aina, Mo Salah, and I'd say Alex Iwobi. Not just because he's Nigerian, but because of his character. He's that guy with zero problems, well, maybe he has some, but you'd never know. He's always vibing and trying to help others in his way.

He's done really well, and honestly, he's one of the fastest players I've seen. He might not look it, but he really is. Jamie Vardy will leave Leicester at the end of the season. What has it been like sharing the pitch and dressing room with him?

It's been an honour and a pleasure. Even after football, I'll always say, "Yeah, I played with Jamie Vardy." It's a privilege. He's been amazing for years, such a strong personality and a real family man. Mentally, he's one of the toughest guys I've met.

It's been a great few years, filled with ups and downs, but through it all, he's still Jamie Vardy.

We often see Vardy's fun-loving side on camera. Is he the same off the pitch?

Oh yeah, he's exactly the same. You have to stay on your toes around him, he could pop up with something crazy at any moment.

He's annoying in a good way; he just keeps the vibe alive. He's always doing impressions or jokes, trying to make things fun.

He even tries to speak Nigerian Pidgin! He learns phrases and uses them with the Nigerian guys. Everyone's like, "Did he just say that?" That's Jamie Vardy for you. He's a great guy, really, really great.

This season hasn't gone as planned for Leicester. What went wrong, and what can the team take away from it? I think we gave up too quickly in some games. As soon as we conceded, heads dropped.

That shouldn't happen. Going forward, we need to fight no matter what. That's my biggest takeaway—we have to look ahead and keep pushing.

Looking back, is there a game this season that stands out for you personally?

Yeah, the away game against Crystal Palace. We drew 2–2, and I got two assists. Before the game, I was really quiet, just going through some personal stuff. I didn't want to talk to anyone.

Then I went out and performed. That was a memorable one for me.



Which Premier League team impressed you most this season, overall?

Nottingham Forest.

They just keep things simple, defend well, score goals, and get the job done. They stick to the basics, and it works for them.

Which player gave you the toughest challenge this season?

I'd say Matthias Cunha from Wolves in our last game. He was everywhere, just doing his thing. He's a really good player.

From a tactical point of view, which team was the hardest to play against?

Manchester City away. That game was tough. We tried everything to get close to the ball, but we just couldn't. Their ball movement, their positioning, it was on another level.

Looking ahead, is returning to the Premier League now Leicester's main objective?

Of course. That's the goal.

But first, we have to learn from this season. If we don't, then it's all a waste. We need to grow from this experience.

What was it like working with manager Ruvan Iskander?

He's a great manager; amazing.

Things didn't go our way, but I felt like he was left alone. The expectations were high when he came in, and when results didn't come, there wasn't much backing.

They should have given him more time. He's a good guy and very open with everyone.

ARUNA, GODA TO LEAD AFRICA'S CHARGE AT 2025 ITTF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

ANTHONY NLEBEM



Africa's highest-ranked table tennis players, Nigeria's Quadri Aruna and Egypt's Hana Goda, are set to begin their campaigns for global glory on Saturday, May 25 to 17, as the 2025 ITTF World Championships commence in Doha, Qatar.

The prestigious tournament will gather the world's elite players at the cutting-edge Lusail Multipurpose Hall and Qatar University Sports Complex. Athletes will compete across five major events: Men's and Women's Singles, Men's and Women's Doubles, and Mixed Doubles.

This year's edition marks a significant return to Doha, 21 years after the Qatari capital made history as the first Middle Eastern city to host the World Championships in 2004.

Aruna, the first African to reach the quarterfinals of the World Championships, will start his Men's Singles journey against Brazil's Victor Ishiy, a familiar opponent whom he defeated 4-2 at the 2021 edition in Houston, USA. The Nigerian star will be aiming to replicate that success in Doha.

Other African contenders in the Men's Singles include Darara Dufera (Ethiopia) facing Oh Junsung (South Korea); Aly Ghallab (Egypt) against Eduard Ionescu (Romania); Fabio Rakotoarimanana (Madagascar) versus Darko Jorgic (Slovenia); Kokou Fanny (Togo) battling Alexis Lebrun (France); Wassim Essed (Tunisia) taking on Juan Perez (Spain), and Mohamed El-Beiali (Egypt) clashing with Anton Kallberg (Sweden).

In the Women's Singles, African champion Hana Goda of Egypt will face Australia's Jiamuwa Wu in the opening round. Other notable matchups include Yousra Helmy (Egypt) versus Jocelyn Lam (New Zealand); Hope Udoaka (Nigeria) against Giulia Takahashi (Brazil); Rochica Sondag (South Africa) versus Chen Xingtong (China); Mariam Alhodaby (Egypt) against Sabine Winter (Germany), and Danisha Patel (South Africa) versus Andrea Todorovic (Croatia).



The Mixed Doubles event will also feature strong African representation with pairings such as Olajide Omotayo and Kabirat Ayoola (Nigeria) versus Mahmoud Helmy and Hend Fathy (Egypt); Fabio Rakotoarimanana & Hanitra Raharimanana (Madagascar) against Hugo Calderano & Bruna Takahashi (Brazil); Matthew Kuti & Ajoke Ojomu (Nigeria) versus Sora Matsushima and Miwa Harimoto (Japan); and Milhane Jellouli & Amina Kessaci (Algeria) versus Ahmed Korani and Maryam Ali (Qatar).

With top talents from across Africa, including Nigeria, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Uganda, South Africa, Madagascar, and Togo, set to compete, the 2025 ITTF World Championships in Doha promise to be an electrifying showcase of skill, determination, and continental pride.

HOW BRAND LANGUAGE IMPACTS BRAND IDENTITY

FEYISITAN IJIMAKINWA

Brand language refers to the unique voice, tone, and messaging style that a brand uses to communicate with its audience. It is an essential aspect of branding because it helps to define and distinguish a brand's identity in the market. In simpler terms, language is what gives your brand a personality and shapes how your target audience perceives your brand.

What makes up brand language?

Brand language is made up from three components, all of which are equally important. These are the voice, tone, and messaging style.

Your brand voice refers to the personality and style you use to communicate with your audience. This includes everything from word choice, sentence structure, and even punctuation. Voice is a part of your brand language that gets developed over time. It needs to stay consistent, otherwise you risk confusing your audience (and your marketing team).

The second, but no less important component of brand language is the tone. Tone refers to the emotional quality or attitude conveyed through words. It's what sets the mood for how a message is delivered and received. As opposed to voice, your tone will vary depending on the platform you're using, the target audience, and the outcome you're hoping for.

Last, but not least, there's your messaging style. Messaging style includes not only what you say, but also how you say it. Whether it's informative, persuasive, or emotional, your messaging style should align with your overall branding strategy and target audience preferences.

Choosing the right words for your brand

Besides communicating your message and values, brand language can set you apart from competitors. That's why choosing the right words to represent your brand starts with defining your brand's personality.

The easiest way to do this is to think of your brand as a human. If it were a person, which traits, characteristics, and qualities would it have? How would other people perceive its personality? Most importantly, how do you want your target audience to perceive it?

Do you want to sound professional or casual? Serious or humorous? The tone of voice should align with both your target audience and overall strategy.

Applying your brand language to your messaging
Now that you've got your brand language defined, it's time for the hard part: using it in all communication with your audience. This includes everything from social media, marketing communications, and customer service, all the way down to internal communications.

If that sounds like a lot of consistency that needs to be nailed down, that's because it is. To make sure your entire team is on the same page, you'll need to set a standard everyone should aim for.

Start by introducing guidelines

Showing is always better than telling, so start by documenting your brand language guidelines. That list of adjectives your brand is and definitely is not? Include it. For good measure, describe what you mean in a sentence or two to eliminate potential confusion.

Taking the time to really think about your brand language pays off in the long run. It helps you establish boundaries on the type of content that's (un)acceptable under your brand name.

Be picky

Grammar is like a tooth - you don't notice it until it's bad. And just as a neglected tooth can ruin your day, poor grammar can take attention away from your message and undermine your credibility.

Once you've set communication and language standards, documented them, and made everyone aware, you have to stick to them. Be a perfectionist, be picky, and insist on flawless execution of your brand language guidelines. There's no excuse for typos, spelling mistakes, and poor grammar. Adapt to different platforms

Maintaining consistency in brand language doesn't mean you should throw all flexibility out the window. The trick is in adapting to each platform while still maintaining the integrity of your brand language.

Just as the language you use every day, brand language needs to be flexible and consistent at the same time. You have to take context, place, and time into account. Otherwise, you risk coming off either as too formal or not serious enough.

Brand language examples you'll want to copy Well, maybe not copy, but at least get inspired by. Since the best way of explaining language is seeing it in action, here are a few examples of brands that know how to make an impression.

1. Nike

Nike has been using their iconic tagline "Just Do It" since 1988, and it has become synonymous with their brand. This simple phrase encapsulates Nike's brand message perfectly – pushing boundaries, overcoming obstacles, and achieving greatness. By using their slogan to speak to the customer directly, they've created a personal connection that inspires customers to take action towards their goals.

2. Apple

Apple's famous slogan "Think Different" reflects the company's values of innovation and creativity. With this simple two-word phrase, they've positioned themselves as an innovative and unconventional brand. By using positive connotations associated with the words they've used, Apple is appealing to

customers' desire for individuality. Paired with the clean and simple design of their website, they've successfully used language to convey their brand's personality.

Last line

Your brand has a voice, it's up to you to use it. Your brand is more than just a logo design or a product – it's an entity with its own distinctive voice. This voice has the power to shape your brand identity and leave a lasting impression on your audience. But it's up to you to find the right tone, language, and messaging. Words have the power to evoke emotions, create associations, and establish credibility. The way you communicate can make or break how people perceive your brand.

The language you use can set you apart from competitors or make you just another business out there. So, before you set goals of conquering the world with your amazing product or service, figure out the language part first.



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 LIFE I SHOULD HAVE LIVED

UDY OSARO-EDOBOR



Bob was the kind of man who thought he had life all figured out. A PhD hung proudly on his office wall and his academic career sparkled with his achievements. His friends respected him, some even envied him for his eloquence, intellect and ambition.

Most weekends, Bob and his friends would retreat to a cozy little restaurant tucked away in the heart of town. It offered more than good food, it radiated warmth and soul.

The restaurant was owned by a woman named Martha. Quiet, resilient and graceful. Martha carried a past far heavier than her slim shoulders could bear. Years ago, she had been raped, a tragedy that left her with a child. But that experience never crushed her spirit. Instead, she channeled her pain into purpose, building something beautiful from her experiences. Martha didn't have higher degrees—just a secondary school certificate but what she lacked in formal education, she made up for in strength, kindness and grit. She ran the restaurant with care, she knew every customer by name and she carried a gentle presence that drew people in.

Bob and his friends liked Martha. They respected her but from a distance. To them, she was admirable in a way that didn't invite closeness. She was someone to be applauded not pursued.

Yet Martha seemed to take a quiet liking to Bob. She lingered a little longer when serving him, asked after his lectures, was interesting in anything he was up to at the

time and laughed at his dry jokes. Her eyes lit up when he walked in. Everyone noticed.

"Why don't you give her a chance?" his friends teased.

But Bob always shook his head almost offended by the idea. "She's great," he would say, "but I need someone who matches me intellectually. She has too much baggage and besides I can't be with someone who doesn't have at least a Masters degree not to mention one that didn't go past secondary school. That's just not going to work." She was strong, yes but not the kind of woman Bob thought fit into the life he had planned.

And so, he moved on.

Eventually, Bob found someone who checked all his boxes. A fellow academic, not with just one but two PhDs. On paper, they were the perfect match. But marriage was not lived on paper. What followed was a boring marriage that lacked laughter and warmth. Their conversations were structured, debates disguised as intimacy. No friendship, only citations, deadlines and academic rivalries. Bob had built a house with intelligence but it was not a home.

Years passed. And one day, one of Bob's closest friends came to him with unexpected news.

"I think I like Martha," the friend said. "I want to be with her. I just wanted to check with you first because I know she used to like you."

Bob gave a polite, almost dismissive smile. “Go ahead,” he replied. “She was never really my type.”

And so the friend did.

He went and married Martha. He embraced her child as his own and together they began to build their lives. Their home was alive with laughter and pure joy. Those that knew them talked about them with admiration.

At first, Bob pretended not to hear or care. But in quiet moments, he found himself staring too long at photos on social media or listening too closely when someone mentioned Martha. Then with growing unrest, he saw his friend living what he has always yearned for—partnership, warmth, friendship.

The life his friend had built with Martha was supposed to be his. He had looked at her and only seen her scars, her lack, her limitations but his friend had looked at her and seen her heart.

The last time they all met at her party, Bob could not believe how gorgeous Martha had become. She was even in her final year at the State University.

Jealousy crept in and he began to avoid gatherings where his friend and Martha would be. Conversations with his friend became strained, then sparse. He grew cold and distant. And beneath it all, the regret of what should have been his own festered. He hadn't just missed a chance at love. He had missed a woman who loved deeply, endured gracefully and lived fully. A woman who had seen him, long before he truly saw himself.

He tried to busy himself with work. He published more papers, spoke at international conferences, won accolades that filled his shelves but left his heart empty. Back home, conversations with his wife was almost non-existent.

One evening, Bob drove past Martha's restaurant. It had grown. Expanded. There was now an outdoor seating area, soft music playing and laughter spilling into the street. She had bought the property and the one beside it. Her husband had become her business partner, her cheerleader, her anchor.

And there was Martha. Radiant. Unapologetically glowing. She wasn't the woman who once waited tables with careful smiles. She was a woman who owned the space she stood in—heart, soul and bricks included. Her husband stood beside her, laughing with customers, his eyes never far from hers.

Bob parked nearby and sat in his car for a long time, watching the life he had once dismissed bloom into something beautiful. Something whole. Something he would never have.

From time to time, he'd hear stories about them—how Martha had started mentoring other single mothers, how

her husband left his job to help her grow the restaurant, how they sponsored young women through school. Bob could not believe this.

Life moved fast, Bob's marriage had withered. He and his wife now lived in separate cities, communicating only when necessary. Their relationship had become a quiet rivalry... whose journal publication had more citations, whose keynote was better received.

Sometimes, late at night, Bob would open his laptop to start another paper. But instead of typing, he'd just sit there, staring at the blinking cursor, thinking. Not about what to write but about love lost, chances wasted and the woman who once saw something in him, long before he was wise enough to see her.

Martha became a symbol in his mind. Not just of love lost but of who he could have been if only he had looked beyond credentials.

For the rest of his life, no award could touch that emptiness. No applause could drown the silence. And no intellectual accolade could outshine the quiet truth.

He would always remember Martha as the one true thing he let slip through his fingers. He had walked past the life he was meant to live. And it never stopped haunting him. He looked down on Martha for what she lacked on paper, only to realize too late that love doesn't need a degree.



Udy Osaro-Edobor

Udy Osaro-Edobor is the Content Creator for SoTv (Supernatural Online TV) Nigeria. She is a movie/ scriptwriter, editor, and proofreader.

She has several stories to her credit which she posts for free on her Ebook called Udy's Chapter. She is currently working on two short movies. Udy is also a wife, mother, and a “serial entrepreneur”.

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In this extraordinary collection of stories, *"Sakadelli - So, When is it Okay?"*, the author, Uri Ngozichukwuka confronts the norm and the eccentric on even terms to create an evocative, and sometimes hilarious vision of life, living and loving.

The author takes us from a daunting war-torn era to the seductive world of acceptance, love, relationships, migration, family secrets, and betrayal, transforming them into deeply human stories with high stakes to become a refreshing and witty answer to the question: *"So, When Is It Okay?"*, where uncertainty and heartbreak abound.

Also included in this collection are *"Virginity Dialogue"*, *"King of Self-Pleasure"*, *"So, the Card Makes It Okay?"*, *"Feminism, Or Not"*, *"Enough Said Already"*. These stories by turns satirical, reverent, unsettling, funny, and utterly believable, expose the delicate and intricate ups and downs of everyday life even as their characters hide behind the disguises they have so carefully woven.

"So, When Is It Okay?" written in Verse, is the first of the Sakadelli series, which stories cohere into an elegant mix of prose and poetry, full of subversive humour and truth.



Uri Ngozichukwuka is a communication consultant, content entrepreneur, life coach, and a TV and Radio Presenter. She is currently, the CEO of April Benjamin and Dawn communications limited.

Uri is a social inclusion advocate and the founder of Empathy Driven Women Int'l Initiative (EDWIN). An NGO focused on persons with disabilities, especially women with disabilities. She's written several articles on social issues and organized many social inclusive programs

for persons with disabilities, which earned her a speaking spot on the prestigious global platform Ted Talk - Tedxmendewomen 2017.

Uri is also a singer and a recording artist. She is a mother and grandmother.



Uri Ngozichukwuka

Sakadelli - So, When Is It Okay?



A Beautiful Blend of Poetry and Storytelling -A Review of Uri Ngozichukwuka's Sakadelli

Title: Sakadelli
 Author: Uri Ngozichukwuka
 Year of Publication: 2020
 Category: Fiction

SAKADELLI

TITILADE OYEMADE

What happens when poetry and storytelling collide?

Uri Ngozichukwuka's Sakadelli offers a powerful answer in a format that reimagines traditional storytelling. If you've never encountered stories written in verse, this book delivers a unique and exciting experience.

At first, the style might feel unfamiliar, maybe even confusing, especially if you're not accustomed to this form. Is it a story? Is it poetry? But as you continue reading, you'll realize Ngozichukwuka has crafted something quite special. It's a refreshing departure from traditional prose, offering both artistry and thought-provoking reflection.

The book begins with an uplifting, motivational tone. The main character is introduced with flair, dramatic, lively, and full of personality. You might find yourself wishing you could meet her in real life. As the stories unfold, the tone shifts and begins to resemble an autobiography.

The author takes us through personal thoughts and vivid moments, touching on themes like finding yourself, facing challenges, feeling joy, and reflecting on life.

At a glance, Sakadelli may seem like a random collection of short stories. But look closer, and you'll find subtle threads connecting them all. These threads aren't always obvious; you need to read with care to catch the deeper meanings hidden between the lines.

One particularly intriguing feature is the chapter titles. They're brief, each one grabs your attention and sparks curiosity about what's to come. Even the title Sakadelli is mysterious, compelling you to read further just to discover its meaning.

As with any collection, some stories will resonate more deeply than others. In a few, the author's portrayal may feel exaggerated. However, if you've lived through even one or two of the situations described, you'll likely find yourself nodding in recognition, acknowledging the uncomfortable truths embedded throughout this book.

The writing flows so smoothly that it's easy to read. You move through the pages quickly, and before you know it, the book is over. It's short, which might surprise you, but each story stays with you and leaves a strong impression.

Sakadelli isn't just a book. It's a bold, unforgettable experience. Each page dares to say the quiet parts out loud, turning taboo into testimony. These stories crack open conversations we often avoid: the silence around masturbation, the secrecy of abortion, the quiet heartbreak of a Nigerian woman waiting, hoping, for a man to leave his foreign wife, the brutal truths behind glossy immigrant dreams.

It doesn't whisper. It doesn't turn away. Sakadelli invites you to sit with discomfort, to feel deeply, and to reconsider not just what stories we tell but how loudly and fearlessly we tell them.

If you're looking for something different and something creative, Sakadelli is a must-read. It doesn't just tell stories, it holds up a mirror. Whether you're a lover of verse or just curious about this form of storytelling, this book promises to surprise and move you.



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WEEKENDER

MOVIE REVIEW

LAST BULLET (2025)

Areski left home, his wife and little son, for 2 years only to return after a setup to discover that a lot of things had changed and he was a most wanted man. On arrival in the city, he decided to strike a deal with the head of the police force, she decided to plead with Juliana to take him out of the city where he will be safe. There were some challenges along the line as they moved out of the city, some bad guys attacked them badly and wanted to kill Juliana and Areski. You will need to watch the entire movie to find out if Areski made it out of town alive, if he escaped or was brought to books and if Juliana was venerated from this case. The 111 minutes thriller, action, drama movie was directed by Guillaume Pierret, they featured actors like Alban Lenoir, Nicholas Duvauchelle, Stefi Celma, Gerrard Lanvin, Quenti D'Hainaut, Julie Tedesco, Anne serra, Charles Morillon, Ramzy Bedia, Diego martins and many more.



INSIDE MAN: MOST WANTED (2019)

If you are searching for a super exciting action-packed movie then search no further as this will be worth your while, I was so happy to finally watch a fantastic, well calculated action-packed heist and it was worth every minute of my time. Ariella Barash was a very smart and intelligent lady, she had done some trainings and was really good at her craft, she was approached by a young man who desperately wanted revenge on the government and was willing to do everything to bring them down. Ariella was to work with about a 6-man team to pull out this extraordinary heist that will put the entire city on hold, this time they weren't gunning for cash, they wanted gold. Well, you will need to check out this movie to find out for yourself, if they pulled it out or not, did they all make it out alive or not and were set free or called to the books, fantastic one I must say, I really didn't see the end from the beginning, but this movie made me smile, Ariella did a brilliant job. The 105m dark comedy, action, crime, thriller movie was directed by M.J Bassett, they featured actors like Remy Ameen, Rhea Seehorn, Roxanne McKee, Urs Rechn, Akshay Kumar, Tanya van Graan, Andre Jacobs, Sven Ruygrok, Brandon Aurret and many more.



LOST BULLET (2020)

So, in order to get a perspective of the latest movie "Last Bullet" I decided to quickly also check out the previous movie to just refresh my mind. So in this movie Lino was rescued by his new to help them fix their cars, make them move faster, to enable them catch the bad guys and Lino understood the assignment, soon he became so close to the boss, that the boss applied for his release, but that was so short lived as the other guys on the team, didn't like the boss nor Lino and decided to take the laws into their hands, by eliminating their boss and framing Lino for it, all because of greed. Well, you will need to check out the movie to find out if Lino was able to prove his innocence and how the police officers escaped the law. The 92m action, crime, thriller movie was directed by Guillaume Pierret, they starred actors like Alban Lenoir, Nicolas Duvauchelle, Ramzy Bedia, Stefi Celma, Rod Paradot, Sebastien Lalanne, Arthur Aspaturian, Patrick Medioni, Alexandre Philip e.t.c.



LINDA OCHUGBUA

WEEKEND QUOTES



1

Praise the one who is a protective and powerful
.....WhispersbyTEN

3

Bow before the one who is bigger than the biggest and beautiful
.....WhispersbyTEN

2

Adore the one who is Almighty and affectionate
.....WhispersbyTEN

4

Dwell with the one that is a defender and delight
.....WhispersbyTEN