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MEET 10 WOMEN DRIVING AFRICA'S GLOBAL ECONOMIC RISE



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The Nigerian doctor who operated on a baby in the womb and returned her to life



INTERVIEW

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Healthcare and Building
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– Funmi Adeniyi

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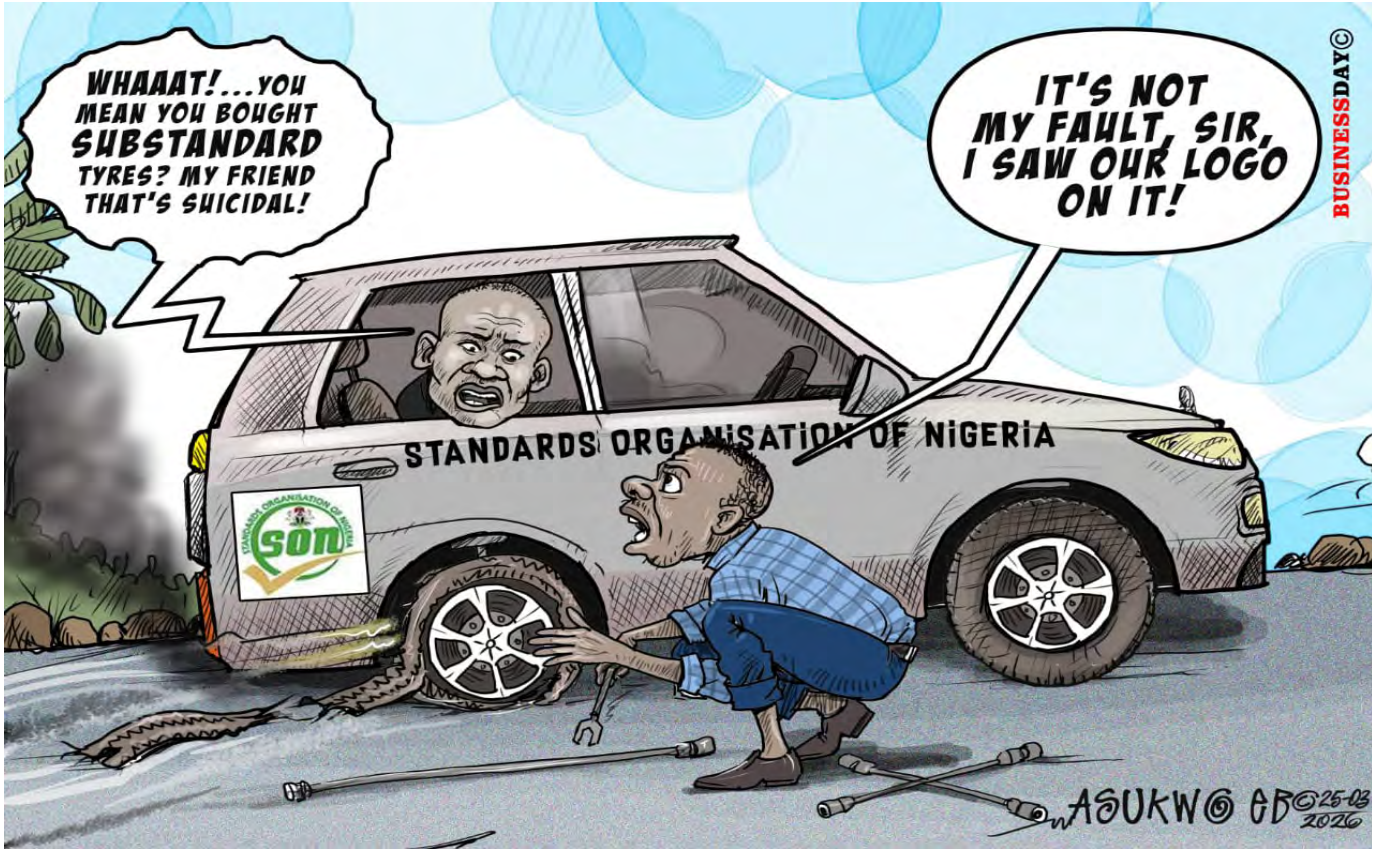
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MEET 10 WOMEN DRIVING AFRICA'S GLOBAL ECONOMIC RISE

CHISOM MICHAEL

Africa's economy has recorded notable growth in recent years, and women have played a pivotal role in this progress. From shaping policies to leading strategic discussions in the boardroom, women across the continent are emerging as key drivers of economic development.

Their influence extends beyond participation; they are setting new standards and redefining what leadership looks like in traditionally male-dominated sectors.

BusinessDay has highlighted a selection of women whose contributions to Africa's economy have been transformative, demonstrating that their impact is both significant and far-reaching.

Here are 10 women driving Africa's global economic rise

1. Folorunsho Alakija – Executive Vice Chairman of Famfa Oil Limited

Folorunsho Alakija wears many hats. Aside from being a business mogul, she is also a philanthropist, preacher, and fashion icon. She is the executive vice chairman of Famfa Oil Limited and the founder of Rose of Sharon Foundation.

Famfa's crude oil is largely exported internationally, with key destinations including the United States, Europe (Belgium, Spain, and France), and India.

In 2021, she was named the richest woman in Africa by Forbes, and she has given back to orphans and widows through her foundation.



2. Stella Okoli – CEO of Emzor Pharmaceuticals Limited and philanthropist

The health sector has experienced exponential growth through the initiative of Stella Chinyelu Okoli, OON. She is the founder and Group Managing Director of Emzor Pharmaceutical Industries Limited.

While the Pharmacy graduate focuses on the health sector, she also has a heart to empower people. In 2006, she founded Chike Okoli Foundation (COF) in memory of her late son Chike. So far, the foundation trains more than 250 students in entrepreneurship yearly.

In recognition of her impact, the award-winning pharmacist was conferred with the Member of the Order of Nigeria (MON) and the Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON).



3. Ayobami Animashaun - Founder/ President, Vanity Hub Africa, Africa Beyond Extractives Initiative, and Nigeria Beyond Oil Initiative

Lady Ayobami Animashaun stands powerfully at the forefront of a structural shift in how Africa engages with the global economy, a British-Nigerian software engineer, systems-level economic master-strategist, global bridge-builder, and founder of Vanity Hub Africa, Africa Beyond Extractives Initiative, and the Nigeria Beyond Oil Initiative.

An alumna of the University of Leicester and King's College London, she combines deep technical expertise with a systems-level understanding of how modern economies are designed, financed and scaled.

Her career spans globally significant technology institutions, including Intel, Cisco Systems and American Express, alongside director-level leadership within the downstream energy and evolving net zero landscape. Her approach is bold, disruptive and unapologetic, anchored in a clear strategic principle: trade not aid.

Through Africa Beyond Extractives and Nigeria Beyond Oil, she is part of a new generation reshaping Africa's place in the global economy, advancing enterprise, innovation and the scaling of ideas as the foundation of long-term value. Delivered through Vanity Hub Africa, her work moves beyond narrative into execution, connecting African capability with global markets, capital and partnerships, and shifting the continent's story from potential to participation.



4. Mo Abudu, CEO of EbonyLife Group

Mosunmola Abudu, popularly known as Mo Abudu, is a force in the global entertainment industry. Her drive for excellence spurred her to set up EbonyLife TV in 2013 and EbonyLife Films in 2014, which resulted in blockbusters such as The Wedding Party, The Wedding Party 2, Chief Daddy, Your Excellency, Oloture, and Blood Sisters.

She believes that with film and a great partnership, Africa's economy can blossom beyond the tag of an untapped potential. With this mindset, she achieved collaborations with Lionsgate, Netflix, Sony, BBC, Starz, Will Packer Productions, and Will and Jada Smith's Westbrook Studios.

The 61-year-old media mogul has also given back to society through her foundation, The Inspire Africa Foundation. Consequently, she was named as one of the most influential women in international film by The Hollywood Reporter in May 2025.



5. Mojisola Hunponu-Wusu – Founder of Woodhall Capital

One cannot mention the women driving Africa's global economy without acknowledging Mojisola Hunponu-Wusu. She is the founder and president of Woodhall Capital, a financial advisory firm with offices in Abuja, Lagos, Dubai, and London.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from Coventry University, United Kingdom. Beyond her pursuit to break ceilings in the economic industry, she is also poised to give back to her community through her foundation, Woodhall Capital Foundation. To achieve this aim, she partners with local authorities and schools in poor communities and improves the services available to them.

6. Oby Ezekwesili – economic expert, former Education Minister

Oby Ezekwesili is a powerhouse in activating Africa's economic might in the global scene. In 2007, she was appointed as the president of the World Bank Africa Region, a position she held till 2012, after delivering key economic projects in 48 Sub-Saharan African countries.

Her passion for the girl-child caused her to campaign for #BringBackOurGirls, a movement which championed the release of the kidnapped Chibok girls in Borno in 2014.



7. Kemi Adetiba, director and filmmaker

Kemi Adetiba has etched her name in the sands of time as a prolific director and filmmaker. The works of the 46-year-old, who holds a bachelor's degree in Law from the University of Lagos, have appeared on Sound City TV, Channel O, BET, Sound City TV, and Netflix.

Some of her films include *The Wedding Party*, *King of Boys*, *King of Boys: The Return of the King*, and *To Kill a Monkey*, among others.

The award-winning video director has worked with several artistes including TY Bello, Waje, Omawunmi, Tiwa Savage, Olamide, and Bez.



8. Zain Asher – broadcaster and CNN International host

British-Nigerian broadcaster Zain Asher hones her talent at CNN International, where she co-anchors “One World with Zain and Bianna.” She spotlights global affairs and their effect on the people and the economy.

Asher holds a degree in French and Spanish from Oxford University and a master's in Journalism from Columbia University. She has covered the war in Ukraine, Boko Haram activities, and the 2020 global pandemic. The media personality, whose resilience and passion to make an impact have earned her international acclaim, is the younger sister of actor Chiwetel Ejiofor.



9. Florence Otedola (DJ Cuppy), disc jockey and philanthropist

Disc jockey and philanthropist Florence Otedola, popularly known as DJ Cuppy, is the daughter of billionaire businessman Femi Otedola.

She fondly speaks about her work and the connection she has built to make an impact in society. One of such connections is with British monarch King Charles III.

The graduate of Oxford University is using her foundation, The Cuppy Foundation, to “provide access to quality education, empowering individuals with critical thinking, consciousness, creativity, and freedom.”



10. Tara Fela-Durotoye – beauty entrepreneur, founder of House of Tara

Tara Fela-Durotoye is a trailblazer and pioneer in the Nigerian makeup industry. The lawyer and beauty entrepreneur is the CEO and founder of House of Tara.

Her desire to put structure and class into the industry spurred her to establish the first makeup school in Nigeria. It is not surprising that she has gotten several accolades, including being listed by Forbes among “Africa’s 50 Most Powerful Women” in 2020.





OLUTOYE OLUYINKA: THE NIGERIAN DOCTOR WHO OPERATED ON A BABY IN THE WOMB AND RETURNED HER TO LIFE

CHISOM MICHAEL



Olutoye Oluyinka, a Nigerian doctor, grew up in Lagos in a family deeply involved in academics and the military. His father, Major General (rtd) Olufemi Olutoye, was a military commander and traditional leader, while his mother, Professor Omotayo Olutoye, was an academic. It was this environment that inspired his early ambition to become a doctor and shaped his drive for precision and excellence.

He attended Lagos University Staff School for his primary education and King's College, Lagos, for secondary school. He went on to study medicine at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, where he graduated as the class valedictorian in 1988. Seeking further training, he moved to the United States, completing postgraduate training in paediatrics at Howard University General Hospital and earning a Ph.D. in Anatomy from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1996. He then trained in general surgery at the Medical College of Virginia Hospital and specialised in pediatric surgery at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania.

He came to global attention in 2016 when he led a team at Texas Children's Fetal Center in a surgery that few thought possible. A 23-week-old fetus had a large tumour growing on her tailbone. The procedure required carefully removing part of the fetus from the mother's womb, excising the tumour, and returning the fetus so she could continue developing. The baby, Lynlee Boemer, was delivered weeks later via Caesarean section in good health. The operation showed that life-saving surgery could be performed even before birth.

Oluyinka has also been involved in complex procedures for conditions such as congenital diaphragmatic hernia, lung abnormalities, chest wall deformities, omphalocele, gastroschisis, and neonatal wound management. In 2015, he and a team of Nigerian doctors successfully separated conjoined twins, Knatalye Hope and Adeline Faith Mata. His research focuses on fetal wound healing and understanding inflammatory responses to improve outcomes for babies born with congenital conditions.

He later became co-director of the Texas Children's Fetal Center and was recently appointed Surgeon-In-Chief at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Ohio. There, he leads 11 surgical departments and works with The Ohio State University College of Medicine as professor and the E. Thomas Boles Chair of Pediatric Surgery. His work combines patient care, research, and teaching the next generation of pediatric surgeons.

His contributions have been recognised in Nigeria and abroad. Obafemi Awolowo University honoured him with the Great Ife Alumni Award for Excellence in the Sciences and inducted him into the Hall of Distinction. Other awards include the Molecular Surgeon Research Achievement Award from Baylor College of Medicine, the Mark A. Wallace Catalyst Leader of the Year Award from Texas Children's Hospital, and the Denton A. Cooley Surgical Innovator Award. In 2022, he received Nigeria's National Order of Merit from President Muhammadu Buhari.

Oluyinka is married to Professor Olutoyin Olutoye, and they have a daughter and a son. The family lives in the United States. His work has shown that medicine can reach beyond traditional boundaries, that surgeries can save lives even before birth, and that determination, skill, and collaboration can create breakthroughs with lasting impact.

WHY INVESTING IN HEALTHCARE AND BUILDING DENTAL INSTITUTIONS IS VITAL FOR OUR NATION – FUNMI ADENIYI

IFEOMA OKEKE-KORIEOCHA





On the front lines of Nigeria's oral health crisis is Funmi Adeniyi. She has spent the past seven years rewriting the narrative, one community at a time. As founder of Luxe Dental Clinic and the Smile Doctor Foundation, her work bridges private practice and grassroots outreach. She brings care and awareness to underserved populations often left behind. In this conversation marking World Oral Health Day 2026, Adeniyi speaks passionately about the importance of investing in healthcare at home, and why expanding dental institutions is critical to slowing the tide of talent lost to Nigeria's "japa" wave.

What gap in dental care or patient experience made you start your own practice?

What pushed me to start my own practice was a gap I encountered, not just in patient care, but in how dental professionals themselves were treated. I had worked in several clinics where there was little structure; it showed in everything from operations to staff welfare. When I had my children and needed to go on maternity leave, I was not paid. I had to find my own replacement and go unpaid, while stepping away from work entirely. At the

same time, I had friends and colleagues in corporate firms like PwC and KPMG who enjoyed paid leave and far more supportive systems.

Beyond that, I saw how poorly many dentists were compensated. I remember a younger colleague telling me he earned just N70,000; nearly four years after his NYSC. This is someone who had spent eight years training to become a medical professional. It did not sit right with me.

All of this made me realize there was a need to build something different; an institution with proper structure, fair compensation, and a more sustainable work culture. That pushed me toward entrepreneurship. One of the toughest moments, of course, was making the leap. I had spent years working across different clinics, and even managing one as a partner, but starting from scratch on my own was an entirely different challenge.

In your early years, what were the toughest moments, and what decisions helped you pull through?

I started on my own without outside financing; banks just were not lending at the time. It was the year after COVID, and they were especially hesitant to fund healthcare ventures because of the high default rates. So I used my savings, borrowed from my family, and decided to take the leap anyway.

But I kept asking myself, "What if I fail? Then I felt a nudge in my spirit like God saying to me, "What if you fly?" That beginning phase of taking the risk, stepping into the unknown, was the hardest part.

How do you balance being a hands-on clinician with being the CEO of a growing business?

I've balanced being a hands-on clinician with leading a growing business by committing to continuous learning. I'm constantly learning the business side of things. Medical school doesn't really teach you how to run a practice or navigate the business of healthcare, so I've had to be intentional about building that knowledge over time.

Last year, I attended Lagos Business School, and I also completed an online diploma in healthcare management from the university in Washington. I'm an alumna of the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, a U.S. government-led initiative focused on equipping women with core business skills. Over the years, that commitment to learning has shaped how I lead and grow my work.

I have built my business so it doesn't revolve around me. It has structure, systems, and a life of its own, which gives me the freedom to focus on what matters most. I no longer handle every procedure. I have entrusted many of them to younger doctors and therapists, while I concentrate on the ones that require more advanced expertise.



We have also put clear systems in place. With our SOPs, everyone knows exactly how things begin and how they should be completed. There is consistency, standardization, and a shared understanding across the team.

How do you keep your practice profitable while running a community-focused initiative, Smile Doctor Foundation?

We keep a close eye on our numbers because it is not just about revenue, it is about profitability. We are constantly reviewing our cost of sales and making adjustments where needed, especially since dentistry is largely dollar-denominated. Most of our equipment and materials are imported, and we don't produce them locally in Nigeria.

So when the dollar rises, we often have to adjust our pricing to stay sustainable. The same goes for increases in fuel costs, which directly affect our day-to-day operations. It is an ongoing process of monitoring, evaluating, and adapting to protect the health of the business.

We are also intentional about impact. A portion of our profits goes into funding our community initiatives, but we don't carry that responsibility alone. We have built partnerships over time with Lagos State, the wife of the Olu of Warri, Colgate, and several NGOs, including collaborations in Benue state just last year. Those partnerships help us extend our reach while sharing the load.

Which key systems or structures helped move your practice from surviving to growing?

Showing up consistently is what builds a brand that becomes synonymous with excellence and expert care. Over time, that consistency speaks for itself through patient testimonials and referrals, as satisfied clients share their experiences and bring others along.

At the same time, we keep expanding what we offer while staying committed to growth. We're continuously improving our digital capabilities and investing in the best equipment so we can deliver top-quality care. Just as importantly, we prioritize ongoing staff training, making sure everyone stays up to date and aligned with current standards and realities in the field.

What do you think about scaling (more locations, services, or products) and when to expand?

We are stepping into a new phase now where we focus on scaling the business. It starts with building the right structure to support that growth.



We're documenting and templating everything we do, and putting strong leadership systems in place so that as new arms of the business open, there are capable people ready to lead them.

We are also exploring new product and service lines to expand our offerings. Recently, we took delivery of a computerized cone beam tomography machine, which gives us detailed 3D views of the head and neck. It is a major upgrade that will elevate the quality of our implants, veneers, orthodontic treatments, and overall patient care.

What mindset shifts around risk money and failure should dentists make to become entrepreneurs?

Young dentists have to be willing to take risks, especially in Nigeria, where there is very little safety net. You have to adopt the mindset of, what is the worst that could happen? Even if things don't go as planned, you can start again. Risk-taking, paired with resilience, is essential.

At the same time, commit to lifelong learning. Stay humble enough to seek out people who have done it well. Ask questions, learn from their journey, and understand what worked for them. That openness can accelerate your growth in ways nothing else can.

It is also important to reshape how you think about money. This is not about quick wins; you have to be in it for the long haul. For me, it is about building lasting relationships. I tell my patients we are here to walk through life with them, with their children, and even their grandchildren. Patient satisfaction is our highest priority. We are willing to take a short-term loss if it means building long-term trust. No cutting corners, no chasing quick money at the expense of quality care.

What is your 5 to 10 year vision for your practice and initiative, and what strategic moves are you making now?

My five-to-ten-year vision is to build a globally scalable brand. By the 10th year, we aim to have multiple locations both within Nigeria and beyond. We want to position ourselves as a pan-African reference for dental excellence. We want to be the name people think of when discussing dentistry in Africa, and once we have achieved that, we can look to expand even further globally.

We also want to lead in oral health advocacy and champion the knowledge that everyone has a human right to access proper dental care. We are open to partnerships that allow us to reach underserved communities and provide free dental care and education on how to maintain healthy mouths.

We are laying the groundwork strategically now. We are building structures and systems designed to support the growth and scale we are planning. We want to ensure that when expansion happens, it is sustainable and impactful.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

I want to say that there are real opportunities in Nigeria, and I'm proud to be one of the few in dentistry who chose to stay. Many see no hope and leave. But yes, building here is hard, and yet it is rewarding when you see the possibilities unfold. There is no safety net from the government or even from people around, but we can create one for the next generation.

I want to encourage everyone to see these possibilities and to come together. Private institutions, financial bodies, and parastatals all have a role to play in investing in healthcare. We can't keep outsourcing the health of our people to foreign investors or others; we must take ownership. Let's invest in group practices, fund clinics, provide ambulances, and generally invest in the health of our nation.

Currently, the dentist-to-patient ratio in Nigeria is roughly 1 to 50,000. That's a huge gap. We need to build dental schools, train more dentists, and create a future where dental practitioners have opportunities and hope here at home. Healthcare investment is not just a business; it is a long-term commitment to the wellbeing of our people. And to everyone personally: your mouth reflects your overall health. Dental care isn't isolated.

Visit a dentist every six months, brush twice daily, and floss daily, because your toothbrush alone is not enough. Your health starts with prevention.



HOW TOPE AKANDE IS BUILDING ALTERNATIVE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL DATA FOR NIGERIANS WITH BUCKSTRYBE





For millions of Nigerians, access to credit remains out of reach. Traditional credit scoring systems rely heavily on formal banking history, leaving out a large population that earns, saves, and transacts outside structured financial institutions. Tope Akande is building a different path with BucksTrybe, a platform that turns everyday financial behaviour into financial credible data.

At the centre of BucksTrybe's model is the digitisation of long-standing group savings practices trusted across communities, such as the 'Ajo' system amongst the Yorubas, 'Esusu' system among the Igbos and 'Adashe' among the Hausas.

The platform records contributions, tracks progress and introduces approval structures that reduce disputes and the likelihood of fraud.

This creates a reliable financial trail for users who previously had none, while also helping groups stay organised and accountable.

It is not just about the convenience of use, but clarity, a shared view of contributions and obligations that make participation easier, reduce misunderstanding, and strengthen commitment within the group.

Akande believes that informal finance already holds the signals needed for credit assessment. "People have always saved in groups. What has been missing is a structured way to prove that consistency and discipline," he said.

"We are capturing those behaviours and turning them into data that financial institutions can trust."

Beyond Nigeria, Tope Akande and his team are taking steps to replicate this financial solution in the United Kingdom, where BucksTrybe is building tools aimed at helping users build credit visibility.

This is done by turning verified patterns of financial behaviour into structured signals that can support access to credit quicker than it is now, making millions of individuals who are financially invisible visible.

"Our goal is simple. Credit should reflect real behaviour, not just formal history. If someone has shown consistency over time, the system should have a fair way to recognise that," Akande said. "If you have shown discipline over time, that should open doors, not close them."

This move reflects a broader ambition to make financial identity and credit profile accessible to all. BucksTrybe's work sits at the intersection of community finance and modern credit systems: strengthening everyday saving culture in Nigeria through transparency, while building credit visibility pathways in the UK for people who are often excluded by traditional scoring models.

This approach positions BucksTrybe as more than a savings tool. It is building an alternative financial data system that reflects how many individuals can prove credibility.

For many users, it is simply about getting recognised for what they already do. A consistent savings habit that once stayed within a small circle can now speak for them, opening up access to opportunities that were previously out of reach.

"I'm building BucksTrybe to solve a system problem: when good people are excluded because the system doesn't understand their financial reality," Akande said. "We are not replacing the culture. We are strengthening it with structure and visibility."

BucksTrybe is a fintech building tools that strengthen trust in everyday finance. In Nigeria, BucksTrybe supports group savings and contribution structures with visibility and accountability. In the UK, BucksTrybe is focused on credit visibility, helping people build credibility using verified financial behaviour.

HOW LORD'S LONDON DRY GIN CURATED AN INTIMATE VALENTINE'S ESCAPE ABOVE LAGOS



How Lord's London Dry Gin Curated an Intimate Valentine's Escape Above Lagos

High above the glittering skyline of Victoria Island, where Lagos hums with restless energy even after sunset, love took on a softer, more deliberate rhythm.

On the rooftop of Maison Fahrenheit, beneath a sky brushed with city lights and ocean breeze, Lord's London Dry Gin staged a Valentine's experience that felt less like an event and more like a love letter to modern romance.

This was "Love on Your Terms," the premium gin brand's Valentine's campaign, a carefully curated evening designed not simply to celebrate love, but to redefine it as personal, expressive and unapologetically individual.

From the moment guests arrived, the atmosphere signalled something different. Couples stepped into a setting of understated luxury: candlelit tables, velvet evening hues, and the quiet clink of crystal glasses filled with the crisp botanicals of Lord's London Dry Gin.

A violinist, positioned against the panoramic Lagos skyline, opened the night with romantic melodies that floated gently through the air, the sort of soundtrack that makes time slow down just enough for meaningful glances and shared laughter.

It was the kind of evening where elegance met playfulness.

Love, Lagos Style

Among the guests were some of Lagos' most recognisable digital personalities, influencer couple Modola and Mayor Frosh, as well as Lanky Boi and Mokeji, whose chemistry and effortless style drew admiring glances throughout the evening.

But the night was not reserved for influencers alone. Several couples were invited by the brand to enjoy a fully hosted Valentine's getaway, complete with accommodation at Maison Fahrenheit, transforming the celebration into an immersive romantic retreat.

Others received curated spa experience vouchers to continue their celebration of love long after the final toast of the night.

It was Lord's Gin doing what premium lifestyle brands do best: turning moments into experiences worth remembering.



The evening began with a warm welcome from the Senior Brand Manager, Lord's Dry Gin, Adedamola Adeleke, who invited guests to relax into the atmosphere and savour the moment with those closest to them.

Soon, the formalities melted away, and the rooftop transformed into a playground of romantic competition and shared delight.

Games That Sparked Connection

Rather than the predictable Valentine's dinner format, Lord's Gin leaned into interactive experiences designed to deepen connection.

Couples gathered around puzzle tables where intricate games encouraged teamwork and gentle rivalry. Some pairs approached the challenges with playful seriousness, whispering strategies and teasing each other over misplaced pieces. Others simply enjoyed the laughter that came from getting things hilariously wrong.

The karaoke station quickly became the heartbeat of the evening.

With a quick QR code scan, couples could choose songs that meant something to them, love ballads, nostalgic throwbacks, or dramatic duets.

Influencer Modola delighted the crowd with a spirited performance of a popular hit; her voice carried across the rooftop as friends and strangers alike joined the chorus.

Soon, the microphone became a symbol of courage and affection.

One couple serenaded each other with an old-school R&B classic. Another pair opted for playful Afrobeats, dancing mid-song to the cheers of the crowd.

The result was electric, a rooftop filled with laughter, music, and the unmistakable glow of shared joy.

A Premium Brand with Presence

Behind the romance and laughter was a carefully orchestrated brand experience.

Lord's London Dry Gin, positioned as an international-facing premium gin brand with a powerful, recognition-driven identity, used the evening to reinforce its place within Nigeria's aspirational lifestyle culture.

Each table featured thoughtfully presented bottles of the gin, accompanied by refined cocktail serves that highlighted its botanical depth. The presentation was deliberate: polished yet approachable, sophisticated yet celebratory.

According to Gbemileke Lawal, Marketing Manager at NDL, the campaign reflects a broader shift in how modern consumers view both love and luxury.

“Love today is beautifully diverse, it’s not one story, one expression or one expectation,” Lawal said during the event. “With ‘Love on Your Terms,’ Lord’s London Dry Gin wanted to create a space where people could celebrate connection in ways that feel authentic to them.

Whether it’s romance, friendship or simply appreciating the moment, the idea is to honour those connections while enjoying a premium experience that reflects the confidence and sophistication of our consumers.”

Moments Worth Toasting

As the night unfolded, the celebrations continued with surprise rewards that added excitement to the evening. Shopping vouchers worth ₦150,000 were presented to lucky guests, with Mr. Paul emerging as one of the night’s winners, a moment greeted with enthusiastic applause and good-natured envy from fellow couples.

Between competitions, couples drifted toward the edge of the rooftop terrace, where Lagos stretched endlessly into the night. Some captured photographs under the

glow of soft lighting installations; others simply lingered in conversation, glasses raised to the city below. It was, unmistakably, a Lagos Valentine, glamorous yet intimate, vibrant yet deeply personal.

The Perfect Ending

As the evening drew to a close, the rooftop transformed once again — this time into a photography haven. Couples gathered for stylish portraits alongside the evening’s hosts and influencers, capturing memories against the backdrop of the glittering skyline. The laughter continued as friends adjusted outfits, perfected poses and relived the night’s most amusing karaoke performances.

In his closing remarks, Senior Brand Manager, Lord’s Dry Gin, Adedamola Adeleke thanked guests for embracing the spirit of the campaign and helping transform the evening into a celebration of authenticity and connection. And as the final glasses of Lord’s London Dry Gin were raised, the message of the night lingered in the warm Lagos air.

Love, after all, is not a script to follow. Sometimes, the most beautiful moments happen when you define it for yourself.



BACKYARD HOSPITALITY GROUP INTRODUCES OCTO LAGOS, BRINGING SPEAKEASY-STYLE NIGHTLIFE TO THE NIGERIAN MARKET

ESTHER EMOEKPERE



As global nightlife trends continue to shift toward more intimate and experience-driven concepts, Backyard Hospitality Group is introducing a new offering to the Lagos market that reflects this evolution.

On April 1st, 2026, the group will launch Octo Lagos, an exclusive speakeasy bar and lounge concept located within Nónaada Lagos at 4B Musa Yar'adua Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Operating from Wednesdays to Sundays, 9:00 PM to 2:00 AM, Octo Lagos is designed to deliver a curated nightlife experience that prioritizes ambiance, discretion, and service over scale.

The concept reflects a growing demand among consumers for spaces that offer privacy, quality, and a more intentional social environment.

While rooted in the speakeasy model typically characterized by hidden entrances, controlled access, and a strong focus on atmosphere, Octo Lagos adapts the concept to suit the Nigerian market.

This localized approach is evident in its emphasis on social connection, warmth, and cultural fluidity, elements that define Lagos' nightlife identity.

The result is a hybrid experience that blends global inspiration with local sensibilities.



The speakeasy will feature a beverage program centered on expertly crafted cocktails, premium spirits, and tailored bottle service, complemented by a selection of curated bar bites. Its design and operational model align with international boutique hospitality standards, where intimacy and experience take precedence.

For Backyard Hospitality Group, the launch of Octo Lagos represents a strategic expansion into the nightlife segment, building on its presence in the premium dining space through Nomaada Restaurant. The group has indicated plans to continue developing concepts that merge global trends with local market relevance.

Octo Lagos, in this context, positions Lagos within a broader global conversation around the future of nightlife, one that favors experience, design, and intentionality.

Octo Lagos will officially open on April 2nd, 2026.

Octo Lagos is an intimate bar, lounge, and speakeasy concept by Nomaada Lagos, designed as a refined extension of its dining experience.

Created for curated nightlife and elevated social experiences, Octo Lagos offers a sophisticated and discreet environment where guests can unwind, connect, and indulge.

With expertly crafted cocktails, premium bottle service, and a carefully curated ambiance, Octo Lagos redefines luxury nightlife in Lagos through a balance of exclusivity, comfort, and intrigue.

4 CULINARY SCHOOLS TO EXPLORE IN LAGOS

ESTHER EMOEKPERE



Every few years, a city reaches a point where its food culture stops being incidental and starts being intentional. In Lagos, that shift is visible in the restaurants opening in Lekki, the food content filling Nigerian social media feeds, and the growing number of people who want to work in professional kitchens rather than simply eat in them. The demand for trained cooks, pastry chefs, and food entrepreneurs has created a market, and Lagos has responded with it.

The schools that have grown out of this moment range from government-accredited institutions offering two-year diplomas to online academies built around a single chef's reputation. Some train teenagers on Saturday mornings. Others offer internship placements at five-star hotels. What they share is a recognition that cooking is no longer just a domestic skill. It is a career path, and increasingly, a business.

Red Dish Chronicles culinary school

Located in Gbagada, branches in Abuja, Red Dish Chronicles is an accredited culinary school with a ₦25,000 registration fee across all courses. Its programmes are split into three tracks. Beginner culinary courses (₦500,000–₦800,000) run for 3–6 weeks and cover Nigerian and continental dishes, as well as specialised areas like desserts, bread, pastry, and cake baking. These are skill-based and not designed for professional certification. The professional diplomas are more intensive, running for three months plus a three-month internship.

Options include Cuisine (₦2m), Pâtisserie (₦2.5m), a combined track (₦4m), and a one-year programme (₦5.5m) that includes advanced training, externships, and business modules.

There are also short business courses (₦800,000) focused on restaurant operations, branding, and the broader food business, aimed at entrepreneurs and industry professionals.

Crumbles Chef Academy

Located at 21 Udeco Medical Road, Chevy View Estate, off Chevron Road, Lekki, Crumbles Chef Academy has been in operation for over 16 years and offers a broad mix of short courses and diploma programmes. The school's Amateur Chefs Programme focuses on foundational skills, with courses in African and continental cooking, Nigerian and French pastry, cake baking, desserts, and bread making. These typically run between two weeks and one month, with fees ranging from about ₦120,000 to ₦320,000, positioning them as shorter, skill-based options rather than full professional training.

There are also one-day and short courses—including cookery, baking, plating, food photography, barbecue, and seafood—designed for low-commitment learning, alongside niche offerings like culinary nutrition, cocktails, and small chops. For more structured training, the Professional Chefs Programme includes diplomas in pastry, cuisine, and combined culinary arts, running from three to nine months (₦720,000 to ₦1.7 million), with additional combination tracks that bundle multiple specialties into longer programmes. The academy also runs kids and teens cooking clubs on weekends, reinforcing its focus on flexibility and accessibility across different skill levels rather than a strictly linear, high-end professional pathway.

Tastebudz Culinary Academy

Located in Lekki Gardens Horizon 2 Estate, Ikate Elegushi, Tastebudz Culinary Academy offers a mix of short courses and structured diploma programmes, with flexible payment options and added extras like paid accommodation and a 24/7 online learning platform. Its short courses cover areas like culinary science, baking and pastry, African

and international cuisine, desserts, and cake decoration, typically running from one month to six weeks (₦300,000–₦450,000), often including ingredients and starter kits. For more in-depth training, the academy runs chef diploma programmes lasting 3 to 6 months (₦850,000–₦1.85 million), alongside a one-year advanced diploma (around ₦2.8–₦3 million) that combines cuisine, patisserie, and restaurant management, with optional internships and externships. There are also weekend and specialised programmes, including global cuisine and event management, Saturday foundational classes, and children's cooking sessions.

El Royalithos culinary institute

El Royalithos Culinary Institute, located at 64 Ire-Akari Estate Road, Oludegun Bus Stop, Isolo, Lagos, offers a range of culinary programs for beginners through advanced learners, combining practical skills, theoretical knowledge, and optional accommodation for a complete training experience. Their Cake Making and Sugarcraft course (3 months, 3 days a week) teaches foundational sponge techniques, tiered cakes, fondant, and lifelike sugar flowers, with certificate issuance upon completion. Pricing options include a Basic Package at ₦675,000 and a Premium All-Inclusive Package at ₦1,400,000, which covers ingredients and practical sessions. Optional hostel accommodation is available for ₦200,500. The Culinary Courses (Beginner to Advanced) also run for 3 months, 3 days per week, covering professional cooking techniques, food safety, hygiene, kitchen operations, and menu design. Fees range from ₦675,000 (Basic Package) to ₦1,200,000 (Premium All-Inclusive), with optional accommodation.

For those seeking deeper expertise, the Professional Chef Course runs 5 months, 4 days a week, providing intensive hands-on training in culinary techniques, plating, presentation, kitchen management, and business skills. Fees start at ₦875,000 for the Basic Package and ₦2,100,000 for the Premium All-Inclusive Package, with an additional optional hostel fee of ₦200,502. Flexible payment options allow either full payment upfront or 70% upfront with 30%

NIMA MEMORIAL CARE FOUNDATION CHAMPIONS DIGNITY FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



L-R: Benjamin Atebe, Nima Memorial Care Foundation award recipient; Sonubi Omolade, Director of the Administration and Human Resources Dept, Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs, representing Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State; Hauwa Nuru, Finance Commissioner, Kwara State; Praise Nkor, Award recipient; Zainab Abdumalik Muhammed, Co- Founder, Nima Memorial Care Foundation, and a guest during the Nima Memorial Care Foundation annual symposium/ grandball dinner, at Marriot Hotel, GRA, Ikeja, Lagos, on Sunday

In an evening defined by “hope put into motion,” the Nima Memorial Care Foundation convened its 2026 Annual Symposium and Grand Ball at the Marriott Hotel, Lagos, marking a pivot in the national conversation on disability.

Under the theme ‘Empowering Every Child: Breaking Barriers for Children with Disabilities,’ co-founder Zainab Abdumalik Muhammed delivered a stirring call to action, urging Nigeria’s leaders, educators, and policymakers to move beyond the traditional “language of pity” toward a framework of real opportunity.

The event served not only as a celebration of a cherished legacy but as a platform to advocate for a society where a child’s condition no longer dictates the altitude of their dreams.

Addressing a distinguished audience of community leaders and healthcare professionals, Muhammed emphasised that the most formidable obstacles facing children with disabilities are not physical, but rather the “harder barriers” of stigma, neglect, and systemic misunderstanding.

Muhammed said when she and her team steps up to empower one child with disabilities, the impact ripples outward: “We lift entire families. We strengthen whole communities. We help build the kind, just society we all want to live in.”

According to her, empowerment means opening doors to quality education, creating spaces where every child can learn, play, grow, and dream — free from discrimination and it also means moving from pity

to real opportunity, and from silence to courageous advocacy.

She stressed that every child deserves dignity, inclusion and a fair chance, adding that the Nima Memorial Care Foundation exists to make that promise real.

“Day by day, we turn love into tangible action, compassion into meaningful support, and a precious memory into lasting change.

“Tonight reminds us that one life can spark so many others. Honoring this legacy isn’t just about looking back — it’s about carrying the journey forward with kindness, service, and hope. But we can’t do this alone.

“No foundation, no movement, no mission succeeds in isolation. It takes all of us — working hand in hand,” Muhammed explained.

She called on policymakers, educators, healthcare professionals, community leaders, and advocates to lend their voice and ensure their influence, and choices truly matter.

She assured that together, schools can be designed to welcome every child and communities to wrap around every family, and policies made to protect dignity and rights for children with disabilities.

“To the incredible families raising children with disabilities: please know you are not alone. Your strength moves us, and your resilience is exactly why this work feels so urgent and worthwhile.

“And to every supporter, partner, and friend of this foundation: your generosity isn’t just giving — it’s hope put into motion,” she added.

Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, governor of Lagos commended the Nima memorial care foundation for the unwavering advocacy, compassionate and commitment to children and families who too also must navigate systems that are not designed with them in mind.

The governor who was represented by Sonubi Omolade, Director of the Administration and Human resources dept, Lagos state office for disability affairs at the event, said every child in Lagos state deserved to learn to grow and to belong regardless of their physical developmental and competitive abilities

He described this as justice and equity, adding that the standard by which people must measure progress as a society in Lagos State.

He said Lagos State has chosen to confront this responsibility deliberately through the Lagos State Office of Disability Affairs, (LASODA).

“We are spreading a system that recognises the right, dignity and potential of persons living with disabilities over the years. LASODA has grown into a critical institution registering over 100 disability associations and extending support across communities ensuring that no group visibly and not visible excluded.

“We are also giving inclusion at the grassroots level working with local government, community structure and traditional institution to ensure that accessibility and opportunity are not confined to policy documents alone but are reflected in everyday life across our state but we know that work has to be done that is why in our approach we are focused, practical and people-centred.

“First, we embark on early identification and intervention programmes, we recognise that any support can change the tragedy of any child’s life, that’s why we are strengthening the monumental screening pathways and expanding through community-based health systems so that families can help when it matters the most not after it had been lost

“Second, we established inclusive education schemes that truly works. Lagos state currently has a growing network of inclusive schools over 50 across the state where children with disabilities are learning alongside their peers in more supportive environment but it goes beyond access we are investing in teaching capacity, specialised learning tools and school infrastructure to ensure that every child is not just present in the classroom but supported to succeed,” the governor explained.

He also said Lagos State is expanding an access to care and assist in the distribution of devices including mobility aids and learning tools to targeted medical outreach programmes.

“We are working to reduce the every day barriers faced by children and their families. In recent intervention alone, 100 of assisting devices have been provided to improve mobility, communication and independence.

“Forth, we support or families and care-givers. We understand that behind every child is a family navigating emotional complex financial and social realities through targeted financial support programmes including grants in disability homes, community and organisations,” the governor explained.

SIX WAYS TO EXPERIENCE JAPAN WHILE KEEPING TRAVEL COSTS LOW

CHISOM MICHAEL



Japan is increasingly proving accessible to budget-conscious travellers, despite its reputation for high costs. Across cities like Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka, visitors are discovering that some of the country's most enriching experiences come at little to no expense.

From peaceful temple walks to affordable meals at convenience stores, Japan offers a blend of culture and simplicity that does not require heavy spending. Observing daily life, exploring neighbourhoods on foot, and embracing slower travel can reveal the country's essence.

With thoughtful planning, travellers can enjoy a fulfilling Japanese experience while keeping expenses under control and avoiding financial strain.

Here are 6 ways to experience Japan while keeping travel costs low

1. Visit temples and shrines for free

Many temples and shrines across Japan allow free entry, making them one of the most accessible cultural experiences. In Kyoto, visitors can walk through temple grounds and observe daily rituals in quiet surroundings. In Tokyo, Sensō-ji remains a major site, where visitors pass through a market street before reaching the main hall. Visiting early in the morning or later in the day offers a more reflective experience and avoids peak periods.

2. Eat well at local markets and street stalls

Food in Japan does not always require a large budget. Local markets and street stalls provide affordable meals

in small portions. At Nishiki Market, visitors can sample a range of local dishes while moving through narrow lanes. Similar food streets exist in many cities, offering quick meals that reflect local tastes. Watching vendors prepare meals also adds to the experience.

3. Relax in parks and seasonal green spaces

Public parks remain open and accessible, offering space to rest during travel. Ueno Park in Tokyo attracts visitors during cherry blossom season, when people gather for picnics. Outside this period, parks still provide a place to sit, walk, or eat a simple meal. These spaces show how residents spend time outdoors across different seasons.

4. Walk through old streets and traditional areas

Exploring historic areas on foot offers insight into Japan's past without any cost. The Gion district in Kyoto is known for its preserved streets and wooden houses. In Osaka and Tokyo, smaller neighbourhoods also reflect older ways of life. Walking through these areas allows visitors to observe local routines, visit small shops, and encounter everyday culture.

5. Enjoy city views from free observation decks

Several buildings in Japan offer free access to observation decks with wide views of the city. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building is one of the most visited, providing views across Tokyo. On clear days, visitors may also see Mount Fuji in the distance. These locations offer a simple way to take in the scale of the city.

6. Try convenience store meals that actually taste good

Convenience stores across Japan provide affordable meal options at all hours. Chains such as 7-Eleven, Lawson, and FamilyMart stock ready-to-eat meals including rice dishes and snacks. These stores support travellers looking for quick and low-cost food throughout the day.

WHY DIGITAL DISCIPLINE IS PIVOTAL TO PREPARING NIGERIAN STUDENTS' FUTURE

CHARLES OGWO



In an era shaped by rapid technological change, the ability to use digital tools responsibly, critically, and productively is emerging as a crucial skill, placing digital discipline at the centre of preparing Nigerian students for the future.

Many schools in Nigeria are investing in devices, platforms, and connectivity, believing that access to technology is the foundation of students' future-readiness.

However, across the world, what countries are witnessing across classrooms suggests something deeper, literacy is no longer enough. The real challenge today is not whether children can use technology. It is whether they can manage it.

A UNESCO report indicates a 'quiet' revolution is underway in schools around the world. While the debates over digital learning rage on, a growing number of governments and education systems have taken a bold stance: phones off, and out of sight.

According to a New GEM Report analysis, while one in four countries had smartphone restrictions in schools in 2023, this number has surged. Today, more than half of countries have policies restricting phone use in schools.

The wave of change on smartphone use in schools, according to the report, reflects the increasing concerns of parents, teachers and policy makers about the adverse effects of phones and social media on academic engagement and learning, social interactions, sleep, mental health, cognitive abilities, privacy, to name but a few.

Many Nigerian parents decry the negative impact of smartphones and other digital devices on children, especially those under age 16, which have led to calls to restrict children's access to digital tools.

However, experts believe that beyond the call for digital tools access to children, there is a more important thing to pay attention to, which is the behavioural problem of children in this digital era.



Olufunke Onyema, a guidance counsellor emphasised that exposing children to Android phones and other digital devices without intentional behavioural training is detrimental.

Thomas Nkume, a teacher, believes Nigerian schools can foster responsible technology use by setting clear guidelines for device usage, and promoting,

“Bridging the digital divide in Nigerian education is imperative but there’s a need to set boundaries on how students go about this new approach to learning.

“No doubt, access to technology enhances educational outcomes, empowers students with essential digital skills, and prepares them for success in the 21st century global economy, but abuse is inevitable without guidelines,” he said.

For years, the Nigerian governments have been focusing on building digital literacy across schools. Even private schools in Nigeria are investing in devices, platforms, and connectivity, believing that access to technology is the foundation of future-readiness.

Sometimes ago, South Korean government amended key education bills to reclassify previously sanctioned artificial intelligence textbooks as supplementary material rather than classroom manuals.

According to Business Insider Africa, this is following pushback from teachers and parents against rolling out textbooks without proper preparation, and evaluation.

“The Korean Federation of Teachers’ Associations said that while teachers are not opposed to digital education

innovation, rolling out the textbooks without proper preparation and evaluation actually increased some teachers’ workloads.”

The decision reflects a growing concern over the role of artificial intelligence in education; as it marks a significant shift in how the country plans to balance technological advancement with foundational learning, sparking debate among educators, policymakers, and tech experts.

In a move to equip the youth with future-ready skills, African leaders in 2025, unveiled the EdTech 2030 Vision, a transformative roadmap aimed at harnessing technology to revolutionise learning across the continent.

The African Union Development Agency (NEPAD), and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) launched the draft African EdTech 2030: Vision, Plan and Policy framework for consultation and stakeholder input.

The initiative seeks to bridge the digital divide, promote inclusive education, and position Africa at the forefront of global innovation in education technology.

However, the reality across classrooms suggests that digitalization of knowledge goes deeper than literacy. The real challenge is not whether children can use technology. It is whether they can manage it. Access without discipline is not empowerment, it is exposure.

As Nigeria positions itself within an increasingly digital global economy, embedding digital discipline into its education system will be critical.



AKADA CHILDREN'S BOOK FESTIVAL 2026 IGNITES CREATIVITY AND LEARNING

...as its 8th edition reaffirms its commitment to children's literacy

CHARLES OGWO



From storytelling sessions to hands-on workshops, the Akada Children's Book Festival (ACBF) 2026 is set to create an immersive space where creativity flourishes and learning becomes an exciting adventure for children..

The ACBF, which is Nigeria's first and largest book festival dedicated exclusively to children, will return for its eighth edition on May 23, at Rugby School Nigeria, Eko Atlantic, as it continues with its mission to promote literacy and nurture a lifelong love of reading.

Olubunmi Aboderin-Talabi, the convener of the festival speaking on the 2026

edition, said: "The festival continues to grow because parents, educators, publishers, and authors all recognise the need to expose children to story books early.

"By bringing writers, illustrators, and young readers into the same space, we are helping children see that books are not distant objects on a shelf, but stories created by people whose experiences they can relate to."

According to the organisers of the annual event, this year's event is positioned to be a special pre-Children's Day event, offering a vibrant platform for showcasing



the work of indigenous authors and encouraging widespread engagement with children's books and literature, while celebrating creativity, imagination, and learning.

Under the theme, "Big Dreams, Brave Stories," the 2026 edition aims to celebrate the idea that bravery is not only about facing challenges but also about following one's heart, dreaming boldly, and believing in oneself.

The theme highlights the power of storytelling to inspire young readers to imagine possibilities, embrace creativity, and see themselves as active participants in their own journeys. Through tales of courage, adventure, and self-discovery, children are encouraged to explore new ideas, ask bold questions, and pursue their dreams with confidence.

Besides, it promises to be a rich and engaging programme of activities designed to ignite curiosity, creativity, and a love of reading, including Author-led book readings, storytime sessions, author

meet-and-greets, book exhibitions and signings, prizes and book giveaways, book chat sessions, workshops for children, workshops for parents and teachers, announcement of the winners of the writing and illustration competitions, Scrabble tournament, chess tournament, theme song competition, SIP-n-Paint sessions, STEM activities, sensory play activities, drama, music and dance, and much more.

These activities are aimed at giving children the opportunity to engage their creativity, explore new ideas, and connect with stories and storytellers firsthand, building on the festival's ongoing effort to strengthen Nigeria's children's reading culture and celebrate diverse voices.

The 2026 edition will also feature original children's books, with notable titles including *Lumi Drives from London to Lagos* by Pelumi Nubi; *Sim Sim Goes to the Salon* by Tonye Faloughi-Ekezie; *Amang Goes to the Village* by Namse Udosen; *What Happened on Thursday?: A Nigerian Civil War Story* by Ayo Oyeku; among others.

In addition to this year's lineup of activities, the festival will also recognise excellence in children's literature through its annual awards, highlighting standout Nigerian children's book authors, titles and encouraging the continued growth of the country's children's literary community.

Since its inception, the Akada Children's Book Festival has drawn over 10,000 attendees and continues to expand access to books, celebrate local storytelling, and inspire a new generation of readers across Nigeria.

OLUFUNKE ONYEMA DEMYSTIFIES THE HEART BEHIND INTENTIONAL PARENTING

CHARLES OGWO



In a world where parenting often feels like a race to get everything right, Olufunke Onyema, a registered and guidance counsellor, has demystified intentional parenting, urging parents to slow down and lead their children with purpose.

Through her insights, Onyema breaks down what intentional parenting truly means, and why nurturing the heart of a child matters just as much as shaping their future.

Speaking during a special conference of the Women of Grace from The Redeemed Christian Church of God, King's Place Area in LP 106, Onyema emphasised that intentional parenting entails having family rituals and value-based rules.

"As a parent, you must ask yourself this question, am I raising my children for people to say that my children are the best? Am I raising children that are emotionally stable, and are they being nurtured as the Lord asks me to?" she stated.

Besides, she tasked every parent to ensure that his or her children are being raised with love, and with the goal of nurturing responsible adults of tomorrow.

"Intentional parenting is the practice of raising children with active purpose. As Christians, intentional parenting is raising children with a purpose and conscious choices they should make; rather than just raising children as the world wants us to raise," she said.

Breaking down on how to raise children that are conscious of the choices they should make, Onyema, said, there are three things every parent must take note of in order to nurture a total child, which are communication, discipline, and time management.

"Everything we do about parenting must revolve around communication, discipline and time management, they make parenting task more focused.

"Intentional parenting is not what many people are doing out there in world, it's not about children acting some ungodly scripts as directed by their parents," she noted.

According to the practicing medical expert, "Intentional parenting is about a long term goal, where parents push their children to become responsible adults of tomorrow.

"Unfortunately, many responsible parents have failed to raise their children to become their adults' replica, and are raising future adults that would give them broken, and traumatized hearts."

Such children, she said, have no regard for others, and have nothing to offer to society.

To avoid nurturing nuisances of tomorrow, Onyema urges parents to see intentional parenting beyond what they want to see now, but that it is who they are raising for tomorrow; that is a long time value.

She emphasised that exposing children to unnecessary comparison is detrimental to the child's development, stressing that every child is unique, and the moment parents begin to apply a comparison system such a child begins to feel inferior and low self-esteem begins to set in.

The guidance counsellor noted that parents must develop personal relationships, and communication skills that suit their children.

This, she said, will help parents to raise emotional and developmental strong stable children, which is the purpose of being an intentional parent.



“Parents must be proactive, a lot of times we react; when our children shouts and jumps, we react. When a child has questions, we react; we are always emotionally reactive, rather than being proactive.

“Being proactive demands we consistently connect with our children, and you can’t correct with a child that you’re not connected to,” she emphasised.

Moreover, she highlighted the need for a family value-based culture that members follow consistently. These rules or culture, she said, must be written and placed where everyone in the house can see and internalise.

For instance, she said, “This famous family we are raising, our first family value is respect, and it must be written down, and placed on the wall.”

Onyema emphasised the place of problem-solving focus in raising a healthy child. According to the guidance counsellor, every child needs his parents’ presence, and not just affection; self-reflection parenting approach that is training a child to take after his /her parents and goals oriented modelling.

Experts believe that in a modern day society like Nigeria, many contemporary social problems are

beginning to emerge which are against its norms, morals and ethics and could be attributed as negative.

Some of these problems, they say, are in some ways attributable to ineffective parenting and while it is imperative that the government set new or enforce old policies relating to child up-bringing in Nigeria, being the first point of social interaction and integration, parents must take bold steps in nurturing their children and providing them with the basic necessities they require.



LIVE WITH LATASHA WOMEN'S MONTH OF MARCH: A CELEBRATION OF VOICES, IMPACT, AND EMPOWERMENT



The highly anticipated Live With Latasha Women's Event was successfully held on Wednesday 18th March at the prestigious Civic Centre, bringing together over 200 women for an evening of empowerment, connection, and transformative dialogue.

Broadcast live on Pop Central via the DStv platform, the event reached an even wider audience beyond the venue, amplifying its message of inspiration and inclusivity.

The event featured four dynamic panel sessions that addressed critical themes affecting women today, leaving attendees inspired and equipped with practical insights.

The event opened with the "He for She" conversation led by Ebuka Obi-Uchendu, who shared powerful perspectives on the role of men in supporting, advocating for, and advancing gender equality.

The second panel, "Breaking the Money Ceiling," featured industry leaders Funke Bucknor and Kikelomo Atanda, who delivered insightful discussions on financial independence, wealth creation, and navigating career growth as women.

"The Confidence Gap," featured Patricia Obozuwa alongside Big Brother Naija Personality and Guinness World Record Holder, Tacha, where they explored the realities of self doubt

and shared practical strategies for building confidence in professional spaces. Their session offered powerful insights on overcoming internal barriers and showing up boldly in the workplace and beyond.

Music and expression took center stage during the final conversation; "The Power of Her Voice," with renowned artist Waje and media personality Ella, who spoke passionately about self expression, finding one's voice, and using influence to inspire change.

Guests were treated to delicious food from The Colombian Grill, Bina Lagos and The Chef Tucker and live music by Freeborn and saxophonist Abisola and powerful spoken word from Miss Wana Wana.

Another highlight of the event was a surprise gifts reveal when guests were asked to look underneath their seats for a special item. Taped under each chair were silk scarves by designer brand, Ade by Femi.

The success of the event was made possible through the generous support of its major sponsors, including but not limited to The Glenlivet, Black Bell, Furtullah, Century Group, CedarRush, SNL Services Limited, Kavitha, Auroe, Elle's Ice Box, The Red Carpet Company, Matma Foods, and OneTwelve Fruities, whose contributions helped bring the vision of the event to life.



Beyond the panels, the event created a vibrant and engaging atmosphere filled with networking opportunities, brand interactions, and shared experiences that fostered a strong sense of community among attendees.

Speaking after the event, Latasha expressed her appreciation:

“This platform continues to thrive because of the remarkable women and allies who show up with open minds, ready to learn, share, and uplift one another. The conversations we’ve shared here today have raised the bar, and we are committed to making every future dialogue even more impactful, transformative, and far-reaching.”

The success of the Live With Latasha Women’s Event reinforces its position as a leading platform dedicated to amplifying women’s voices, promoting empowerment, and driving meaningful conversations across Nigeria and beyond.

Plans are already underway for future conversations on the Live With Latasha platform which seeks to discuss issues affecting not just women but every Nigerian in the country and in diaspora.



DECODING THE INSURANCE REFORM ACT: NEW RULES, NEW REALITIES FOR INTERMEDIARIES

ADERONKE ALEX-ADEDIPE

Introduction

On August 5, 2025, the Nigerian Insurance Industry Reform Act (the "Act") was signed into law, reforming the regulatory framework for insurance companies and other entities providing services within the insurance industry. For intermediaries such as insurance agents, brokers, loss adjusters and other stakeholders the new Act seeks to streamline and reform their operational obligations as well as their licensing requirements.

In this article we highlight some key provisions of the Act as they relate to insurance intermediaries, their licensing requirements, penalties for noncompliance and other notable provisions of the Act. Licensing Requirements for Insurance Intermediaries and Penalties for Noncompliance

Insurance Agents

Insurance agents are typically licensed to market, negotiate, or sell insurance products on behalf of an insurance company. The Act provides that individuals or entities who intend to carry on business as insurance agents must first be licensed by the National Insurance Commission (the "Commission"). Where an individual is seeking to be licensed by the Commission, the Act requires that such an individual must possess a certificate of proficiency issued by the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria. Where the agent is a company, one of its principal officers must possess the certificate of proficiency, as well as 10 years experience working in an underwriting company.

In addition, the applicant must not have been convicted of an offence involving fraud or dishonesty. Upon approval of the application by the Commission, the licence shall be due for renewal after a period of 3 years. Previously, agents were required to renew their licenses every year.

Individuals or entities operating without a license are liable to imprisonment for a term of 6 months or a fine of N500,000 or both. The entity or individual may also be required to issue a refund of any payment collected for services rendered while acting as an insurance agent. For licensed insurance companies transacting business with unlicensed insurance agents, such companies shall be liable to a sum five times the premiums received in relation to insurance transactions as penalty.

Insurance Brokers

In contrast to insurance agents, insurance brokers act on behalf of the policyholder. They assess risks, negotiate coverage, and assist policyholders throughout the insurance transaction.

An entity intending to operate as an insurance broker is required to be registered under the Companies and Allied Matters Act ("CAMA"). In addition, a partner or the chief executive officer of such a company must be a member of the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria, belong to a recognized body of registered insurance brokers, and possess relevant cognate insurance experience.

Any person or entity that operates as an insurance broker without registration and licensing by the Commission is liable to a fine of N10,000,000 in the case of a corporate entity, or N5,000,000 or

imprisonment for a term of 12 months in the case of an individual. Furthermore, any licensed insurance company that transacts business with an unlicensed insurance broker, or with an insurance broker whose licence has expired, shall be liable to pay as a penalty the commission due to it on such transactions.

Furthermore, to operate as an insurance broker, the entity must provide comprehensive risk assessment in respect of the insurance policy. The Act also provides that no insurance broker shall engage in the business of reinsurance brokering without the prior approval of the Commission. In addition, an entity licensed to operate as an insurance and reinsurance brokering firm shall neither directly nor indirectly hold more than 10% interest in any insurance company or loss-adjusting company.

An insurance broker is also required to maintain a professional indemnity cover of not less than N100,000,000 or 50% of its preceding year's annual brokerage income, whichever is higher, among other regulatory requirements. Under the Insurance Act 2003, insurance brokers were only required to maintain a professional indemnity cover of 10,000,000 or 50% of their annual income for the preceding year.

Loss Adjusters

Loss adjusters are intermediaries who assess or investigate the compensation due to a policyholder in the event of an insurance claim. This category of intermediaries operates on behalf of the insurance company to determine the extent of the loss or damage and to verify the validity and value of the policyholder's claim. Similar to insurance brokers, loss adjusters are required to be registered under the CAMA. The chief executive officer or executive director of a loss adjusting firm must be a member of the Chartered Insurance Institute of Nigeria as well as a recognized body of loss adjusters. In addition, no partner or director of a company engaged in loss adjustment services shall be concurrently employed by another insurance entity. Upon approval, a loss adjuster's licence shall be renewed every 5 years. In addition, under the Insurance Act 2003, loss adjusters were required to maintain a professional indemnity cover similar to that required of insurance and reinsurance brokers. However, under the Act, this is no longer a requirement. Any person or company operating as a loss adjuster without a valid licence commits an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to a penalty of N500,000 in the case of a company, or N250,000 and imprisonment for a term of twelve (12) months in the case of an individual.

Conclusion

The Act seeks to ensure that only duly licensed intermediaries operate in the insurance value chain and enhance consumer protection whilst also creating an enabling environment for the intermediaries. Ultimately, these reforms are expected to enhance public confidence and promote ethical practices within the insurance industry.

"Aderonke is the Managing Partner and Co-founder of Pavestones, a modern, client-focused, full-service law Practice situated in Nigeria, with a global reach"

THE FUTURE OF WOMEN BEGINS NOW: DESIGNING GIRLS' LIFE OUTCOMES

EKEMINI AKPAKPAN

Every year, in Women's Month, we celebrate women's achievements, resilience, and progress.

But when I think about gender equality, my mind does not immediately go to women. It goes to the girl I used to be. I think about what it meant to grow up as a girl navigating systems that were quietly, but consistently, telling me who I should become as a woman.

In cultural and religious spaces, the subtle and explicit expectations about modesty, silence, and restraint. You learned, often without being told directly, that being "too much" was something to be corrected. That even your own body, in moments as natural as menstruation, could be something to hide or feel ashamed of. But my experience was not singular or linear. In the same breath, I was also exposed to something different. I remember sitting in rooms where my father treated my voice as equal, where conversations were not filtered, where leadership did not feel like a distant or male-defined space. That contrast stayed with me.

This has revealed something fundamental: the experience of a girl is shaped by systems that define a girl's life outcomes — education, health, culture, leadership—working together, sometimes in conflict, to define her possibilities.

And so the question I carry today is this: What kind of world are we creating for the girls who are learning and becoming?

How Girls' Life Outcomes are Shaped

The experience of a girl is shaped by narrow systems that must be interrogated. Because in many ways, we are still designing a world where the needs of girls are secondary, and their potential is narrowly defined.

Take health, for instance. Something as foundational as sanitation in schools—access to clean toilets, menstrual hygiene facilities, and safe spaces—remains inconsistent. When a girl cannot manage her health with dignity, her education is interrupted, her confidence is eroded, and her participation is limited. What should be a natural life stage becomes a barrier to opportunity.

Education, too, is not neutral. Beyond access, it carries messages through textbooks, teacher expectations, and peer environments about what girls can become. When girls are consistently represented in limited roles, or subtly discouraged from certain paths, the system does more than educate; it defines the boundaries of their ambition.

Leadership follows the same pattern. From an early age, girls are often positioned as supporters rather than leaders—the deputy, the assistant, the one who helps but does not take centre stage. Over time, this conditions not just how others see them, but how they see themselves.

And then there are culture and religion; the most powerful, and often the least interrogated, systems of all. These spaces shape identity, meaning, and purpose.

But when they reinforce narrow definitions of what a girl should be, often centred around only being "wife material", they do more than guide behaviour; they limit imagination.

Individually, each of these systems produces a pattern that consistently teaches girls to shrink and to fit into a world that was not designed with them at the centre. And this is how life outcomes are shaped.

Making Girls Masters of Their Destinies and World

I remember attending a fellowship bootcamp years ago, working on a capstone project that asked us to define a vision we cared deeply about. Mine was simple, but it has stayed with me ever since: making girls masters of their destinies and their world.

Even now, it moves me. Because I realise this is not just an idea, it is a question I have been trying to answer for most of my life. What does it actually take to build a world where a girl is not conditioned to be second? Where she does not have to shrink to belong, but is equipped to expand into her full potential?

If this article has made anything clear, it is this: life outcomes are not accidental. They are designed. And if that is true, then the responsibility before us is equally clear: we must design differently.

The systems that shape human development—education, healthcare, social norms, and leadership pathways—are not neutral. They determine how girls learn, how they experience their bodies, how they see themselves, and ultimately, what they believe is possible for their lives. To change outcomes, we must therefore change these systems.

We must build education systems that expand identity, not restrict it. Where girls are exposed to possibilities, encouraged to think critically, and supported to pursue paths beyond prescribed roles.

We must strengthen health systems to recognise and respond to the realities of girls' lives, ensuring access to menstrual health support, safe infrastructure, and information that affirms, rather than stigmatises, their bodies.

We must intentionally create leadership pathways where girls practise power early. Where they are not positioned as assistants, but as decision-makers in their own right.

And we must confront cultural and religious norms where they limit potential—preserving what affirms dignity, while challenging what enforces silence, shame, or smallness.

Final Thought

This is not abstract work. It is practical everyday design. Because a girl who grows up in a system that treats her as capable will not need to spend adulthood unlearning limitation. She will simply lead.

And perhaps that is the shift we need to make—not just celebrating women for overcoming barriers, but building a world where girls do not encounter them in the first place. A world where they are, from the very beginning, masters of their destinies and their world.

THE EMOTIONAL LABOUR OF BEING A BLACK ARTIST GLOBALLY

Visibility, in the global art world, is rarely a simple act of being seen—it is a negotiation, often unequal, between presence and projection.

To be visible is to be interpreted, often quickly and from a distance. For Black African artists, that interpretation rarely begins from a blank slate. It is shaped by pre-existing narratives about the continent, history, politics, and identity that arrive before the work is even encountered. What might appear, on the surface, as opportunity or recognition can also function as a kind of framing device, narrowing how the work is received and what is expected of it. Visibility opens doors, certainly, but it also fixes attention in particular ways, and that attention is not always gentle or expansive.

In this digest, we focus on what that negotiation quietly demands. It moves through the layered realities Black African artists encounter as they enter and circulate within global art systems: the pressure of representation, the ongoing burden of translating one's work across cultural expectations, the emotional dissonance of mobility, and the subtle but persistent weight of unspoken curatorial and market demands.

TOP PICKS FROM OUR COLLECTION



Title: Work in the shadows • Artist: Aza Mansongi • Medium: Oil painting on canvas
• Dimensions: 14 x 18 in | 36 x 46 cm •
Available on Request



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Title: Apart Of Us IV • Artist: Anita Cudjoe •
Medium: Plastic rice bags on photography
• Dimensions: 18 x 23 in | 46 x 58 cm •
Available on Request



Title: The spotlight • Artist: Emmanuel Dudu • Medium: Oil on canvas • Dimensions: 12 x 16 in | 30.5 x 40.6 cm
• Available on Request

Visibility Is Not Neutral

Across cities like Lagos, Nairobi, and Johannesburg, artists For many Black African artists, recognition arrives tethered to expectation. International exhibitions, whether at the Venice Biennale, documenta, or major commercial galleries in London and New York, rarely offer a neutral stage. Instead, they position artists within a framework that quietly asks: Who do you represent? It is a question that folds geography, politics, and identity into the work, sometimes before the work has had a chance to speak on its own terms. Artists such as Ibrahim Mahama or Zanele Muholi have navigated this terrain with remarkable clarity, yet even in their cases, curatorial framing often leans heavily on national or continental narratives. The pressure is subtle but persistent: the sense that visibility is conditional, contingent on fulfilling an unspoken role.

The Burden of Translation

That pressure extends into language. The act of making work becomes inseparable from the act of explaining it. In artist talks, interviews, and walkthroughs, African artists are frequently called upon to translate not just their materials or concepts, but entire histories. The expectation to contextualise, sometimes repeatedly, sometimes reductively, can feel like a second, unpaid practice. In conversations published by platforms like Frieze or The Guardian, artists have alluded to this fatigue: the sense that their work is approached as a cultural artefact first and an artistic proposition second. Translation, in this sense, becomes emotional labour, an ongoing calibration between clarity and self-preservation.

Mobility, Displacement, and Distance

Mobility complicates things further. Residencies in Berlin, teaching positions in the United States, and gallery representation in Paris – these markers of success often require physical and psychological distance from home. The movement is celebrated, but the dislocation is quieter. Artists speak, sometimes cautiously, about the tension between global circulation and local belonging. There is a risk of becoming legible abroad while feeling increasingly estranged from the contexts that shaped the work in the first place. The studio, wherever it is, carries that tension.

Soft Expectations and Invisible Pressures

Alongside this are softer, less visible pressures. The expectation to produce work that is “African enough,” politically resonant, or rooted in trauma rarely appears in contracts or curatorial briefs. Yet it surfaces in patterns—what gets collected, what gets reviewed, and what travels. It is felt in the kinds of questions artists are asked and the kinds of work that receive sustained attention. These pressures can shape decisions in ways that are difficult to name without sounding ungrateful or defensive. And so they often remain internalised, absorbed into the process.

Care, Boundaries, and Refusal

Still, there are shifts. Some artists are quietly refusing these terms—turning away from prescribed narratives, experimenting outside expected themes, or controlling how their work is framed. Others are setting boundaries in interviews, declining to over-explain, or insisting on opacity where once there was pressure for openness. These gestures are not always dramatic, but they matter. They signal a recalibration of agency.

To be seen, then, is not simply to occupy space. It is to navigate a complex web of expectations, projections, and negotiations—many of which remain invisible to the audience. The work travels, circulates, and accrues meaning. But what does it take, internally, to sustain that visibility without losing something quieter, more private, along the way?



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

FOOTBALL'S SHIRT KINGS: TOP 10 IN 2025/26

ANTHONY NLEBEM



Global football's commercial powerhouses have once again underlined their dominance, with Real Madrid leading the world in jersey sales for the 2025/26 season, according to data from Euromerica Sport Marketing.

The Spanish giants recorded more than 3.1 million shirts sold, reaffirming their status as the most commercially successful club brand in football. The arrival of Kylian Mbappé and the continued rise of Vinícius Júnior have significantly boosted demand, turning on-field success into retail dominance.

Europe's Elite Lead the Market

Close behind are Barcelona with 2.94 million shirts sold, demonstrating remarkable fan loyalty despite ongoing financial challenges. The Catalan club's identity and youth-driven philosophy continue to resonate globally.

Paris Saint-Germain follow with approximately 2.55 million units, maintaining strong global appeal even after the departure of Lionel Messi. Their blend of football, fashion, and lifestyle branding remains a key commercial driver.

Bayern Munich's (2.38 million) sales continue to benefit from domestic dominance and consistent UEFA Champions League visibility, particularly in Asian markets.

Inter Miami's Commercial Breakthrough

One of the standout stories is Inter Miami, which recorded 2.17 million jersey sales. The MLS side's surge highlights football's expanding commercial frontier beyond Europe, driven by star power and global visibility.

Full Top 10 Jersey Sales Rankings (2025/26)

Real Madrid – 3.13 million
 Barcelona – 2.94 million
 Paris Saint-Germain – 2.55 million
 Bayern Munich – 2.38 million
 Inter Miami – 2.17 million
 Boca Juniors – 1.93 million
 Manchester United – 1.86 million
 Flamengo – 1.68 million
 Chelsea – 1.40 million
 Al-Nassr – 1.20 million

Star Power Drives Sales

Modern football merchandising is increasingly driven by elite players. Mbappé's move to Madrid is a textbook example of how high-profile transfers can immediately influence shirt sales.

Similarly, emerging talents are shaping the next wave of commercial growth, helping clubs connect with younger global audiences.



Beyond Shirts: The Value of Football Memorabilia
While current jersey sales reflect global fan engagement, historical match-worn shirts continue to command record-breaking valuations. Diego Maradona's iconic 1986 World Cup "Hand of God" jersey remains the most expensive ever sold, fetching over £7 million, while memorabilia from Lionel Messi's 2022 World Cup campaign also reached multimillion-dollar figures.

Commercial Growth and Global Influence

Sponsorship deals and kit pricing further underline football's commercial evolution. Real Madrid's lucrative agreement with Emirates, alongside similar deals involving PSG and Qatar Airways, highlights the financial ecosystem surrounding elite clubs.

With authentic match kits now retailing for above \$150 in many markets, jerseys have evolved from simple sportswear into global cultural assets—symbols of identity, loyalty, and commercial power.



TO ALL THE HENRYS

UDY OSARO-EDOBOR

When Henry was born, two cries filled the room that day, his and his sister's, Henrietta. They said she held his finger even as a baby, like she knew they came into the world together and had to stay that way. But at one year old, measles came quietly and took her.

Henry did not understand death. He only knew that the other side of the mat was suddenly empty. The little girl that used play with him and sleep beside him was gone and the house became quieter after that.

At two, he lost his mother. People came and went, there were voices spoken over him, around him but never to him. He didn't understand what was going on except that his mother was nowhere in the house.

At four, his father had remarried and the new wife did not want a child that wasn't hers. That's how Henry became luggage. Passed from one relative to another and each house had a reason not to keep him. Too many children. Not enough money. Not their responsibility. Until he was sent to live with Aunt Sisi in Ajegunle.

Aunt Sisi did not open the door with joy. She stood there, looking at the small boy with tired eyes. She knew what it meant. Another mouth to feed. Another life tied to hers. She wasn't ready for this type of responsibility but his mother had been kind to her in the past so she stepped aside and let him in. She did not like the world she had brought him into.

Her room was small and dingy. The air was stale. Men came and went at odd hours. Henry learned early to stay quiet, to stay in corners, to pretend he was not there. Aunt Sisi was a runs girl. That was how she survived. It was not a life she was proud of but it was the life she knew.

At night, when the house was finally still, she would watch him sleep. The boy never disturbed. Never cried unnecessarily. There was a calmness in him that did not match his age.

After a terrible abortion that nearly took her life, the doctor told her she would never have children. That night, she came home and sat on the floor. Henry walked to her quietly and placed his small hand on her shoulder. No words. Just presence.

That was the moment something shifted in her. She did not give birth to him but she chose him. From that day, Henry became her son. She began to notice things. How quickly he learned. How he would sit with a book and not move for hours. How he asked questions that made adults pause before answering. Henry was different.

Aunt Sisi made a decision. She would train him in school as far as he could go.

She did not know any other way to make money, so she worked harder. Longer nights and more risks. She saved every naira she could, she borrowed money from a loan app and added to her savings then she travelled to Dubai.

When she came back, she came back different. She had bought jewelry, clothes, shoes and bags. It was a small idea that slowly became a business but it was not easy. Some days, she made nothing. Some days she lost money. But she did not stop.

The business grew. Little by little, she moved out of Ajegunle. The new place was not big but it was clean. It was quiet. It was safe and in that neighborhood, nobody knew her past. They called her Mama Henry and she wore that name like a badge.

From primary school to university level, he kept rising. First in class. Then best in school. Then best in state. Then among the best in the country. Medals came. Each one meant something to her. Each one was a testament of her sacrifice and his hard work. Each one felt like proof that she made the right decision to take him into her life and her home. Awards followed. Scholarships and open doors she had never imagined.

Because of Henry, she met people she had only seen on television. Because of Henry, people shook her hand with respect. Because of Henry, she had stopped running at night. Because of Henry, she became a businesswoman. Because of Henry, she knew what it meant to be a mother. Because of Henry, she was happy. He was proof that something good could come out of her and she did not take it for granted. Sometimes she would sit and watch him read and she would smile to herself. The future felt bright.

Henry got five international university admissions and he chose the one that gave him the best option... good allowance and a yearly visit for his mother. He left for the United States and Aunt Sisi cried the day he left. Not from sadness but from pride.

Years passed and Henry did not disappoint. At 27, he returned home with a PhD. Job offers came immediately from big companies with good money. Again, Henry chose the best.

Aunt Sisi began to plan a party. She did not know what to call it. Welcome party. Celebration party. It did not matter.

Her son was home, he was making her proud... that was enough.
The party would hold just before he resumed at his new job.

The last stage before resuming work was a medical check. It was supposed to be routine. Henry also mentioned a persistent flu and the doctor prescribed a flu shot.

Earlier that day, Nurse Elizabeth's world had fallen apart. She had broken up with her cheating boyfriend and she was nursing a broken heart. She walked into the doctor's room distracted. Instructions were clear but her hands did something else. Instead of a simple flu shot, Henry was given an intravenous benzodiazepine meant for another patient. She had administered a high dose and did not realize immediately until Henry's body began to give way. His breathing changed and he slowly slipped into unconsciousness.

Panic followed.
Calls for help. Running feet. Urgent voices. Machines were connected. Tubes. Monitors. Needles but Henry did not wake up. Hours turned into days.

They fought for him. But the drug had already gone deep. Henry's body was shutting down. His breathing weakened. His brain slowed. His system struggled under the weight of what it was never meant to receive. He did not wake up.

Aunty Sisi sat by his bed, holding his hand. She spoke to him. Begged him.
Nothing moved. There was no improvement. There would be no improvement.
When they told her about pulling the plug, she shook her head. No. Not Henry.
Not after everything. But the machines were the only thing keeping him there.

The day they turned everything off, the room became too quiet. Aunty Sisi remembered when Henrietta died, she remembered when his mother died.
History had come back for him.
She did not scream. She was numb. Something inside her folded and did not rise again.

Later, the chart showed a high dose of the medication administered in error, the hospital carefully manipulated the files, covered their tracks neatly and fired nurse Elizabeth quietly.

And that was the end of it.
No answers.
No justice.
No accountability.

Aunty Sisi was left with her thoughts.
Maybe it was her village people.
Maybe it was her enemies.
Maybe Henry's father. Maybe the wife.
Maybe jealous people. Maybe the devil.

If only she knew it wasn't spiritual.
If only she knew her son was not taken by enemies. He was taken by negligence. By a system that no longer saw patients as lives but as routines.
Henry's life was cut short by a system that failed. A system that makes mistakes and buries them.

Weeks passed. Aunty Sisi became a shadow. Her body shrank. Her clothes hung loosely. Food lost meaning and she couldn't sleep. She sat in silence most days, staring at nothing. Everything she had built now felt empty.
The house. The business. The pride. Empty!!

People came to check on her but she barely spoke. She had gone somewhere they could not reach. A place where grief sits and refuses to move. She had lost too much.
Henry was her reason and Henry was gone.

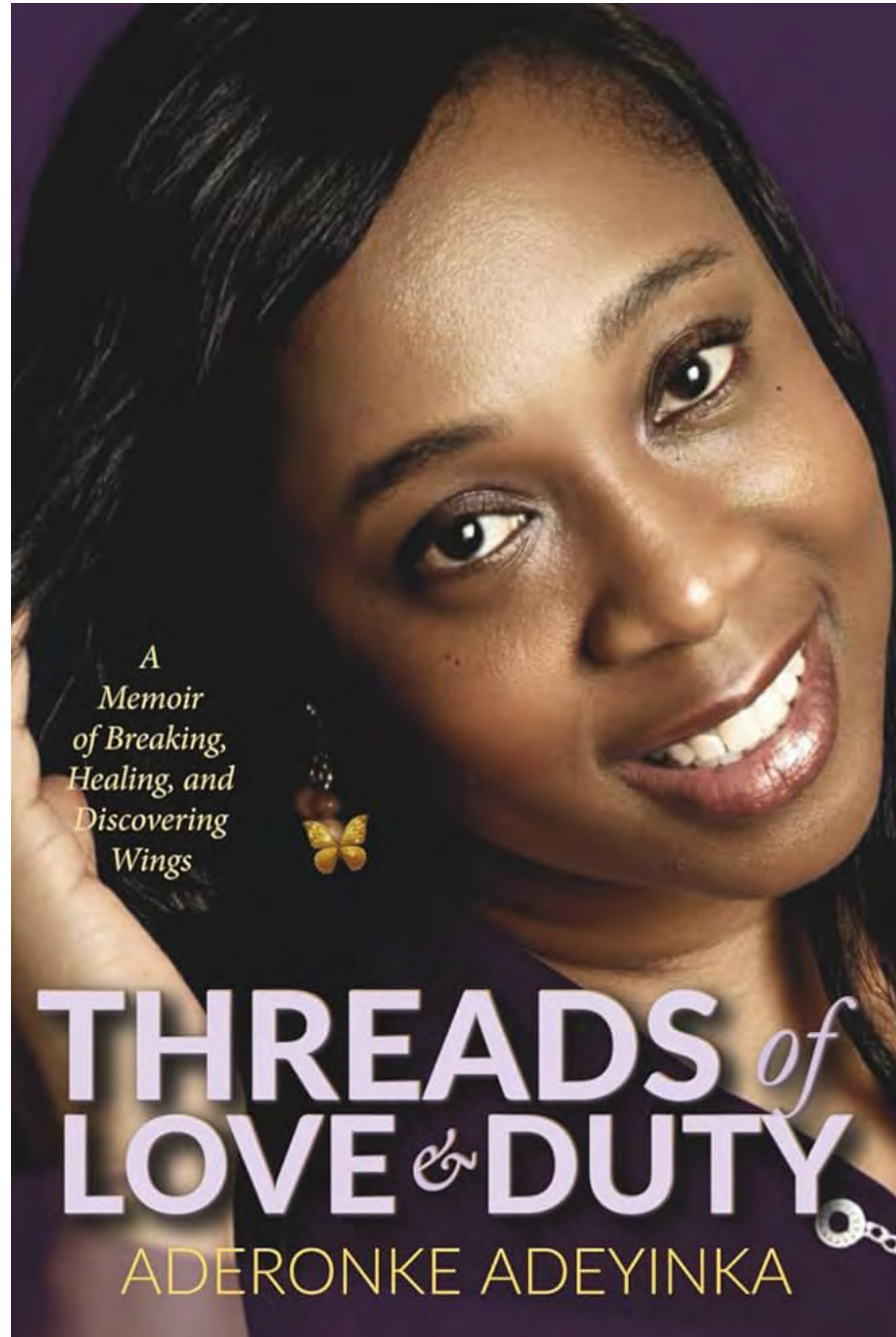
How does a place meant to save lives become the place where life quietly ends?
Yes, the oath to protect lives had been taken but somewhere along the way, it lost its meaning, that oath had become a lie. And Henry like several others paid for it with their lives.



Udy Osaro-Edobor

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Love in Its Hardest Form-A Review of Aderonke Adeyinka's
Threads of Love and Duty

Title: Threads of Love and Duty
Author: Aderonke Adeyinka
Year of Publication: 2026
Number of Pages: 243
Category: Memoir

THREADS OF LOVE AND DUTY

TITILADE OYEMADE

The beautiful face on the cover of *Threads of Love and Duty* draws you in almost instantly. There is a quiet elegance about it. Calm, composed, almost reassuring. But beneath that calm lies a story that will shake you and stretch you.

Aderonke Adeyinka invites you into her world with open honesty. On June 28, 2016, her life takes a turn she never saw coming. What was once a peaceful, predictable life suddenly becomes one filled with hospital corridors, unanswered questions, and a new identity she never asked for, caregiver.

From Lagos to Ibadan, Osun to Kano, and even Ghana, her story moves across places yet stays anchored in something deeply personal: love tested under pressure. Seeing a loved one decline from strength to fragility is a kind of pain that is hard to put into words but she captures it perfectly. And she does so with remarkable skill.

Aderonke is not just telling a story, she is reliving it with you. Her memories are vivid, almost unsettling in their detail. You don't just read about hospital visits; you sit in those waiting rooms. You don't just hear about her tears; you feel them. Her storytelling pulls you so close that, at times, it becomes impossible to separate her emotions from yours.

There is something incredibly endearing about her voice. She writes with the warmth of someone you trust instantly, like that wise, honest aunty who tells you the truth, even when it's uncomfortable. She does not pretend to be strong all the time, and that is where her strength truly lies. In her vulnerability. In her willingness to say, "I was not okay."

The book also offers a refreshingly honest look at marriage. Yes, there is love. Yes, there is commitment. But there is also struggle, exhaustion, and moments of doubt. Through her journey, one thing becomes clear, love alone is not enough. Marriage requires resilience, sacrifice, and a depth of commitment that many are not prepared for. It quietly asks the reader: are you truly ready for "in sickness and in health"?

Be warned, this is not a dry read. It is deeply emotional. There will be moments when you have to pause, not because the book is slow, but because it is too real. Yet, just when the weight feels too heavy, Aderonke offers you something else, hope. She shows you what it means to turn pain into purpose, to rise even when life tries to keep you down.

One of the most powerful themes in the book is caregiving, the silent, often overlooked burden carried by so many. Through her story, you begin to ask an important question: who cares for the caregiver? The book itself quietly raises

this same question. In these moments, it feels less like a memoir and more like a mirror for anyone who has walked that path.

Her attention to detail is remarkable. Every moment, every face, every act of kindness is remembered. At times, it almost feels unbelievable until other voices, like her daughter and sister, step in to affirm that this story is not only real, but shared. It leaves you wondering about her husband's voice too perhaps a story waiting to be told.

What makes *Threads of Love and Duty* truly unforgettable is its honesty. There is no attempt to sugarcoat reality. There is no performance. Just truth, raw, emotional, and deeply human.

By the end of the book, you are not the same person who started it. You carry her story with you. You reflect on your own life, your own relationships, your own strength. And most importantly, you are reminded of something we often forget, pain, no matter how heavy, can be transformed into something meaningful.

This is not just a book you read. It is a book you experience.



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WEEKENDER

MOVIE REVIEW

PEAKY BLINDERS, THE IMMORTAL MAN (2026)

If you enjoy war movies then this brand-new movie will be worth your while, for me it's being back-to-back war and action movies and I have been loving it. In this movie the Nazi interests penetrate into Birmingham underworld. Erasmus was the son of Tommy Shelby "the infamous gang boss".

Tommy must fight with his son to destroy the bad guy who was acting as the spy to destroy the British economy. You will need to watch this movie to discover if Erasmus killed his aunt, if he betrayed his father & people for money or stood by them, you must be patient and wait for the movie till the last scene.

The 114m violence, sex, nudity, language, substances, British, Crime Drama movie was directed by Tom Harper, they featured actors like Cillian Murphy, Rebecca Ferguson, Tim Roth, Barry Keoghan, Stephen Graham, Sophie Rundle, Packy Lee, Jay Lyncurgo, Ned Dennehy, Ian Peck etc.



22ND JULY (2018)

This movie was based on true life events, and it got me thinking how these bad guys think and conceive these evil plans, how they manage and execute it without being caught and yet claim that it's for a good cause. This movie was very emotional and touching. I wish the world could be a better place. In this movie, a young terrorist plans and executes 2 major attacks in Norway simultaneously, first he bombs the top government sector in the main city center, then he goes to shoot down all the teens who were present at a leadership camp on an island. You will need to check out this movie to see how he planned the entire mission, how he executed it, how he got himself the best lawyer and got a reduced sentence. This didn't go down with the teens who survived, they all came together and decided to fight back to save their communities in Norway. The 143 min Crime drama, thriller, film based on books, courtroom film, social issues, based on real life was directed by Paul Greengrass, they featured actors like Jonas Strand Gravli, Anders Danielsen Lie, Jon Øigarden, Maria Bock, Thorbjørn Harr, Isak Bakli Aglen, Ola G. Furuset and many more.



ISS & OSSI (2020)

For those of you who haven't seen any German movies in recent times then you might want to check this movie out. It was a simple drama movie; it wasn't bad after all. In the movie, Isi was the daughter of a billionaire, she was the only child, her parents loved her so much and wanted the best for her, but that wasn't what Isi wanted. She wanted to go to the best culinary school so that she could become a chef, but her parents wanted her to go to the university. To cajole her parents to give her access to her funds which was not due her till she was 25 years old, she must do the unthinkable to frustrate her parents to allow her access the money and surely to be a chef. You will need to go check out this movie to see the level she had this, what she did to coerce her parents and if they later agreed. The 113m German, romantic comedy films, romance movie was directed by Oliver Kienle, this movie featured acts like Lisa Vicari, Dennis Mojen, Walid Al-Atiyat, Christina Hecke, Zoe Straub, Lisa Hagmeister, Ernst Stotzner etc.



WEEKEND QUOTES



1

Contacts are not accidental;
they only expire once their
role gets scrapped
.....WhispersbyTEN

2

Value is all you offer a fellow
human being because God has
made all things and doesn't rely
on anyone
.....WhispersbyTEN

3

Why still act as though you
are in the storm when you are
already walking on it. You are
free, enjoy liberty
.....WhispersbyTEN

4

If you don't ask, you will
remain in the storm. Peter
said: "Bid me come
.....WhispersbyTEN