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A Life of Conviction: Honoring President Muhammadu Buhari



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Rising Stars: Nine female golfers poised to dominate in 2025

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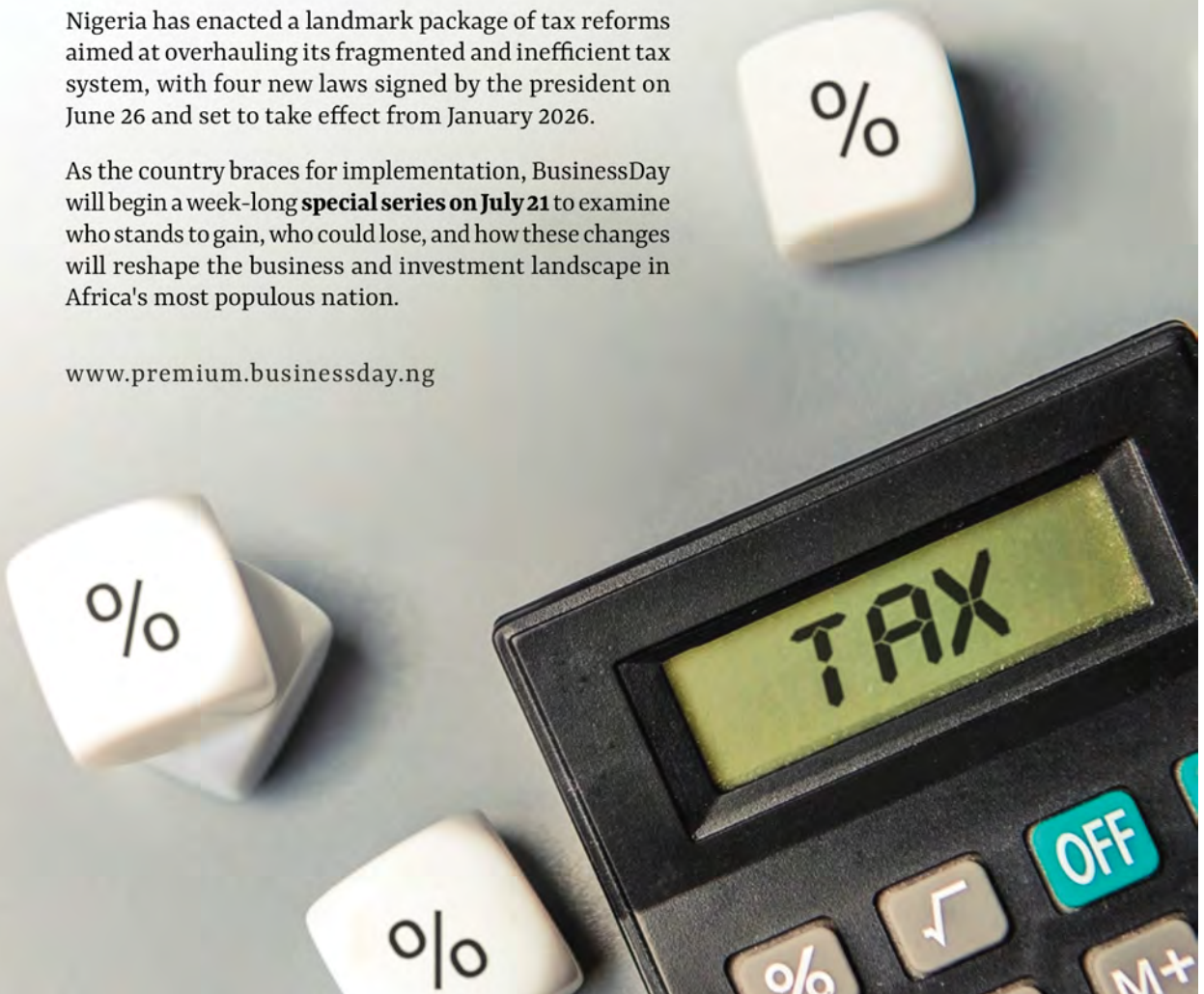
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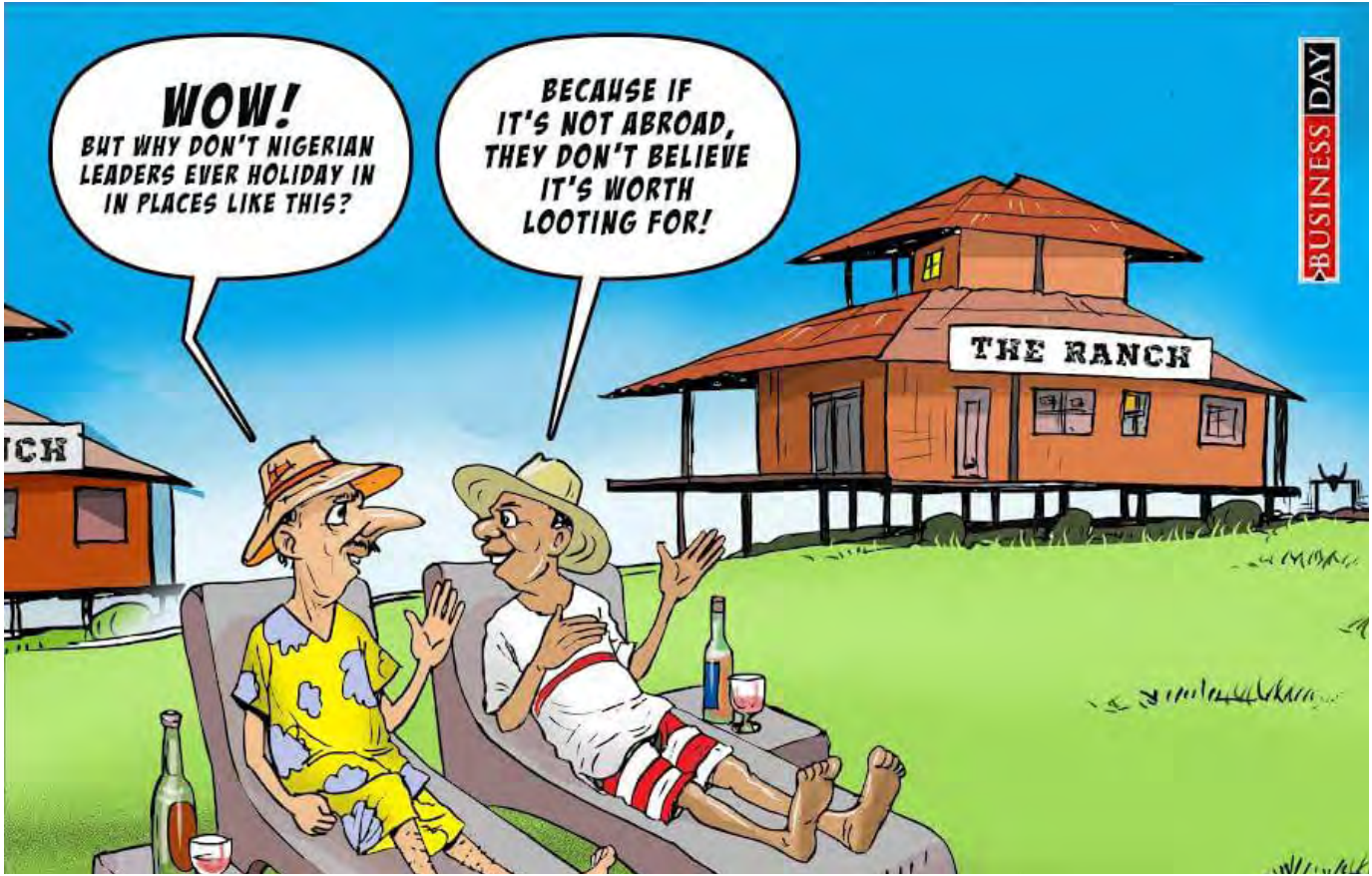
The new rules of the game: Nigeria's tax reset explained

Nigeria has enacted a landmark package of tax reforms aimed at overhauling its fragmented and inefficient tax system, with four new laws signed by the president on June 26 and set to take effect from January 2026.

As the country braces for implementation, BusinessDay will begin a week-long **special series on July 21** to examine who stands to gain, who could lose, and how these changes will reshape the business and investment landscape in Africa's most populous nation.

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A LIFE OF CONVICTION: HONORING PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BUHARI

IFEOMA OKEKE-KORIEOCHA & CHIOMA ONUH



In Daura, beneath the same sky that saw him come of age, Nigeria bid farewell to one of its greatest sons: President Muhammadu Buhari. His passing at 82 on July 13, 2025, closed a chapter not only in politics, but in the story of a man who led with unwavering integrity and an unshakeable sense of purpose.

To the world, he was a statesman, a two-term President, a military General. But to those who knew him deeply he was simply Baba. More than a name, Baba was an enduring presence: a guiding anchor, a model of discipline and humility. He spoke little, yet his deeds and values spoke loudly. He led not for applause, but for commitment to principle and country.

Buhari's belief in Nigeria was resolute.

He believed in integrity over influence, justice over convenience, and sacrifice over spectacle. His administration took bold steps against corruption, insecurity, and the scourge of terrorism. Yet he never lost sight of the simple truths he held dear: prayer at dawn, hands in the earth on his farm, and the affection of family and community.

In the soft embrace of home, he was at peace worshipping, farming, living the values he carried into leadership. That quiet life shaped a man of sincerity, depth, and humility.

His final journey home on July 15 was marked by rare national unity. President Bola Tinubu, Vice President Kashim Shettima, and the Nigerian Government conducted his funeral with solemnity and reverence from the military honours and 21-gun salute to the dignified Islamic burial under the vast expanse of Daura's sky.

At the Federal Executive Council, President Tinubu spoke of Buhari's "quiet courage...moral compass never wavered", highlighting the dignity with which he carried himself, even after office. He crowned him "The People's General," "Farmer President," and "Mai Gaskiya" a testament to a life lived on rock-solid values.

President Bola Tinubu and Vice President Kashim Shettima led a galaxy of Nigeria's elite, including former Presidents, to Daura, Katsina State, on Tuesday to pay their final respects to former President Muhammadu Buhari.



The burial ceremony, conducted according to Islamic rites, attracted international dignitaries, including President Umaru Sissoci Embaló of Guinea-Bissau, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Niger, Ali Zeine, and former President of Niger, Issoufou Mahamadou.

Federal Government officials in attendance included Senior Special Assistant to the President on Political and Other Matters, Ibrahim Masari; Minister of State for Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Isiaq Salako; Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Ahmed Dangiwa; Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris; Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Atiku Bagudu; Minister of State for Defence, Bello Matawalle; Minister of Agriculture, Abubakar Kyari and Prince Shuaibu Abubakar Audu, the Minister of steel.

Governors from multiple states were also present, including Kwara State Governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq; Bauchi State Governor, Bala Mohammed; Yobe State Governor, Mai Mala Buni; Kano State Governor, Abba Yusuf; Kaduna State Governor, Uba Sani; Nasarawa State Governor, Abdullahi Sule; Gombe State Governor, Inuwa Yahaya; Jigawa State Governor, Umar Namadi; Kebbi State Governor, Nasir Idris; Zamfara State Governor, Dauda Lawal; Sokoto State Governor, Ahmed Aliyu; and Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

Former governors in attendance included Ibrahim Shema (Katsina), Ali Modu Sheriff (Borno), Nasir El-Rufai (Kaduna), Aminu Tambuwal (Sokoto), and Yahaya Bello (Kogi). Private

sector leaders Aliko Dangote, Sayyu Dantata, and Dahiru Mangal joined the other dignitaries, while traditional rulers, including the Emir of Katsina, Abdulmumini Usman; the Emir of Daura, Umar Faruq; and the Emir of Kano, Aminu Ado Bayero, were also present.

The magnitude of attendance was a moving tribute: global dignitaries, regional leaders, traditional rulers, and citizens all paying their respects not just to a former leader, but to a man of genuine devotion, modesty, and conviction .

Resting now in the soil he loved, Baba's legacy lives on not in monuments or titles, but in the integrity he embodied. He was a leader who held his head high without fanfare, loved deeply without extravagance, and served tirelessly without selfishness.

Baba belonged to us all, but his roots never left the land. From the quiet corners of Daura to the corridors of power, his journey came full circle.

He returned home to the earth, to peace, to his people.

May Allah grant his soul eternal rest.

May the family he cherished be comforted by the nation's profound respect.

May Nigeria remember not only his presidency, but the man Baba who lived, loved, and led with unwavering conviction and quiet dignity.

7 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHERE TRAVEL IS SURPRISINGLY AFFORDABLE

CHISOM MICHAEL



Despite Europe's reputation for high costs, especially in cities like Paris, London, and Zurich, several countries on the continent offer budget-friendly options for travellers.

These countries combine access to history, landscapes, and culture without the financial strain often associated with European travel.

From Eastern to Southern Europe, these destinations provide good value for accommodation, meals, and transport.

Here are 7 European countries where travel is surprisingly affordable

Bulgaria

Bulgaria remains one of the most affordable travel destinations in Europe. Travellers visiting the capital city, Sofia, will find historical landmarks, public transport, and nightlife all available at low cost. On the Black Sea coast, beach towns draw both locals and tourists, while winter sports in Bansko attract visitors seeking skiing experiences at accessible prices. Meals in local restaurants and budget accommodation contribute to the country's status as a low-cost option year-round.

Romania

Romania offers a combination of medieval villages, natural landscapes, and historical landmarks at modest prices. Bucharest, the capital, is known for low-cost food, budget-friendly public transport, and affordable accommodation. Train travel is widely used to move between towns and regions, making it easy to explore places such as Transylvania and the Carpathian Mountains. Entry to major cultural sites also comes at a relatively low price.

Hungary

Hungary, and particularly its capital Budapest, has grown in popularity among cost-conscious travellers. Budapest is known for attractions such as thermal baths, public parks, and historic sites. A visit to the famous "Széchenyi Thermal Bath" or a traditional meal in the city can cost a fraction of similar experiences in Western Europe. Local transportation is efficient and low-priced, while budget accommodations and free walking tours offer additional savings.

Poland

Poland is a country where modern life coexists with historical sites, and where costs remain manageable. Visitors to cities like Krakow and Warsaw can expect affordable museum tickets, reasonably priced meals, and inexpensive public transport. Significant landmarks such as "Auschwitz" and the "Wieliczka Salt Mine" are open to the public at low prices. Local markets and

neighbourhood eateries serve meals for prices well below Western European standards.

Albania

Albania has become increasingly popular among travellers seeking lesser-known and inexpensive destinations. The country's coastline, known as the Albanian Riviera, offers beaches that rival more expensive destinations nearby. Cities such as Tirana and Berat provide access to historical buildings and cultural events. Accommodation, intercity travel, and local meals often cost less than half of what is typical in neighbouring countries.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina remains overlooked by many travellers, yet it is among Europe's most affordable countries. Towns like Mostar and Sarajevo offer a glimpse into the region's diverse history. In many local restaurants, a full meal can cost under five euros. Budget accommodation and low-cost public transport make it possible to explore much of the country without overspending. The welcoming nature of residents also adds to the experience.

Portugal

Portugal stands out as Western Europe's most cost-effective destination. While not as cheap as other countries on this list, it remains a strong choice for travellers seeking savings. Cities like Lisbon and Porto combine historical sites with affordable transport networks. Traditional dishes such as "bacalhau" and "francesinha" are available at local eateries for low prices. Public trains and buses serve well for exploring towns across the country.

RISING STARS: NINE FEMALE GOLFERS POISED TO DOMINATE IN 2025

ANTHONY NLEBEM

Women's golf has undergone a dramatic evolution. A sport once dominated by men, it has now become a global stage where female athletes not only compete but thrive. With lucrative endorsements, record-breaking performances, and increased visibility, the 2025 season is spotlighting a new generation of elite talent ready to dominate the sport. From Asia to America and across Europe, these nine women are shaping the future of golf. With the 2025 season already delivering compelling stories, fierce rivalries, and record-breaking moments, the rise of these phenomenal golfers is not just a moment; it's a movement.

Here are some of the most prominent rising female golfers making waves and poised for even greater success in 2025:

Rose Zhang (USA)

At just 22, Rose Zhang is already a household name in women's golf. The Stanford University standout made history as the first woman to win back-to-back NCAA individual titles, boasting 12 victories in 20 collegiate starts. Turning pro in May 2023, she wasted no time in proving herself, winning on the LPGA as a non-member. In 2024, she added a second LPGA title at the Paris Olympics. Zhang's well-rounded game and poise under pressure mark her as a future legend in the making.



Chiara Tamburlini (Switzerland)

Swiss star Chiara Tamburlini, 25, took the Ladies European Tour (LET) by storm in 2024, claiming both the Rookie of the Year and Order of Merit titles after three wins, joining an elite club of just seven players to achieve both in a single season. Tamburlini opened 2025 with strong form, leading the Investec South African Women's Open and showing no signs of slowing down.



Hannah Green (Australia)

Australian Hannah Green has quietly built one of the most consistent resumes on the LPGA Tour. After her breakout major win at the 2019 KPMG Women's PGA Championship, she added three titles in 2024 and a T4 finish at the Paris Olympics. As she prepares to defend her HSBC Women's World Championship title in 2025, Green remains one of the sport's most respected and dependable stars.



Shannon Tan (Singapore)

Singapore's Shannon Tan, 21, turned pro in 2024 and immediately proved she belonged. Her maiden LET victory in Kenya and three additional top-10s earned her sixth on the Order of Merit. Tan capped her rookie year with an Olympic debut and carried that momentum into 2025, winning the Amundi German Masters in June, an early highlight of what promises to be a stellar season.

Atthaya Thitikul (Thailand)

Thailand's Jeeno Thitikul had a record-breaking 2024 season, capturing the Dow Championship (with Ruoning Yin) and the CME Group Tour Championship, earning a massive \$4 million top prize. She racked up 10 additional top-10 finishes and shattered Lorena Ochoa's long-standing earnings record with over \$6 million. Her 2025 campaign is off to another strong start with a win at the Mizuho Americas Open, cementing her place among the game's elite.



Yuka Saso (Filipino-Japanese)

Yuka Saso already boasts two U.S. Women's Open titles; her 2024 triumph at Lancaster Country Club made her the youngest golfer to win the championship twice. Saso, who made history as the first Filipino to win a major in 2021, represented Japan at the Paris Olympics and continues to be a powerhouse at major championships, consistently finishing in contention.



Ayaka Furue (Japan)

Ayaka Furue is extending Japan's legacy in women's golf with precision and consistency. Since joining the LPGA in 2022, she's accumulated two LPGA titles and eight wins on the LPGA of Japan Tour. Her maiden major title at the 2024 Amundi Evian Championship confirmed her elite status. In 2025, she remains a steady force, notching a respectable T30 at the Chevron Championship.



Jin Hee Im (South Korea)

South Korea's Jin Hee Im brought her winning ways from the KLPGA, where she won six titles, including four in 2023, to the LPGA in 2024. Her rookie season included 21 made cuts in 24 starts and six top-10 finishes. In June 2025, she broke through with her first LPGA title at the Dow Championship alongside Somi Lee, signalling her arrival on the global stage.



Patty Tavatanakit (Thailand)

Patty Tavatanakit's journey from aspiring dancer to LPGA Major champion is nothing short of inspiring. Since her 2021 ANA Inspiration victory, she's grown into one of Asia's top stars. In 2024, she clinched titles at both the Aramco Saudi Ladies International and the Honda LPGA Thailand. Her flair, powerful ball-striking, and fearless approach make her a constant threat across both the LPGA and LET circuits.



DAVID UDOH, THE VISUAL STRATEGIST BEHIND SOME OF AFRICA'S MOST RECOGNISABLE BRANDS

CHISOM MICHAEL





David James Udoh is an art director and multidisciplinary designer based in Lagos, Nigeria. He works at the intersection of technology and art, building visual systems that speak directly to people. Through branding, typography, and community work, David continues to influence how African creativity is expressed and experienced.

From the start of a project, David asks clear questions: “What are we trying to shift? What emotion are we trying to evoke? Who exactly are we speaking to?” For him, design is not just about how something looks. “Design is more than decoration. Its direction,” he says. His focus is always on translating business goals into visuals that people can relate to.

In his work with OctaFX, he helped ground a global brand in a local context. “We didn’t just design assets; we crafted an experience that felt familiar, trustworthy, and present.”

With Juicyway, a different kind of project, the aim was to create something new from scratch. “The design had to feel fresh, warm, and flow seamlessly like the product itself,” he explains. Every design choice—from colour to layout—was done with clear intention.

David believes great design does two things at once: “It translates the brand’s vision clearly, and it creates room for people to see themselves in it. If you miss either, it doesn’t land.”

His thinking also shapes his open-source work. David contributed to two typefaces, Danfo and Tac, now available on Google Fonts. These fonts reflect Nigerian visual culture and bring African design into global digital spaces. “These weren’t just typefaces; they were visual expressions of how people speak, live, and identify,” he says. “If tools don’t reflect our realities, we slowly lose the ability to represent ourselves fully.”

That same motivation led to the creation of Caveat Emptor, his personal archive. It documents hand-painted signage, house numbers, and other forms of vernacular design in Nigerian public spaces. “These everyday designs say so much about who we are—our resourcefulness, humour, rhythm, and aesthetic instincts,” David explains. “They deserve to be seen, studied, and remembered.” Through this work, David sees design not just as a modern tool but as a record of cultural memory.





Beyond projects for brands and clients, David is also the co-founder of The Huddle, a monthly gathering for African designers. It began as a response to what he saw as a silence around the creative process. “In many creative spaces, we celebrate outcomes but rarely discuss the process,” he says. “We skip over the messy middle—the doubts, the drafts, the mistakes that taught us something.”

The Huddle encourages honest conversations among designers. “We created a space where African creatives could talk openly about how they make what they make, not just what they make,” David explains. The experience has changed how he approaches his own work. “It reminds me to slow down, to document more, to lead with empathy, and to treat design not just as output but as dialogue.”

Across his various roles—as a designer, archivist, and community organiser—David finds meaning in connection. “At the core of everything I do, whether I’m working on a commercial project, directing visuals for The Huddle, or archiving street signs, is the desire to connect with real people in meaningful ways.”

He also avoids separating personal from professional work. “My archive work feeds into how I think about cataloguing and project management. Conversations from The Huddle inform how I lead design direction. Everything flows into each other.” This approach helps him stay aligned and focused, even when working in different industries.

David stays grounded by asking the right questions. “Am I listening well? Am I honouring the context? Why does this matter to people?” These questions help him maintain a clear sense of purpose.

In addition to his design work, David enjoys music, sports, and travel. He often explores public spaces to observe how creativity shows up in everyday life. Whether he is working with a global brand, documenting a street corner, or hosting a conversation with fellow designers, David’s focus remains the same: “I want the work to mean something. I want to make something that feels true, resonates widely, and leaves room for whoever experiences it to be seen.”

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM: GTCO CONFAB SPARKS HOPE, POSSIBILITIES

IFEOMA OKEKE-KORIEOCHA



As parents and caregivers entered the main hall of Muson Centre, Onikan, Lagos with their autistic children, a sense of anticipation filled the air.

The room buzzed with excitement and hope, as families took their seats, eager to learn from the experts and share their own experiences. The atmosphere was electric, with a palpable sense of expectation that the 15th Edition of the GTCO Autism Conference conference would bring new insights, new solutions, and new hope for their children's futures.

As this year marked a significant milestone in GTCO's ongoing commitment to advocacy, education, and inclusive support for individuals on the Autism Spectrum, the hall filled with people, the energy became more pronounced.

Parents exchanged stories, sharing their struggles and triumphs, while children with autism explored their surroundings, some with curiosity, others with caution. The air was thick with emotion, as families sought answers, support, and guidance on how to navigate the complex world of autism.

As the conference began, the room settled into a sense of focused attention. Speakers took the stage, sharing their expertise, experiences, and insights on autism. Some were parents themselves, having navigated the challenges and triumphs of raising autistic children. Others were autism survivors, offering a unique perspective on what it's like to live with autism. The audience listened intently, hanging on every word, as the speakers painted a picture of a future filled with possibility and promise.



As the presentations progressed, the hall was renewed with hope. Parents and caregivers nodded in agreement, recognizing themselves and their children in the stories being told. They felt seen, heard, and understood. The speakers' words were like a balm to their souls, offering reassurance that they were not alone in this journey. The audience was filled with a sense of conviction that there is a future for these individuals, a future filled with potential and possibility.

One of the speakers, Mashudat Bello-Mojeed, a renowned Professor of Psychiatry and Public Health and Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, said, "Autism is not just a family affair, it's everybody's business." This statement resonates deeply in a world where awareness about autism has grown significantly, but action is still lagging behind.

Beyond Awareness

According to Bello-Mojeed, awareness alone is not enough. "We've been raising awareness, improving education, and breaking down barriers of stigma," she says. "But now, it's time to take the next step: action." She emphasizes that awareness must be translated into tangible actions that make a difference in the lives of individuals with autism.

Remi Olutimayin, autism self-advocate and a speaker at the event spoke about bridges between the different groups in the autism community in Nigeria.

"We're talking about the things that actually connect us, the things that are important, the bridges we need to activate. We are talking about the need for parents to be more proactive in understanding their children,"

Olutimayin noted that essentially knowing what tools or resources are available makes a lot of difference for a parent that has a child in the spectrum.

"The quality of resources that you have access to, the kind of support that you have is very important," he said.

He decried the unavailability of resources that were needed for autistic children in Nigeria.

He said two of his sons are on the spectrum, adding that every resource he has come across, he fully appreciated it.

The Stigma Barrier

One of the significant barriers to supporting individuals with autism is stigma. As Bello-Mojeed observes, "When people see a child or individual with autism throwing a tantrum or exhibiting challenging behaviors, they often don't understand that it's not a matter of discipline or parenting, but rather a result of the way their brains are wired." This lack of understanding can lead to stigma, which can be devastating for individuals with autism and their families.

Acceptance is Key

Bello-Mojeed stresses that acceptance is crucial in creating a supportive environment for individuals with autism. "By putting ourselves in their shoes and understanding their experiences, we can begin to see them in a different light and provide the support they need," she says. Acceptance is not just about tolerating individuals with autism; it's about valuing and appreciating their unique contributions.

Practical Solutions

Some of the speakers at the conference suggested that vocational institutions and schools can play a critical role in providing hands-on skills training and job placement programs. "By assessing the strengths and abilities of individuals with autism, we can tailor programs to meet their specific needs and help them develop skills that will enable them to lead fulfilling and independent lives".

Ade Otubanjo, a professor of Psychiatry and public health during the panel session talked about parents' active involvement in the lives of their autistic children. He spoke about creating a community for people who are on the spectrum.



Camille Proctor, an educational psychologist and international behaviour analyst, spoke about resource mapping, stressing that beyond resource sharing, there is a need for accessibility, connecting schools to non-profits and quick movement of the available resources.

The Role of Organisations and Government

Organisations like GTCO have been instrumental in raising awareness about autism through their annual conferences. However, most of the speakers believe that it's time to move beyond awareness and take concrete actions to support individuals with autism. "Organisations can establish programs like the DT Autism Employment Hub, which would provide vocational assessments, training programs, job placement, and funds to support micro-enterprises for parents of individuals with autism," one of the speakers suggested.

The government also has a critical role to play in supporting individuals with autism. While there are existing institutions that provide diagnosis and therapy at subsidized rates, more needs to be done to upscale these services and provide adequate support to families and individuals affected by autism.

Empowerment through Education and Employment

Empowerment is a crucial aspect of supporting individuals with autism. According to the speakers, empowerment is not just about providing financial support, but also about creating opportunities for individuals with autism to contribute to society and feel valued. By providing education and employment opportunities that cater to their needs, we can help individuals with autism develop skills, build confidence, and lead fulfilling lives.

A Call to Action

As we move forward in our journey to support individuals with autism, Bello-Mojeed's words resonate deeply: "It's time to take bold steps and make a difference." We all have a role to play in

creating a supportive environment that allows individuals with autism to thrive. By working together, we can break down barriers, promote acceptance, and provide practical solutions that make a difference in the lives of individuals with autism.

At this year's conference, speakers' messages were clear: awareness is just the starting point. Action is what truly matters. They emphasized the importance of inclusion, acceptance, and support, highlighting the need for a collective effort to create a more autism-friendly world. As the audience listened, they felt a sense of empowerment, a sense that they could make a difference in the lives of their children and in their own lives.

As the conference came to a close, the hall was filled with a sense of renewed purpose. Parents and caregivers felt inspired, motivated, and equipped with new knowledge and strategies to support their children. The energy in the room was no longer just anticipation; it was now a sense of determination and resolve. The conference had sparked a sense of hope and possibility, and the audience left with a renewed sense of conviction that a brighter future is possible for individuals with autism.

FROM REJECTION TO ROYALTY: THE GRIT, GRACE AND GRANDEUR BEHIND EBELE BROWN'S FASHION EMPIRE

IFEOMA OKEKE-KORIEOCHA



house born from pain, grit, and cultural reverence. With his signature precision, Afrocentric elegance, and relentless attention to detail, Brown has built both clothes and a legacy that now walks the corridors of power, culture, and global ambition.

A brand born from a broken moment
Brown's turning point came at rock bottom; expelled from university, misunderstood at home, and newly a father. Faced with limited options and an urgent need to survive, he poured his restlessness into fashion.

Without formal training, but guided by a creative instinct, he co-founded the early version of what



The story of Osereme Ebebele Brown is of a Nigerian creative who rose from personal failure, family tensions, and industry obscurity to become a torchbearer of African luxury.

Ebebele Brown, founded by Osareme Ebele Brown, is a luxury fashion brand and lifestyle



would become Africana Couture. Eventually, parting ways with his partner Charles, Brown went solo.

For years, he designed anonymously, refusing to name his brand, but that changed in 2018 after a prominent client challenged him to “own his excellence.”

Reflecting deeply, he named the brand Ebebele Brown, in honour of his late father, Ebebele Brown Francis, a celebrated sportsman and politician from Edo State.

“Giving the brand my father’s name was not just about legacy,” Brown told BD Weekeender. “It was about accountability. I made a vow to build something that would stand tall like the man it was named after.”

From humble beginnings to a global vision What began in cramped workshops, a 20-foot container and chaotic markets has now become a sleek, international fashion brand with physical roots in Abuja, Lagos, and Conakry in Guinea.

Today, Ebebele Brown operates from a flagship showroom in Maitama, Abuja, and employs over 100 staff across its design houses and its latest achievement, the Abuja Garment Factory.

The factory, launched in 2023, is a 500-square-meter facility that has radically increased the brand’s production capacity and transformed it into a manufacturing powerhouse.

Capable of producing between 20 to 50 outfits daily, the facility not only serves the Ebebele Brown brand but also supports other fashion labels in West Africa.

“I am building the infrastructure for a continent that has long depended on imports,” he said “Without a world-class production facility, no matter how brilliant the vision, the standard cannot be achieved. We built this factory not just for us alone, but for the future of African fashion.”

A brand that speaks in three languages Within the Ebebele Brown umbrella are three powerful labels, each catering to a distinct kind of man, but all grounded in the same ethos of quality, culture, and character.

The Ebebele Brown signature line is bespoke menswear that blends European fabrics with Afrocentric silhouettes. “No two pieces are the same,” the founder said. The OLDWYN line, born from Brown’s practical business instincts, offers ready-to-wear sophistication for men on the move. It’s accessible, elegant, and immediate. Then there’s Sainte, the brand’s upscale casual wear, created for the young, upwardly mobile, fashion-forward individual.

“Every collection represents more than clothing,” he added. “They are statements of African identity told through clean lines, meticulous finishing, and unmistakable confidence.”

The business of legacy and the art of detail While the industry battles copycats, fluctuating currencies, and underfunded artisans, Brown is thinking long-term. He sources materials from Nigeria, Italy, Turkey, Hong Kong, and Switzerland, balancing quality with economic realities. “At one time, we bought ten rolls of Italian fabric. Due to the high exchange rate, we now buy three and augment with equally premium alternatives,” he said.



Beyond aesthetics, Brown is hands-on. His presence at the factory is near-constant, leads design reviews, mentors staff, and maintains quality control checks across departments. “People think I’m just selling fashion,” he noted. “But I’m selling precision, story, and identity.”

Challenges, grit and the business of people
The road hasn’t been smooth, the founder said while recounting the difficulty of retaining skilled tailors, the sting of having 80% of staff leave at once, and the emotional toll of managing artisans. He also acknowledged that fair pay, constant communication, and respect have become non-negotiables in running a sustainable creative business in Nigeria.

“Our greatest asset isn’t machinery. It’s people,” Brown said. “You must respect your tailors the same way you would respect a banker. If you pay peanuts, you kill the magic.”

Power cuts are another daily hurdle, with the factory spending ₦150,000 on backup electricity daily. Despite this, Brown presses forward, confident that African fashion deserves the infrastructure and reverence given to Western luxury houses.

A father’s name, a nation’s future

Today, Brown is a father himself. His daughter, born during a period of personal turmoil, remains a quiet yet powerful source of motivation behind his success. Although his relationship with his own father was distant during his lifetime, Brown now carries his father’s name across borders, campaigns, and couture.

“Everywhere I go and introduce myself, people often say, ‘That’s not you, that’s your father,’ he said. “I just smile and say, ‘I’m commonly called Brown, so it’s easier that way.’ When I say I’m Osereme, many don’t recognise the name. I miss him a lot.”

WHY NIGERIA MUST TWEAK ECE CURRICULAR FOR SOCIAL LADDER SKILLS

CHARLES OGWO



Despite the growing emphasis on academic achievement in Nigerian schools, an essential dimension of education remains largely overlooked: teaching young learners the skills needed to navigate and rise within a complex social and economic landscape.

As inequality deepens and access to opportunity becomes more uneven, there's a pressing need to reassess what and how children are taught, not just in terms of literacy and numeracy, but in equipping them with the social awareness, communication abilities, confidence, and strategic thinking necessary for upward mobility.

Stakeholders argue that a shift in Nigeria's Early Childhood Education (ECE) curriculum could be the key to breaking the generational cycles of poverty and unlocking a more inclusive future.

Early Childhood Education is crucial to shaping youngsters' brain development, emotional regulation, and language skills, which in turn not only enables them to enjoy their childhood stages of lives but also shape their personalities towards socially acceptable adults.

According to a research by Katarzyna Bobrowicz, and colleagues from the University of Luxembourg and University of Liège in Belgium, many early childhood education policies are betting on individual merits as published in PLOS.

A 53-country survey of global ECE policies indicates favouritism of competition over cooperation, individualism over solidarity and talent over luck.

Most of the countries surveyed embrace economic meritocracy in their ECE policies, promoting individual skill and agency over solidarity and community reliance.

In Nigeria, the ECE curriculum, as outlined in the National Policy on Education (NPE), aims to provide foundational learning for children aged zero to eight, encompassing care, development, and education.

The curriculum focuses on holistic development, including cognitive, social, emotional, and physical aspects, through play-based learning and other appropriate methods.

However, experts believe the problem with education in Nigeria is systemic.

Elizabeth Ohaka, an early childhood educationist, and school owner frowned at Nigeria's education system, which she said, is purely based on individual effort, which does not give room for collaboration.

"The collaboration aspect is very minimal, even the way teachers are taught, they are taught based on the same criteria, their merits.



If we truly want to mould the total child who is intellectually, emotionally, socially, and morally fit, then we must shift from performance-based models of early childhood education to a development-focused model,” she said.

Osuere disclosed that this can be achieved by reforming the country’s ECE curriculum to promote cooperative learning, play-based and inquiry-driven methods.

Besides, she said there is a need to reform teacher training, assessment methods and parental mindset to focus not just on academic scores

but on nurturing well-rounded and confident individuals who are both useful to themselves and their communities.

She reiterated that the focus on performance-based learning rather than development is inimical to Nigeria’s education system.

“That’s how we breed first-class students who can’t carry out simple tasks and are morally bankrupt because we major in minors and minor in majors,” Osuere noted.

One of the challenges facing the country is that the national policies for ECE have been in existence since the year 2007, without evaluation; hence, the implementation as well as the extent of achievement of the goals is overdue.

After over a decade of existence, studies have shown that most of the ECE centres across the country, especially the public ones, are in a deplorable state in their education programmes.

Experts believe the inability of the federal government to produce the necessary documents for the successful implementation of the policies and the curricula, and to promulgate them at all public centres in the country led to a lack of availability and awareness of the policies among teachers who are supposed to implement them.

“The truth is, it is part of the whole system that people will be judged based on their efforts. The question is, why can’t two or three people work as a team and then write the examination?” she queried.

However, Ohaka reiterated that one of the key 21st-century skills is collaboration, because people achieve more when they work as a team.

She emphasised that the best form of learning is when people collaborate, because in real life, people come together to form companies, and they do very well.

“We need to inculcate collaboration in the classrooms; for instance, in our school, we do a lot of teamwork during classroom activities.

“We hope that shortly, Nigeria can work towards getting more collaboration in the classrooms, among teachers, parents, and all the stakeholders; it’s something that we have to work towards, especially in early childhood education, where the children are being impacted,” she said.

Jessica Osuere, chief executive officer at RubbiesHub Educational Services, emphasised that ECE in Nigeria is often prioritised by individual merit and competition, where learners are rewarded for being top in the class rather than for growing together.

She said though this may encourage academic excellence, but it can hinder the holistic development of the child by fostering unhealthy rivalry, stifling creativity, and ignoring vital social and emotional skills.

“A child may not be academically sound but very exceptional in other ways. Societal issues today might have their roots in this type of ‘competitive’ foundational education, where children begin to associate learning with outperforming others, instead of engaging collaboratively, which leads to fear of failure, low self-esteem among slower learners, and fuels a lack of empathy and teamwork.



QUOTA CONTROVERSY: HOW UNICAL'S OVER-ADMISSION JEOPARDISES 300 DENTAL STUDENTS

CHARLES OGWO



In what is fast becoming a crisis of credibility and consequence, the University of Calabar (UNICAL) finds itself at the centre of a quota violation scandal that has left nearly 300 dental students in academic limbo.

By admitting far more students than the quota approved by the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN), the university now faces regulatory backlash, and students are bearing the brunt.

Many of them, already years into their studies, are now grappling with the possibility that their academic progress, and ultimately their professional future, may be invalidated.

According to DevReporting findings, Ngim Ngim, the provost of the College of Medical Sciences at UNICAL, Cross River State, allegedly told the institution's dental students to "go and learn a trade."

his words were said to have cut deeper than any surgical knife the students had been trained to wield.

What began as a path towards a prestigious profession for more than 300 students at the university's faculty of dentistry has turned into a devastating lesson on institutional failure.



Worst still, some of the students who have spent more than five years in the faculty due to strikes and delays, are now faced with a heartbreaking situation, for a development that is in no way their fault.

As if that is not enough, Florence Obi, vice-chancellor at UNICAL, seems to be playing the hide and seek game over the disturbing development, as she has denied that anybody asked the students to leave or “go and learn trade,” as Ngim was quoted as saying.

According to DevReporting, the crisis began after 60 final-year dental students sat their professional examinations, but only 32 passed and were presented to the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) for verification.

The MDCN, the regulatory body responsible for medical and dental practice in the country, however, failed to process the list after discovering that UNICAL’s approved graduation quota for Dentistry was only 10 students per year under its provisional accreditation.

Alarmed by the university’s continued reckless practice of admitting up to 90 students annually, far exceeding its authorised capacity, the council summoned the vice-chancellor, Ngim, among other officials, to explain the irregularities.

Subsequently, on Tuesday, July 8, the council gave its verdict that the university must comply with the accreditation directive.

Consequently, the university offered affected students options of seeking transfers to other institutions or other programmes. Students were told to go home

until further notice, while others said they were told to sit another Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

Afolabi Lesi, the chairman of MDCN, who is also a professor at the College of Medicine of the University of Lagos (CMUL), expressed strong disapproval of the university’s actions, confirming that the council was aware of the situation.

“UNICAL was “in serious breach of its approved quota,” Lesi said, describing the disregard for regulatory guidelines as unacceptable.

Charlotte, a 500-level dental student, was cited to have told Lightraymedia that the problem began when the faculty started ignoring this quota.

“They obeyed the directive to stop admitting for only two years, then resumed. That’s why there’s a year one class now,” she explained.

She explained that dentistry is meant to last six years plus a year each for internship and NYSC, but noted that many students have spent eight to nine years due to strike actions.

Charlotte, therefore, appealed to UNICAL to absorb the affected students into the Department of Medicine and Surgery since both faculties study the same courses up until year five. According to her, transferring to another school comes with a lot of psychological and financial stress.

LEAD, REFORM, OR RUPTURE: NIGERIA'S ELITE AT A CROSSROADS

EYESAN TORITSEJU

In the global discourse on Africa's development, attention often gravitates toward structural dependencies, colonial legacies, imbalanced trade, or external debt cycles. However, in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and largest economy, the gravitational center of stagnation lies within. At the heart of the country's dysfunction is an elite class that has, over generations, insulated itself from national hardship while extracting disproportionate benefit from state dysfunction.

This elite class: comprising political dynasties, oil tycoons, public procurement barons, and foreign-educated technocrats, commands disproportionate influence over Nigeria's public institutions, economic pathways, and social mobility. And while the class is not monolithic, its defining feature is insulation: from consequence, from scrutiny, and crucially, from the everyday reality of most Nigerians.

From Colonial Intermediaries to Postcolonial Extractors

The origins of Nigeria's elite lie in its colonial administration. Under British rule, local intermediaries were empowered to govern on behalf of the Crown—clerked, educated, and salaried to align more with London than with their communities. These “educated natives” formed the nucleus of what would become the post-independence political class. But while independence swept away formal colonial authority, it preserved the administrative logic of elite privilege and centralization.

After 1960, Nigeria's newly independent state quickly became a site of elite consolidation rather than mass enfranchisement. Power was increasingly captured by a narrow band of actors who substituted the colonial extractive apparatus with an indigenous version—one calibrated to convert state access into personal accumulation.

As development economist Ricardo Soares de Oliveira notes, “the state has remained the primary mechanism for wealth accumulation rather than wealth distribution,” and Nigeria exemplifies this model.

The Political Economy of Privilege

Today, Nigeria's elite operates in a parallel ecosystem. Its children are educated abroad, its health emergencies are managed in London or Dubai, and its economic ventures, ranging from real estate to fintech, are often shielded from the volatility of Nigeria's regulatory environment through offshore structures. When systems fail, the elite does not fix them; it sidesteps them.

This elite insulation has direct consequences. It creates a governance disincentive: why reform a public university when your children attend MIT? Why overhaul primary healthcare when your family's physician practices in Harley Street? The result is a slow-burning institutional collapse, particularly in education, energy, and justice delivery, sectors most critical to inclusive growth.

Yet this is not a uniquely Nigerian phenomenon. What differentiates Nigeria and much of Africa, is the absence of a “developmental elite,” such as that found in mid-20th century East Asia. In countries like South Korea and Singapore, the elite played a central role in building industrial capacity, expanding education, and promoting shared prosperity.

These countries forged a tacit social contract: elite control would be tolerated in exchange for national advancement.

In Nigeria, no such contract exists. Elite control persists without reciprocal responsibility. Attempts to challenge this, from the populist energy of the #EndSARS movement to technocratic reform efforts, have largely been absorbed or neutralized by the prevailing order.

The Geopolitical Climate Is Shifting

However, that order is now under pressure, challenged by the global resurgence of nationalism. Western nations, once the backstops for African elite exit, are experiencing their own internal reckonings. Rising right-wing populism, post-pandemic economic strain, and geopolitical insecurity have led to tighter borders and more nationalistic policies.

Britain's tightening Tier 4 visa regime, Canada's recent cap on international student admissions, the EU's evolving residency and citizenship scrutiny, all signal the end of frictionless elite globalization. Even second passports, once the hallmark of elite risk hedging, are being reevaluated under new transparency and security mandates.

The world is turning inward. And that spells trouble for those whose power has depended on external escape routes.

As Nigerian elites experience visa delays, flagged wire transfers, and increased scrutiny of offshore holdings, a sobering reality is setting in: the fallback options are shrinking. "For the first time, we're all being asked to live in the country we run.

The Cost of Deferred Reform

The implications are profound. For decades, Nigeria's elite has had little structural incentive to reform public systems because they did not rely on them. But as global insulation wanes, local dysfunction becomes inescapable. The roads matter. The hospitals matter. The currency matters. And so, for the first time in a generation, the elite may be forced to reckon with the systems they've long neglected.

Yet the inertia remains formidable. Institutions have been deliberately hollowed out, courts politicized, procurement processes compromised, civil service appointments traded like currency. Public trust is at historic lows. A 2023 Afrobarometer survey found only 23% of Nigerians believed their government acted in the public interest. In such a context, elite-led reform faces deep skepticism.

Moreover, the country's most capable minds continue to flee. Over 17,000 Nigerian doctors have emigrated in the last decade, and the Japa movement has become both a generational aspiration and a mass protest. A nation that bleeds its talent cannot industrialize, and a nation that rewards connection over competence cannot innovate.

The End of the Gilded Lifeboat

The coming years will test Nigeria's elite like never before. Climate shocks will strain urban infrastructure. Youth unemployment, already over 40%, will fuel unrest. Global decarbonization will reduce the rents from fossil fuel exports. And international exit routes will continue to narrow.

What happens when there is nowhere left to run?

There are three possible outcomes. One, the elite doubles down, enforcing its power through securitization, censorship, and deeper patronage. Two, reform emerges, led by elite factions that see their future tied to national revival. Or three, a rupture occurs via mass protest, economic implosion, or civic breakdown, that forces a reckoning.

The first is unsustainable. The third is unpredictable. The second, while unlikely without pressure, is the only path that offers stability.

Conclusion: Redrawing the Compact

Nigeria does not need its elite to disappear. It needs its elite to transform, from gatekeepers to stakeholders. That requires political courage, a reorientation toward long-term national interest, and a deep investment in institutions that serve everyone.

As the world turns inward and external lifelines fray, the elite must realize that the only sustainable power is shared progress.

Insulation is no longer a guarantee. In a changing world, the true measure of influence will be the ability to shape resilient systems at home. Nigeria's elite must shift from managing decline to stewarding renewal, while there is still time.

Eyesan Toritseju is a Lagos-based strategist and cultural commentator. In his writing, especially through his column, *Cosmopolitan Nigeria*, he examines how African societies confront the legacies of their past while reimagining identity, influence, and progress in the present.

COMMUNICATING ACROSS THE AISLE: A PUBLIC RELATIONS APPROACH TO HEALING DIVIDES

BEATRICE ENEJE AND RUKEVWE DUKUYE NNACHI

As the world marks World Public Relations Day 2025, the theme, “Building Bridges and Navigating Polarisation”, speaks to the heart of what public relations must become in our time. Though polarisation is often described in global or foreign terms, its presence in Nigeria is deeply felt across tribal lines, political affiliations, religious beliefs, class structures, and even workplace dynamics.

These divides, if left unaddressed, not only hinder national cohesion but also impact how businesses operate, how citizens engage, and how communities grow. As communicators and strategists, we cannot afford to be bystanders. We must ask ourselves: how can public relations become a tool for connection, not just communication?

PR’s Evolving Role in a Fractured Landscape

The traditional view of PR, as a mechanism for shaping narratives or managing reputational risk, is no longer sufficient. Today, PR must be about listening as much as speaking. It must be about cultivating space for conversation, not just dissemination. Most importantly, it must be grounded in empathy.

Imagine a public health campaign rolling out in a rural Nigerian community. The instinct might be to deploy medical professionals with flyers and megaphones to educate locals. But when met with skepticism, such efforts often fall flat. A more effective PR approach would involve engaging trusted community figures, translating messages into local dialects, and designing the campaign in collaboration with residents. This participatory model doesn’t just transfer information; it builds trust and shared ownership.

The same applies to brands seeking to address sensitive social issues. In a climate where audiences are sharply divided, a performative or one-sided approach can backfire. However, when brands lead with curiosity, inviting open dialogue, sharing

diverse perspectives, and showing a genuine desire to understand, they become part of a meaningful conversation. This is how credibility is built.

Empathy as Strategy

Polarisation flourishes where there is no room for listening. As PR professionals, we must reject the temptation to oversimplify complex realities in the name of virality or quick wins. Instead, we should prioritise strategies that reflect nuance, inclusion, and long-term relationship-building.

The most powerful PR today isn’t always loud. It’s thoughtful. It considers context. It seeks not just to inform, but to unite. And it asks: how can we design communication that bridges the gap between opposing views?

We’ve seen that real progress happens when people feel seen, not spoken over. Whether engaging a consumer base, a local community, or a national audience, success lies in fostering connection because people don’t change their minds when they’re shouted at. They shift when they feel understood.

A New Mandate for Communicators

This World PR Day, we are reminded that the work we do carries weight. As professionals, we are in a unique position to shape the culture of conversation, whether in boardrooms, newsrooms, community halls, or online platforms.

The challenge ahead of us is significant, but so is the opportunity. We must choose to use our skills to promote not just awareness, but understanding. Not just reach, but resonance. Not just campaigns, but connections.

In a world increasingly defined by division, public relations, when led with empathy, intention, and courage, can be the bridge we all need.

TOP 7 NIGERIAN CITIES WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE BUILD CAREERS AND ENJOY NIGHTLIFE

CHISOM MICHAEL



From Lagos to Enugu, young Nigerians are seeking cities that support career growth while offering options for rest and recreation.

Across the country, emerging regional hubs are providing alternatives to long-standing economic centres. Factors such as transport access, affordable housing, work opportunities, and social activities continue to shape how young people choose where to live.

Here are 7 Nigerian cities where young people build careers and enjoy nightlife

Lagos remains Nigeria's key commercial city. Its dense job market in finance, entertainment, and technology draws early-career workers. Areas like Yaba and Surulere offer "lower rents" and growing startup communities. After work, young people head to "hotspots in Victoria Island, Lekki, and Ikeja" for live music, lounges, and clubs. Ride-hailing services and new rail options are improving transport, despite heavy traffic.

In Abuja, the presence of government agencies, international NGOs, and private firms offers professional opportunities. Wuse and Gwarinpa provide access to "modern apartments" and co-working spaces. Evenings in Maitama and Guzape are filled with "live music and themed

nights". While the cost of living is high, residents benefit from more stable infrastructure and better road networks.

Port Harcourt continues to attract oil and gas professionals. Engineers, consultants, and traders often settle in GRA Phase II and Old GRA, areas with mid-range housing options. Social life focuses on Tombia Road and beachside lounges. Events like the River Festival and quick access to natural sites offer a change from weekday routines.

Ibadan, a major educational hub, appeals to students and recent graduates. Affordable housing in Bodija and Challenge helps those starting out. Agodi Gardens and informal venues on Ring Road host gatherings after hours. The growing tech ecosystem near the University of Ibadan supports digital innovation and entry-level jobs.

Kano, a trade and manufacturing centre in the north, is home to agribusinesses and logistics companies. Low-cost rentals in Sabon Gari and Fagge meet housing demand. Although nightlife is "more subdued", cafés, malls, and festivals provide social outlets. Kano's position in regional commerce supports internships in trade and agritech.

In Calabar, tourism and environmental programmes employ young professionals. Rent is manageable in Etta Agbor and Murtala Mohammed Way. The annual "Carnival" from October to December features "street parties, concerts, and river cruises". Outside the season, resorts and parks attract locals and visitors.

Enugu offers roles in media, education, and small-scale industries. Young workers often live in Independence Layout or GRA. Chime Avenue and Mayo Park host open-air cinemas, bars, and music shows. Local research institutes and cultural events contribute to a "balanced work-life dynamic".

WHAT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS SHOULD EXPECT WHEN STUDYING IN AUSTRALIA

CHISOM MICHAEL



Australia continues to attract a growing number of international students due to its globally recognised universities, diverse campuses, and work opportunities after graduation. Each year, thousands of students arrive from across the world to begin academic journeys that often lead to long-term careers and personal development.

While many speak of the value of studying in Australia, the path requires careful planning, financial awareness, and support networks to manage the experience.

One of the major shifts students face is adjusting to the academic environment. Australian universities encourage independent learning, critical thinking, and open discussions. This may differ from traditional systems where lectures are teacher-centred.

Orientation programmes, mentoring, and academic support centres are common across institutions to assist new students. Many students say that adapting to this system improves their confidence and makes them better prepared for future employment.

Cost of living is another key concern. According to data from University Living, average expenses can reach AUD 29,710 per year. Most international students are allowed to work up to 48 hours per fortnight during academic sessions.

Many take up part-time jobs in sectors such as hospitality and retail. These roles support daily needs and offer skills in communication and workplace dynamics. Cities like Adelaide and Brisbane are often seen as more affordable options. Students also benefit from discounts and scholarship options to reduce costs.

Finding a place to live also plays a major role. The student accommodation market is changing fast. There is growing investment in Purpose-Built Student Accommodation (PBSA), which offers secure options close to universities. Others choose to live in shared apartments or homestays. University housing teams often help new arrivals understand their choices. Students are also encouraged to explore campuses in regional areas where living costs may be lower.

Australia recently made changes to its visa policies. A key update is the new Genuine Student (GS) requirement. This aims to simplify how students show their reason for studying. Proof of funds and English language standards have also been updated to ensure students are better prepared. A major benefit remains the Temporary Graduate visa, which allows students to stay and work in Australia for up to four years after completing their studies.

Student well-being is a priority for universities. Institutions offer mental health support, career advice, and student clubs to help students settle in. Many campuses include students from more than 200 countries. This mix fosters peer support and cultural exchange. Seeking help early, making use of career centres, and connecting with community services are seen as key to navigating both study and personal life.

While challenges exist, international students who make informed choices and access support often find the experience in Australia both rewarding and life-changing.

BOOST FOR TRAVEL INDUSTRY AS TRAVCONEXPO GETS ENDORSEMENT FROM TOP SECTOR BODIES



Three of the largest travel and tour private sector organisations in Nigeria—the Institute for Tourism Professionals of Nigeria (ITPN), the National Association of Nigeria Travel Agencies (NANTA), and the Federation of Tourism Associations of Nigeria (FTAN)—have endorsed the first Travepreneur Conference, known as TravConExpo, set to take place in Lagos in September.

In a letter of confirmation shared with Travepulse and MICE, the leaders of the endorsing bodies commended the convener's efforts to highlight important opportunities within Nigeria's travel and tourism industry.

According to Abdullahi Shettima, Director-General of ITPN, "We have reviewed the details of TravConExpo

2025, including its theme, 'Innovating the Future of Travel: Empowering Entrepreneurs in a New Era,' and its focus on fostering B2B and G2B opportunities within Nigeria's travel and tourism sector.

"We recognise the potential of this event to serve as a valuable platform for networking, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among travel entrepreneurs, agencies, and enthusiasts."

NANTA expressed its enthusiasm for the event and promised to support its success. Mr. Yinka Folami, President of NANTA, stated, "We see TravConExpo as a thoughtful initiative aimed at enhancing innovation and entrepreneurship, as well as fostering meaningful engagement within the travel and tourism space.



recognizes the important role of TravConExpo in building Nigeria's travel and tourism industry through entrepreneurship, innovation, and strategic industry partnerships.

"The theme 'Innovating the Future of Travel: Empowering Entrepreneurs in a New Era' aligns with FTAN's passion for capacity development, digitalization, and inclusive growth in the tourism industry's value chain.

"FTAN is privileged to be part of this endeavor and looks forward to working with your organization to ensure the success of TravConExpo 2025.

"We accept our Federation as an integral strategic partner in this project and welcome you to reach out for further engagements."

Speaking on the endorsement, Oludayo Taiwo Gideon, the convener of the event and Group Chief Executive Officer of Aeroport Group, expressed his gratitude to the private sector bodies for their support, he stated.

"We appreciate the kind gesture from these organizations and are optimistic that we are not only creating a platform to revolutionize the travel and tourism space but also establishing a lasting legacy that will sustain trends in the global travel chain.

"This initiative aims to open a new chapter for Nigerian travelpreneurs and to build a generation of skills and a sustainable value chain mechanism for Nigeria's economy and travel sector."

"The emphasis on empowering industry players and building B2B2C connections aligns well with the values we support at NANTA. This event promotes practical knowledge sharing, collaboration among stakeholders, and support for emerging travel entrepreneurs, which represents the forward-looking engagement our industry needs."

Folami added, "We appreciate the commitment to curating conversations and partnerships that can drive sustainable innovation and therefore offer our goodwill and support to the prime mover—Mr. Oludayo Gideon Taiwo, a dedicated member of NANTA.

"We are confident in the overall success of the event scheduled for September 19th–20th, 2025, and in the sustainability of this forward-thinking vision.

"We encourage continued alignment with best practices and inclusivity across the sector and trust that the organizing team will uphold a high standard of professionalism throughout the planning and execution of TravConExpo 2025."

Ikereuwem Onung, FTAN President also expressed full support for the MICE event. Onung stated, "FTAN



7 ESSENTIAL CYBERSECURITY TIPS FOR NIGERIANS

ESTHER EMOEKPERE



As Nigeria continues its rapid digital transformation, with millions embracing online banking, e-commerce, remote work, and social media, cybersecurity has become a pressing concern. The convenience of the digital world also comes with significant risks, from identity theft to financial fraud, data breaches, and cyberstalking.

Cybercriminals are becoming more sophisticated, and more relentless. In recent years, there has been a rise in phishing attacks, social engineering scams, and financial fraud. Whether you are a tech-savvy entrepreneur, a student attending online classes, or someone simply managing their finances through mobile apps, safeguarding your digital footprint is essential.

Here are seven essential cybersecurity tips tailored for Nigerians navigating the digital age.

Strengthen your passwords

One of the most basic yet crucial steps in protecting your digital life is creating strong passwords. Unfortunately, many users still rely on easy-to-guess combinations such as “password123” or their birthdates. A strong password should be at least 12 characters long and include a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. Avoid reusing passwords

across multiple platforms. If one account is compromised, others become vulnerable. Consider using a trusted password manager to securely store and generate complex passwords.

Always enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA)

Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) adds an extra layer of security to your accounts. Even if your password is somehow compromised, 2FA ensures that a second verification step, usually a one-time code, is required. Whenever possible, avoid relying solely on SMS-based 2FA, which can be vulnerable to SIM swap attacks. Instead, opt for authentication apps like Google Authenticator.

Exercise caution when using public Wi-Fi

Free public Wi-Fi can be convenient, especially in cafés, hotels, airports, and malls — but it can also be a breeding ground for cybercriminals. Hackers can intercept data over unsecured networks, gaining access to sensitive information like login credentials or personal files. If you must use public Wi-Fi, avoid logging into sensitive accounts, such as your bank or email, and refrain from conducting any financial transactions.

Be alert to phishing

Phishing remains one of the most common forms of cyberattack in Nigeria. These schemes often arrive via email, SMS, or even phone calls, pretending to be from your bank, a courier company, or a trusted institution. Be sceptical of unsolicited messages, especially those asking you to “verify” your account or urgently transfer funds. Always verify the source, check the sender’s email address, and never click on suspicious links or attachments. Nigerian banks have repeatedly stated that they will never

request personal information or OTPs via phone or email — neither should you share them.

Keep your devices and software updated

It may seem tedious, but regularly updating your operating system, antivirus software, and apps is vital. Software updates often include security patches that fix vulnerabilities hackers may exploit. Enable automatic updates where possible, especially for your mobile device, web browser, antivirus, and financial apps. A single missed update can leave your system exposed to threats.

Be mindful of what you share on social media

Oversharing online can unwittingly expose you to danger. Fraudsters often scan social media platforms for clues about users’ lives, birthdays, addresses, schools, workplaces, which can be used in impersonation or identity theft. Review your privacy settings regularly and limit the personal information you share. Avoid posting real-time locations, vacation plans, or even photos of bank cards or personal documents, which some users still do out of excitement or ignorance.

Download only from trusted sources

In Nigeria, it is not uncommon to receive a “cracked” version of an app or APK file via WhatsApp, Telegram, or Bluetooth. While convenient, such files can be riddled with malware or spyware designed to compromise your device. Only download apps from official stores like the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. Check for developer credibility, read user reviews, and examine app permissions. A flashlight app, for instance, has no business requesting access to your contacts or messages.

5 NIGERIAN MUSICIANS WHO ARE ALSO NOLLYWOOD MOVIE STARS

ESTHER MOEKPERE

Nigerian pop culture is full of surprises, and one of the most exciting trends is how some of our favorite musicians are showing serious acting chops in Nollywood. These are artists who have dominated the music charts and now light up the big screen with the same energy.

Here are 5 Nigerian musicians who are also Nollywood actors, names you know, voices you love, and performances that prove their talent goes far beyond the mic.

Falz

When it comes to Nigerian musicians who are also successful Nollywood actors, Folarin Falana, better known as Falz, easily tops the list. A law graduate turned entertainer, Falz has carved out a dual reputation, first as a hit-making rapper and then as a talented actor. His breakout acting moment came with his role as Segun in the popular TV series "Jenifa's Diary," where his comic timing and chemistry with Funke Akindele made him a fan favourite. The role did not just win hearts, it also earned him his first Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Award (AMVCA) in 2016 for Best Actor in a Comedy Movie/TV Series. He later clinched a second AMVCA for Best Supporting Actor in the movie "New Money," making him the first Nigerian musician to win the prestigious award twice.



Falz has since featured in a string of hit films including "Chief Daddy," "Merry Men: The Real Yoruba Demons," "Your Excellency," "10 Days in Sun City," and the YouTube series "Therapy," which he co-produced under his film company, House21TV.

Falz has become a leading name among Nigerian musicians who have successfully crossed over into Nollywood.

Banky W

Olubankole Wellington, popularly known as Banky W, is one of the most prominent Nigerian musicians to successfully transition into Nollywood. A singer, songwriter, and entrepreneur, Banky W made his acting debut in 2011 with a role in Funke Akindele's hit TV series "The Return of Jenifa," marking the start of an impressive journey on screen. His big breakthrough came in 2016 when he starred as Dozie Onwuka in the record-breaking romantic comedy "The Wedding Party," directed by Kemi Adetiba. The film's massive success cemented his place in the film industry, and he reprised his role in the equally popular sequel, "The Wedding Party 2: Destination Dubai." In 2018, he took on the lead role of Bassey Otuekang in the critically acclaimed movie "Up North," where his performance showcased his emotional depth and acting range. Banky W continued to prove his versatility in 2019 with a standout role as Anikulapo in the box office hit "Sugar Rush." His growing filmography and on-screen charisma confirm that Banky W is not only a powerhouse in music but also a respected figure in Nigeria's film industry.



Waje

Aituaeje Aina Vivian Ebele Iruobe, professionally known as Waje—an acronym for Words Aren't Just Enough—is a celebrated Nigerian singer who has successfully extended her creative talents to the world of film. Known for her powerful vocals and emotive performances, Waje made her acting debut in 2014 in *Tunnel*, a drama directed by Stanlee Ohikhuare. She starred alongside Femi Jacobs, Patrick Doyle, Nse Ikpe-Etim, and Lepacious Bose, marking a seamless transition from music to the big screen. Waje's cinematic journey continued in 2015 with a notable role in *Fifty*, a blockbuster that featured a star-studded cast including Ireti Doyle, Dakore Akande, Nse Ikpe-Etim, Damilola Adegbite, and Beverly Osu. Her performance further established her reputation as a multi-talented entertainer who could command attention in both sound and storytelling. In 2024, Waje appeared in *Christmas in Lagos*, a festive drama produced by Jade Osiberu, further solidifying her presence in Nollywood.

Beyond acting, Waje has also ventured behind the scenes as the co-founder and Executive Director of Hermanes Media, the production company behind the film *She Is*. This move highlights her dedication not only to performing but to telling impactful stories that resonate with Nigerian audiences.



Reminisce

Remilekun Abdulkalid Safaru, popularly known by his stage name Reminisce, is a Nigerian rapper, singer, and actor who has consistently pushed boundaries in the entertainment industry. Renowned for his command of both English and Yoruba in music, Reminisce took his artistry a step further by going into Nollywood. His acting debut came in 2018 when he starred in Kemi Adetiba's acclaimed crime thriller *King of Boys*, portraying the gritty and unforgettable character Makanaki. His performance drew widespread praise, with critics and fans alike hailing it as one of the

most compelling acting debuts in Nollywood in recent years. In 2021, Reminisce reprised his role as Makanaki in the Netflix sequel series *King of Boys: The Return of the King*, once again delivering a captivating performance that demonstrated his versatility as an entertainer. His portrayal of Makanaki showcased a raw intensity that surprised many and cemented his status as more than just a lyrical powerhouse.



Illbliss

Known for his lyrical depth and cultural pride, rapper Tobechukwu Ejiofor, popularly known as Illbliss, made a striking leap into acting with his role in the critically acclaimed series *King of Boys*, directed by Kemi Adetiba. In the political thriller, he played Odogwu Malay, a feared enforcer whose loyalty and presence made him one of the standout characters in the gritty world of Alhaja Eniola Salami. Illbliss did not just show up, he delivered. His portrayal of Odogwu Malay earned praise for its raw intensity and effortless delivery, surprising even longtime fans who had known him only as a rapper. He proved that his storytelling skills extend beyond the mic and onto the screen, adding weight to the ensemble cast and solidifying his place among Nigerian musicians making waves in Nollywood.



PLATEAU STATE TO HOST MISS & MISTER TOURISM AFRICA INTERNATIONAL 2025



This milestone positions Plateau State as a beacon of Africa’s cultural unity, youth empowerment, and tourism promotion.

“Jos is not just a city; it is Africa’s Home of Peace and Tourism. We believe in showcasing Plateau’s untapped beauty to the world while creating opportunities for young Africans through tourism, talent, and trade,” stated Raymond Okonkwo, the Patron of Miss Tourism Africa.

Seth Santiago Roberts, Founder and President of the Miss Tourism Africa and Mister Tourism Africa International platform, emphasised:

“Our vision has always been rooted in using pageantry as a tool for real tourism development across the continent. Choosing Jos as our host city was intentional—its incredible scenery, diverse cultures, and peaceful nature perfectly align with the soul of this project.”

Why Jos, Plateau State?

Known as the “Home of Peace and Tourism,” Jos boasts panoramic landscapes, rolling hills, waterfalls, wildlife parks, and a rich cultural tapestry. Its selection as the host city embodies the core pillars of the Miss Tourism Africa and Mister Tourism

The Miss Tourism Africa and Mister Tourism Africa International Organization has announce Plateau State, Nigeria, as the Host State for the 4th season of Miss Tourism Africa and Mister Tourism Africa International 2025.

Jos, Plateau State’s capital city, has been designated as the official host city for the continental event, spotlighting its breathtaking landscapes and deep-rooted tourism heritage.

This year’s international finale is set to welcome a total of 50 international delegates from across Africa, with 30 stunning beauties competing for the Miss Tourism Africa title and 20 of Africa’s finest gentlemen contesting for Mister Tourism Africa International.

The 2025 edition has been fully endorsed and adopted by Caleb Mutfwang, Governor of Plateau State, through the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Hospitality as one of the major cultural and tourism development projects under his administration.

Africa International platform:

- **Tourism: Showcasing destinations that tell Africa’s untold stories.**
- **Talent: Empowering young men and women through leadership, fashion, and creative expression.**
- **Trade: Building economic bridges through tourism partnerships and cultural exchange.**

With 50 international delegates expected and a continental audience, the organizing committee invites sponsors, corporate partners, and media platforms to join this transformative event.

This is said to be an opportunity to align brands of participants with a project that promotes African unity, tourism growth, and youth empowerment.

AFRICA'S UNDER 40 CEOS AWARDS: CELEBRATING INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP



Cross Section Of Guests During the Official Launching of The African Under 40 CEO Book (A Compendium of Young African CEOs) Compiled By Temisan Louis (Mayor Of Africa)

Organisers of the annual Africa's Under 40 CEOs Awards & Summit have released the list of 2025 award recipients who were recently conferred with the prestigious honour in Sandton Johannesburg South Africa recently.

Mayorkings Agency Group, which holds the award ceremony annually said Africa's Under 40 CEOs Awards & Summit is a continental award event and ranking that identifies, showcases, honours and celebrates young Africans who are mostly influential, established and accomplished young business leaders, under the age of 40.

They are selected across various industries, people who have demonstrated commitment to business growth, development, professional excellence and community service as well as philanthropy.

A statement released by Temisan Louisthe, convener who was recently appointed President of the African Union Youth Council(Clubs) in Abuja Nigeria reads in part, "The Event and Rankings aim to Encourage and Promote Young African Champions Globally as well as bridging a Room for Networking, Collaboration, Unity of Purpose amongst Successful Young Africans for the sole agenda of the Advancement of the African Continent.

"Mayorkings Agency Group together with our Partners Globally and Our Highly Committed Award Screening Committee and Jury are 100% committed to Honoring and Celebrating only Deserving Young Africans at each edition of the Prestigious Event and Rankings drawn from different countries in Africa."



Gladys Emokpaire CEO Bluorchid Aesthetics Clinic Lagos Nigeria Receiving the Prestigious Africa's Under 40 CEOs Award Plaque from Dr. Chichi Lions at the Prestigious event

Selected Recipients of the Prestigious Africa's Under 40 CEOs Awards 2025 are also awarded Honorary Doctorate Degree (PhD) from Prowess University Delaware USA as Well as American Management University California USA.

Among the 130 awardees include Jennifer Etito Oyubu, Global Influencer; Chantel Snyman, CEO Tradewithchantel & Ambassador Women In Forex Africa; Gladys Emokpaire (A.K.A Doc. Gidi), Founder/Ceo Bluorchid Aesthetics Clinic; Hezel Sharon Sibanda, founder/Ceo Copia Amare Group; Rousa Nangula Shikoha, Co-Founder Kufindi, Take Change, Local Merchant, Namibia; Fikile Mdiniso, Founder/Ceo, Infinite Tech Space; Zita Minaj, actress & brand ambassador; Mfho Malefane, Founder, Trade with Peculiarfx & Peculiar Apparel; Phophi Ramabulana, Founder Vhatanuni Foundation; Prince Omoha, Founder & Chairman, Prince Luxury Group; Spindrella Kelly, Founder & Ceo, Kardashev Technologies Ltd; Sarah Banda; Angela Tilahun; Lebo Lion, Tv/Radio Host.IBrand Strategist; Ibitayo Subair, CEO, Ibis Real Estate; Chamberlain Chimeremeze Emmanuel; Joseph Oluwatomisin Opaleke, Comedian, Social

Entrepreneur & Founder, CS Media Ng; Ayeni Esther Omolola, Ceo, Queenesse World; Adelowale Adewale Oluwaseun, Lead/Founder, MLS | FKM; Opara Emmanuel Chukwuemeka, CEO, OPEC Tv; Constance Owoyomi, Actor, Media Personality/ Entrepreneur; Osagie Emmanuel, President, Miss Diaspora Nigeria; Sarah Ujunwa Chukwukere, CEO, Sarah's Place Empire, Body Solution Spa & Skin; Atong Amos Agook Juac, Founder/CEO, Triple A Petroleum Ltd; Peter Kuntu Blankson; Riham Yusuf, Founder, Paveway Africa Ltd; Hajah Angel Sanoe, CEO, Beauty By Angel & Pure Pasture; Samson Akintola, Founder/Ceo, Fixall Africa and Abdul Marijan, Founder/CEO, Zero Energy Company.

Other awardees include Nomakhosazana Ndlovu, Managing Director, Bhal Media; Ayodeji Sakiru Alayande; Queen Uche, Founder, Uche Group & Uche Hair; Omoyunmi Oyedotun, CEO, Queen Birth Service, Chiamaka Elujoba, Founder, Queen Essence Healthy Lifestyle; Datari Ladejo, Founder/CEO, Evergreen Curators; Zera Felicite, CEO, Zera Foundation; Tasha Amos, CEO Tasha Collectibles, Surv.

Ifeolu Solomon, Co-Founder/Director, Operations & Strategy, Landnest Official. | Chairman, Lovandefoods; Olusola Oreo, Co-Founder, Landnest Homes & Properties Nig; Wisdom Onorute; Eyna Jacobson Auspice, CEO, City Deals Concept Agency Limited; Amina Mugure, CEO, Upfrontr; Lady Rei Obaigbo, Vice President Fiabci Young Professionals & CEO, Oreime Communication; Nasir Memudu; Rachel Foko, Ceo, Rachel Consulting; Lamidi Sikira, CEO, Kira Forex Trading Academy; Nana Akua Addo, Actress | Fashion Stylist; Ijoma Glory Ebubechi (Boss Lady Realtor), Ceo, Global Shortlet Apartment and Eze Elyon among several others.

These CEOs are from across 45 countries in Africa. The awards aimed to identify, showcase, and honour young African CEOs and business leaders who are making a significant impact in various industries.

Recipients who are typically under 40 years old and have demonstrated business acumen, leadership qualities, and a commitment to positive change within their communities.

Mayorkings Agency Group who are the organisers of the event and releases a list of recipients, with selection based on factors like business growth, professional excellence, and contributions to community development.

The awards aim to inspire and encourage young African entrepreneurs, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration among them for the advancement of the continent.

The event also provides a valuable opportunity for young African business leaders to connect, share experiences, and build relationships that can lead to future collaborations and partnerships with the sole aim of advancing the African economy.



Official Presentation of Honorary Doctorate Degree PhD Certificate to Princess Duncan at the event by Temisan Louis Prowess University Delaware USA Representative

CURATING INTIMACY: DESIGNING EXPERIENCES THAT TRULY CONNECT

Ever walked into an art space and felt like the work was speaking just to you? Like it knew something about your story, your emotions, or even your memories? That's not luck—it is curating with intentionality. That is what curating intimacy is all about.

Today's most impactful exhibitions don't just hang art on walls. They guide you through a journey. They wrap you in stories. They give you space to feel, to touch, and to reflect. You are not just a visitor—you are part of the experience. Take TeamLab's digital worlds, for example. As you move, the art responds. It is as if the art piece is alive, dancing with you.

And that's the goal: connection. Deep, emotional, and truly unforgettable.

In this digest, we will explore some principles that guide curating intimate experiences.



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.



Title: Self-discovery
Artist: O'dare Adenuga
Medium: Relief Sculpture
Dimensions: 10 in H
Available on Request



Title: Boxed up (Red)
Artist: O'dare Adenuga
Medium: Terracotta
Dimensions: 9 in H
Available on Request



Title: The day of masquerade
 Artist: Fidel N. Oyiogu
 Medium: Oil on canvas
 Dimensions: 48 x 36 in | 122 x 91 cm
 Available on Request

1. Connection Beats Perfection

First of all, perfect lighting or elegant curation is great. But what sticks with people is how the art made them feel. Curating intimacy puts feelings first. It's about storytelling, not just showcasing.

According to Sakura Yamaoka, a multidisciplinary designer and creative producer dedicated to crafting meaningful experiences through design, "stories help people remember and relate." Not just facts, but emotions, people, and ideas. When exhibitions guide people through a story, it hits different.

2. Use More Than Eyes When Curating

We don't just see. We hear, touch, and smell. That's why some of the best curators think beyond sight. Imagine soft ambient music setting the tone. Or diffusers that bring back old memories or help us fully engage in an art experience. Or running your fingers through a textured surface designed to feel like bark or skin. Those layers pull you in deep. They ground the story in your senses.

3. It's Not a Gallery—It's a Journey

Great exhibitions feel like stories unfolding. They're built with a beginning, middle, and end. You move through spaces the way you flip through pages of a book. Clear pathways. Moments of surprise. Quiet corners for reflection. Every step adds to the narrative. You leave not just knowing something, but feeling something.

4. Touch It. Make It. Own It.

People remember what they do. That's why hands-on experiences work so well. Workshops, community walls, painting corners, even digital AR filters—they turn passive viewers into active creators. Simple actions like writing your thoughts on a sticky note or adding a brushstroke to a group canvas give people ownership. It's their story now too.

5. Make It Human

Some artists go even further. They don't just show the work—they become part of it. Take Lee Mingwei. He's invited museum visitors to sleep in galleries or have a meal with him inside an exhibit. Yep, you read that right. It's about building trust, memory, and shared moments.

6. Everyone Deserves to Feel It

Intimacy means inclusion. If someone can't see the art, they should be able to hear or touch it. Quiet rooms, braille labels, guided audio—all these ensure no one is left out. The more accessible the experience, the deeper the connection.

At the end of the day, curating intimacy isn't about big budgets or flashy effects. It's about designing for feeling. It's about creating little moments that stick, like the sound of a lullaby in a dark room or the texture of an old rug beneath your feet.

Great exhibitions don't just show art. They show care. And that care creates a connection.



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

MEET THE WOMEN OF NIGERIAN HERITAGE DOMINATING THE WNBA COURTS

FAITH OMOBOYE

In a league that thrives on power, precision, and poise, a growing number of women with Nigerian heritage are carving their names into WNBA history, one jump shot, steal, and rebound at a time. Whether born in Lagos, London, or Los Angeles, their journeys speak of resilience, cultural duality, and global achievement.

Here are ten of the most notable players of Nigerian descent who are making their presence felt in the Women's National Basketball Association.

Michaela Onyenwere (Chicago Sky)

Drafted sixth overall by the New York Liberty in 2021, Onyenwere made an immediate impact in her rookie year, sweeping all Rookie of the Month awards and becoming the first Liberty player to win the WNBA Rookie of the Year title. Born in the United States to Nigerian parents, her blend of athleticism and aggression earned her a spot in the Chicago Sky's lineup by 2024. Now re-signed for the 2025 season, she continues to bring her signature feistiness and finesse to the court.



Elizabeth "Ezi" Olatayo Williams (Chicago Sky)

A veteran presence and two-time WNBA All-Defensive honouree, Williams brings shot-blocking authority and leadership to the Sky. Born in England to Nigerian parents and raised in the U.S., she first came to national prominence by leading the USA U17 team to a gold medal in 2010 and being named MVP of the tournament. Now 32, she remains a stabilising force in Chicago's frontcourt.



Okikiola "Kiki" Iriafen (Washington Mystics)

One of the WNBA's most exciting young prospects, Iriafen was drafted fourth overall in 2025 by the Washington Mystics. Just 21, the Nigerian-American forward wasted no time, being named May's Rookie of the Month after averaging nearly 14 points and over 10 rebounds per game. Her relentless hustle and evolving skill set hint at a dominant future.



Arike Ogunbowale (Dallas Wings)

Arike Ogunbowale, 28, is arguably one of the league's most recognisable stars. Ogunbowale's flair for the dramatic began at Notre Dame, where she hit back-to-back game-winners in the 2018 NCAA Final Four. Drafted fifth overall by the Dallas Wings in 2019, she's become a consistent scoring threat, earning All-Star MVP honours in 2021 and 2024. Her 34-point performance in the 2024 All-Star Game set a new scoring record.



Titilola “Temi” Fagbenle (Golden State Valkyries)

A seasoned international player with roots in Baltimore, Lagos, and London, Fagbenle was selected in the 2025 WNBA expansion draft by the Golden State Valkyries. The 32-year-old centre previously won a WNBA championship with the Minnesota Lynx in her 2017 rookie season. With a EuroCup title and multiple domestic championships in Europe under her belt, she brings global experience to the league's newest franchise.



Nnemkadi “Nneka” Ogwumike (Seattle Storm)

A former league MVP, six-time All-Star, and longtime union leader, Nneka Ogwumike is one of the most respected figures in women's basketball. After 12 seasons with the Los Angeles Sparks, she joined the Seattle Storm in 2024. Born to Nigerian parents in Texas, she was named WNBA MVP in 2016 and has continued to set records, including the most consecutive field goals made (23). Off the court, she has led the WNBA Players Association since 2016.



Chinenye “Chiney” Ogwumike

The younger sister of Nneka, Chiney Ogwumike, made her mark on and off the court. Though currently unsigned, the 33-year-old is a former All-Star who transitioned seamlessly into the media. She became the first Black woman and WNBA player to host a national ESPN radio show, while also serving as an NBA and WNBA analyst. A Stanford graduate with a degree in international relations, she exemplifies the scholar-athlete archetype.

Eziyoda “Ezi” Magbegor (Seattle Storm)

A rising star with Nigerian roots, Magbegor plays internationally for Australia and professionally for the Seattle Storm. Born in New Zealand, she helped the Australian Opals win bronze at the 2024 Paris Olympics, delivering a 30-point masterclass in the medal match. At 25, she is already a two-time All-Defensive selection in the WNBA and remains one of the most versatile forwards in the league.



Anastasiia Olairi Kosu (Minnesota Lynx)

Kosu, 20, represents a new generation of transnational athletes. Of Nigerian-Russian descent, she began her professional career in Europe before being drafted 15th overall by the Minnesota Lynx in 2025. Known for her powerful play and accolades in the Russian Premier League, including Eurobasket.com's Player of the Year.



LAWRENCE NWOSU FOUNDATION: NURTURING YOUNG TALENTS THROUGH BASKETBALL

ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM



The annual Lawrence Nwosu Summer basketball camp, held from July 2 to 4, brought together 70 talented young basketball players from Nigeria for three days of intensive training, mentorship, and life skills development.

Organised by the Lawrence Nwosu Foundation, the camp empowered underprivileged youth by fostering discipline, teamwork, and confidence through sports and guidance.

Praise Onyeagwalam, known as Director Pink, spoke to the participants: "This is more than a basketball competition. It's a vision and a stepping stone to something greater. This game teaches patience, teamwork, strategy, and resilience. These lessons apply in sports, art, business, or creativity. Keep learning, training, and believing in yourself!"

For many attendees, the camp offered their first chance at structured coaching and encouragement. Standout players included Kosisochukwu Susan, named MVP Female and All-Star, Adolfus Moyosore, who earned Best Free Throw, Best Three-Point Shooter, Most Dedicated Player, Best Five, and All-Star honours, and Ola Promise, MVP Male and All-Star.

The Best Five team consisted of Afocha Amarachi, Jolaosho Omotola, Bolu Anjorin, Adolfus, and Obiefuna. Twelve players received All-Star recognition.

Ola Promise reflected: "I came from Edo State and didn't expect it to be this big or inspiring. It's my first camp in Lagos, and I'm grateful. It gave me confidence and a sense of family." The camp featured All-Star Games, live painting, and creative performances, alongside talks on transformation and health from speakers like Lawrence Nwosu and others. Participants received hearty meals and warm hospitality, supported by sponsors.

Held annually in honour of Lawrence Nwosu's late mother, the camp stands as a living extension of her values, nurturing young people with compassion, discipline, and hope.

Sponsors included Lounge Thirty8, Swizz Trade, Gulp, and Kpokoritos, with additional backing from Flagscale Public Relations, Afro100, ROG Media Hub, and Savage Space. "We believe that what you eat fuels how you live," a representative shared. "Our meals are crafted to help athletes, creatives, and dreamers live well."

Lawrence Nwosu, the Foundation's founder, said: "Witnessing the transformation over these three days has been moving. It proves that sport can shape futures. We call on stakeholders to help expand this impact. Next year promises more players, lasting impact, and the belief that every child deserves a chance."

The camp provided a platform for growth, showing how sports can build skills and open opportunities for Nigeria's youth.

WHEN LIFE TOOK A TURN

UDY OSARO-EDOBOR

Several years ago, I (Nkem) worked at a financial institution where I had a kind and supportive boss, Mr. Chris. He had a close friend named Dan who would visit the office from time to time.

Dan always made it clear he liked me and although he flirted occasionally, even joking that he would have married me if he had met me earlier—I never thought much of it. I was married and believed it was all harmless.

But back at home, things were far from perfect. My husband, Manny, had lost his job and struggled for months to find another one. The pressure wore him down and he began to take out his frustrations on everyone at home.

When he eventually decided to start a business, I supported him fully—even investing my savings into his idea.

Around that time, my boss, Mr. Chris, resigned and relocated abroad. My new boss was difficult and made the work environment toxic. I eventually applied for a short break to breathe. But a few days into my leave, I received an email that the company was downsizing and I had been affected. It felt like the floor had just opened beneath me.

I didn't know what to do. All I had ever known was my job. There was no backup plan. Still, I wasn't going to let the loss define me. I took time to reflect and decided to pursue a new path.

Event planning and interior decorating had always interested me, so I threw myself into it. But it was not an easy start. While I struggled to build something from scratch, my husband's business took off. He started making a lot of money and with it came a sudden change in attitude.

He became unrecognizable. Proud, arrogant and dismissive. He stopped coming home regularly and didn't care who noticed.

His infidelity was no longer a secret because he flaunted it. And whenever I tried to talk to him, he brushed me off like I was an annoyance. The man I married had turned into someone I couldn't even talk to. I felt invisible.

Then one day, Mr. Chris reached out. He was planning his mother's 80th birthday party and asked me to handle it. That event changed everything. It brought me visibility and opportunities I never imagined. I started getting referrals and gigs from people who attended.

Dan was at the party too. Not only had he lost his wife to a long illness but he also seemed more grounded than ever. He invited me to lunch to discuss a business idea and that lunch led to many more.

He became my biggest supporter. He invested in my dreams, connected me to the right people and created space for me to grow. In three years, he did what my husband hadn't done in fifteen. And he never once asked for anything in return.

Meanwhile, Manny had disappeared—traveling and showing off on social media, while our marriage silently crumbled. Dan never asked me to choose. He never

pressured me. But the truth is, I've grown close to him. Very close.

Now I ask myself... should I continue clinging to a marriage that has been emotionally empty for years or should I open my heart to a man who has redefined what it means to be seen, supported and truly loved? A man who has shown me through actions, not promises, that friendship can be pure, commitment can be selfless and love doesn't always come in the package we expected.

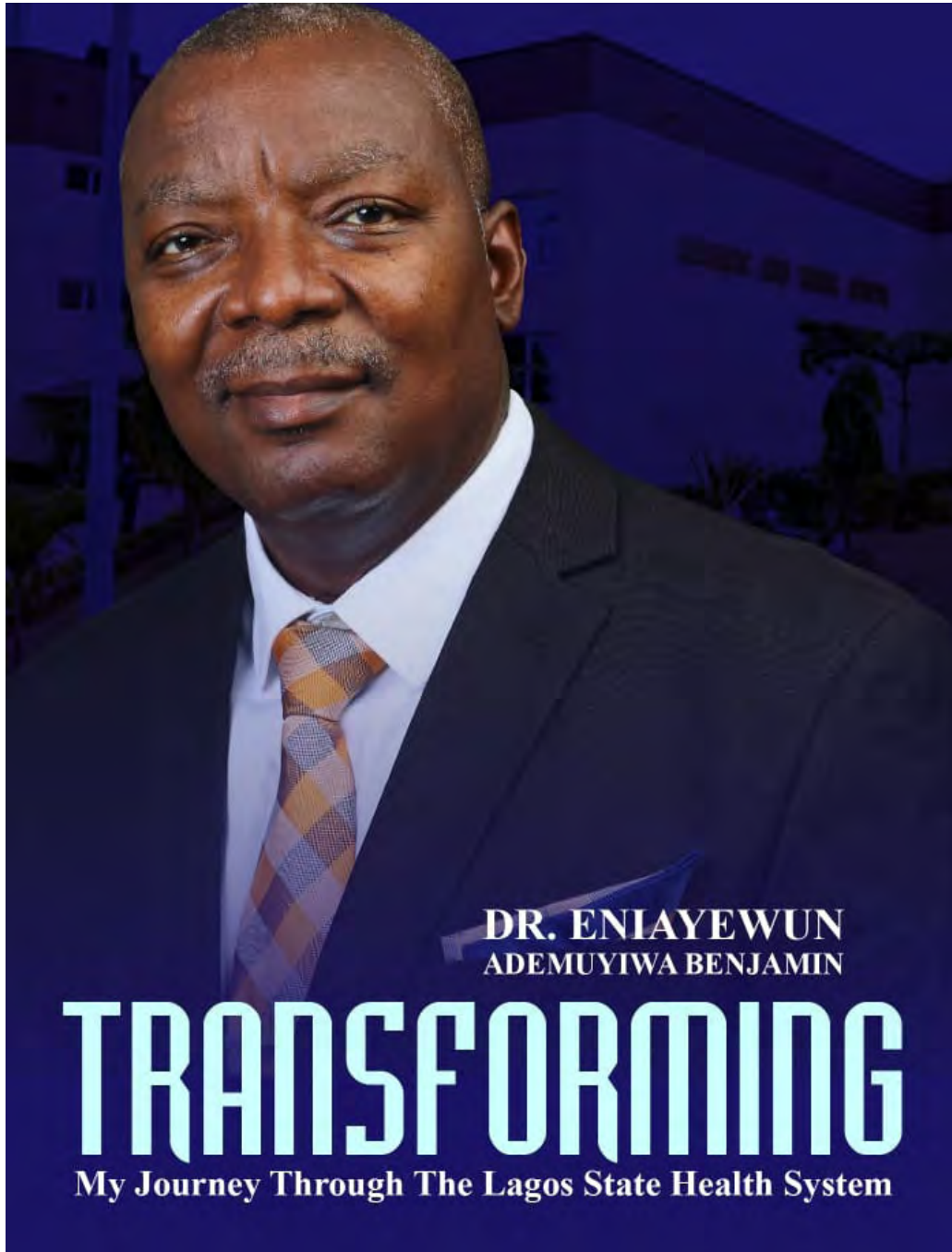
It's not an easy answer. But sometimes life leads you to the place you were meant to be even if it's not where you started.



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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One Man's Bold Journey to Bring Hope to Nigerian Government Hospitals
-A Review of Dr. Eniayewun Ademuyiwa Benjamin's Transforming

Title: Transforming; My Journey through the Lagos State Health System

Author: Dr. Eniayewun Ademuyiwa Benjamin

Year of Publication: 2025

Number of Pages: 293

Category: Autobiography

TRANSFORMING; MY JOURNEY THROUGH THE LAGOS STATE HEALTH SYSTEM

TITILADE OYEMADE

Behind Dr. Eniayewun's calm and composed appearance on the cover of *Transforming* lies a remarkably resilient man. Don't be fooled by the gentle look; his story reveals strength forged through trials. Within these pages is not just an autobiography, but an inspiring account of what it takes to fix a broken system with integrity, vision, and grit.

A strategic and purpose-driven public health leader, Dr. Eniayewun isn't out to impress with titles, though he's held many. He's here to tell the truth, share lessons, and inspire change. And true to its title, *Transforming* is a story of personal and institutional growth.

Reading the prologue alone feels like a full experience, rich, thought-provoking, and packed with wisdom. But go further, as you absolutely should, and the insights only deepen. The book is a goldmine for anyone in the medical field or aspiring to lead with purpose. What others take decades to learn is laid out here, page after page.

This isn't just a life story, it's a manual. A guide. Essential reading for young medical officers, healthcare administrators, public health professionals, and anyone serious about service and leadership. It's honest, practical, and at times, painfully eye-opening.

Beyond medicine, it offers lessons in history, leadership, people management, and institutional reform. If you were born in a Nigerian government hospital, you might smile or more likely frown at the mention of your birth hospital. Many have declined over the years. But you'll also find hope in the stories of transformation, facilities that improved under Dr. Eniayewun's leadership, proving that real change is possible with vision and commitment.

One of the book's most refreshing aspects is the storytelling style. Dr. Eniayewun writes like he's sitting across from you, sipping tea, calm, candid, and clear. No pretense, no inflated ego. Just truth and courage.

He doesn't just talk about leadership, he's lived it. Often under tremendous pressure, with limited resources, and within systems that resist reform. What drives him isn't status, but outcomes. His humility and commitment shine through, and his insights from patient-centered care to ethical decision-making could shape a new generation of healthcare leaders.

The book also exposes Nigeria's harsh healthcare realities. It doesn't shy away from uncomfortable truths. Maternal mortality, systemic failure, and administrative bottlenecks. For those unaware, the data and stories will shock you. For those who've lived it, it will hit close to home. A foreign reader might think he's exaggerating. He's not. This is the Nigeria he served and tried to heal.

Quotes like "A potential unexpressed turns into pain" will leave you thinking. The book is full of such truths, lines that pause you, challenge you, and make you reflect.

Photos included show that the work described isn't imagined, it's lived and documented. He shares not just successes but struggles, personal, professional, and systemic. He doesn't sugarcoat frustrations or conceal the people who stood in his way. His honesty is refreshing and powerful.

Former colleagues may recognize stories of challenge, reform, and resilience. They may smile or remember the weight of pushing progress in a rigid system.

His compassion also comes through, especially in chapters tackling sensitive health issues. He raises tough questions, not to criticize, but to provoke thought and inspire action. And though his tone is gentle, make no mistake, he is tough. The kind of tough that demands accountability. At some point, you might find yourself sitting straighter, thinking, I don't want to be caught slacking around this man.

Yet, his toughness is purposeful. It pushes you to do better. Soon, you're underlining phrases, scribbling notes, thinking, I want to be like this when I grow up.

He makes it clear: if you're aiming for the top, prepare to fight, not to scare you, but to equip you. His message is a wake-up call and a well of strength.

You'll also spot a hint of stubbornness, the good kind. The kind that confronts decay, insists on accountability, and refuses to accept "that's how it's always been." By the end, you may want to be that kind of stubborn too.

In the final chapters, the book takes a turn, it begins to feel like a leadership training session. At first, it may slow down or get technical, but stay with it. The lessons are practical, field-tested, and deeply relevant for anyone aspiring to lead in public service or healthcare.

If you care about maternal health in Nigeria, this is a must-read. And if you're passionate about leadership, systems reform, or becoming a more principled professional, this book deserves a place in your library.



Titilade Oyemade is a business executive in a leading organisation and holds a degree in Russian Language. She's the convener of the Hangoutwithtee Ladies Event and the publisher of Hangoutwithtee magazine. She spends her weekends attending women conferences, events and book readings. She loves to have fun and to help other women have the same in their lives. Email: titi.oyemade@gmail.com Social: @tiipreeofficial

WEEKENDER

MOVIE REVIEW

OLD GUARD 2 (2024)

For all the lovers of action/Adventure. Welcome to old guard 2, so after watching “Old Guard 1” I jumped right into part 2, and the action/excitement was from start to finish, if you thought part 1 was intriguing then wait for part 2 as it was even more mind blowing. Remember that in part 1 they tried to escape from the bad guy in this new edition they had to work together to fight the new enemy. In this new chapter for some weird reasons Quynh was set free from her cage that had laid down in the sea for centuries, now Quynh is very furious and upset and is bent on carrying her revenge on Andy who she felt left her lost and stranded for centuries living a happy and peaceful life, but this wasn’t really the case as Andy was also fighting her own battles. Well, you will need to go quickly to check out this movie to find out if Andy and her team survived this new battle. The 105m action/adventure, superhero, fantasy thriller was directed by Victoria Mahoney, they featured A list actors like Charlize Theron, Kiki Layne, Matthias Schoenaerts, Marwan Kenzari, Luca Marinelli, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Veronica Ngo, Henry Golding, Uma Thurman, Kamil Nozynski, Slavko Sobin and many more.



ALMOST COPS (2025)

For the lovers of Buddy comedy, Action, crime movies this brand-new movie will be your choice this weekend, if you struggle with these kinds of movies, this might not be a right choice. Ramon was a member of the "CSO team" a local neighborhood security team that protects the people they work with the police force but are no police officers, they deal directly with the people on the streets. Ramon wanted to be like his father a good police officer, he kept on impacting lives positively. Things quickly turned a new leaf when his brother Kevin passed on while in line on duty, during a bad operation, he worked as a real cop with Jack his partner after the investigation Jack's boss demotes Jack to work with Ramon as a CSO member. Well, you will have to go checkout the movie to see how they worked together to discover the bad guys that killed is brother, the revelation at the end left me surprised, but I guess it's called life. The 95m buddy comedy, action, comedy, crime, movie was directed by Gonzalo Fernandez Carmona, they featured actors like, Jandino Asporaat, Werner Kolf, Florence Vos Weeda, Ferdi Stofmeel, Ergun Simsek, Juliette Van Ardenne, Stephanie Van Eer, Rain Gerritsen, Romana Vrede, Teun Kuilboer and many more.



MADEA'S DESTINATION WEDDING (2025)

Tyler Perry is back with a brand-new edition of Madea, but this time it's a destination wedding edition. If you remember the Home coming of 2022 and enjoyed this kind of comedy and storyline then, this will definitely make your weekend. In this brand-new chapter Madea's granddaughter Tiffany breaks the good news that she is getting married all of a sudden and it's in two weeks, to a guy they all haven't even met before and she has decided that it was going to hold in Bahamas. This news came as a very big shock to her grandparents, aunts and uncles some who even suspected that she might be pregnant and wanted to do this in a hurry. Well, you will need to run along and go check out this movie to find out why she was getting married in such a hurry, the drama that conspired along the way and why she decided to cancel the wedding. The 102m comedy, drama, romance movie was directed by Tyler Perry, they featured actors like Cassi Davis, David Mann, Tamela J.Mann, Taja V. Simpson, Diamond White, Jermaine Harris, Xavier Smalls, Wanelle Carrington, Brandon Sutton, Bree Shannon, Melanie Kiran and many more.



LINDA OCHUGBUA

WEEKEND QUOTES



1

Thanksgiving to the one who triumphs and gives talents
.....WhispersbyTEN

3

RESILIENCE is not by power or by might. It is by the backing of the TRINITY.
.....WhispersbyTEN

2

Celebrate the one who carries our desires and calms our questioning heart.
.....WhispersbyTEN

4

Make yourself of no importance to God and He will teach you
.....WhispersbyTEN