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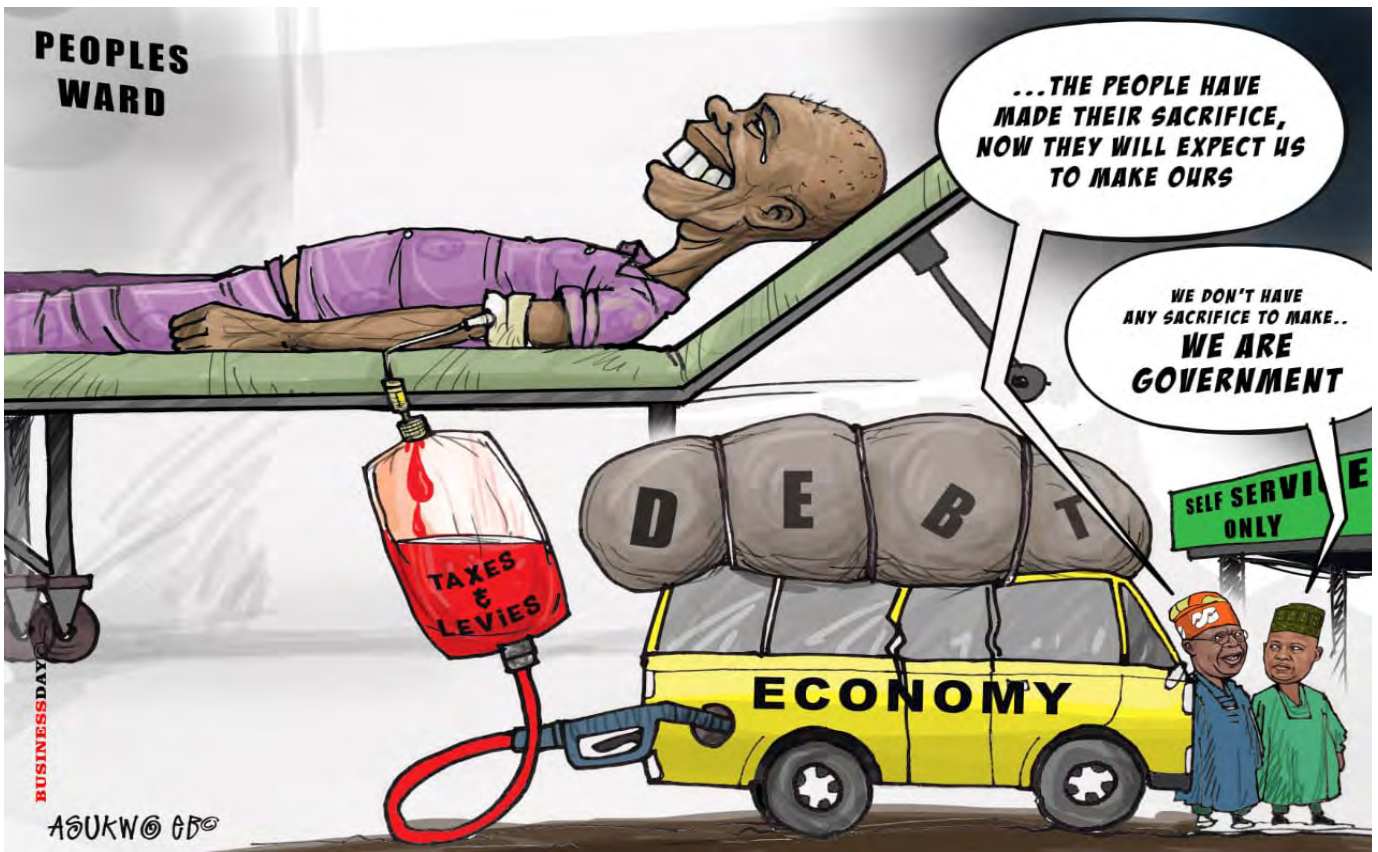
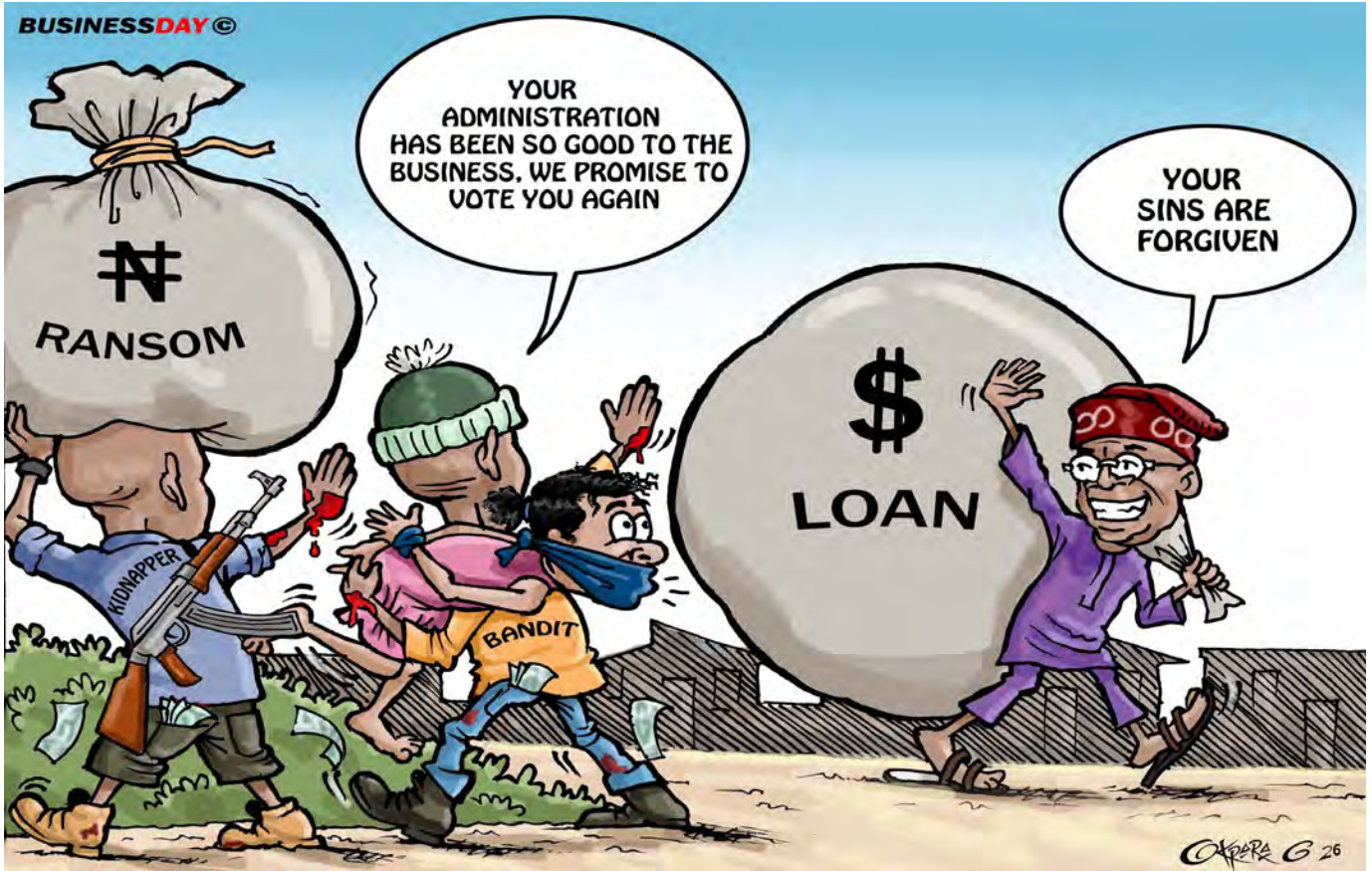




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WOMEN WANT TO BE HEARD, NOT SAVED': YOMI WILCOX CHALLENGES TRADITIONAL ADVOCACY





In an era saturated with corporate catchphrases around female empowerment, Iya Henry (IH) is building an alternative model. Founded in 2020 by Yomi Wilcox, a brand strategist, educator, and creative director the tech-enabled organization provides curated spaces for women to engage with the realities of modern life without the pressure of performance.

Iya Henry (IH) is a Women-focused, tech-enabled and impact-driven organisation creating spaces where women can engage honestly with the realities of modern womanhood through community, conversation, storytelling, curated experiences and support systems. By leveraging technology—most notably through its “Listening Line”—IH moves beyond traditional, location-bound women’s support groups to cultivate a decentralized ecosystem of trust and shared humanity.

In an exclusive interview, with Lehlé Baldé and Ifeoma Okeke-Korieocha; Yomi Wilcox speaks on dismantling the “helpless” advocacy framework, the systemic intersection of childhood education and adult reinvention, and why corporate institutions must stop treating employee well-being as a secondary issue.

You’ve stated that IH recognizes women as “capable and high-functioning” rather than “broken.” Why was it important to shift the advocacy narrative away from the traditional “help the helpless” model?

For a long time, many conversations around women have unconsciously been framed around fixing deficits — what women lack, what women need saving from, or where women are struggling. While challenges absolutely exist, I felt there was room for a different lens.

Speaking to women from a position of helping the helpless reinforces the belief that they are not enough and require a saviour to come and rescue them or give them permission to save themselves. It reinforces the belief that without the education from, the resources of or intervention of another hope is fleeting.

The women I encounter daily are intelligent, resilient, productive and deeply capable. They are leading teams, building businesses, pursuing careers, nurturing communities, creating opportunities and navigating multiple responsibilities in different ways. The issue is often not capability; it is having spaces that recognize their humanity beyond their functionality.

One of the things that shaped IH was recognizing that support should not always begin with the assumption that people need solutions. Sometimes they simply need room to speak honestly. That thinking influenced initiatives like our Listening Line — a space designed to give women room to vent, process and be heard without immediately being met with condescending advice or attempts to “fix” them. Sometimes women want to be heard, not saved. IH was built around the belief that support does not only exist for people in crisis. Strong people also need community, reflection and spaces that sustain them.

How does being a “tech-enabled” organization change the way you deliver community and support compared to traditional women’s groups?

Technology allows community to move beyond geography and scheduled interactions into something more continuous and accessible.

Traditional support systems often rely heavily on physical gatherings or occasional meetings. While those remain valuable, technology allows us to create multiple touchpoints that fit into the realities of modern life. For example, our Listening Line uses technology to create accessible channels where women can speak, process experiences and feel heard in a way that feels intimate and immediate. We also use technology to host virtual hangouts, community conversations, shared experiences and resource-driven interactions that allow women to connect regardless of where they are. Technology also helps us create more personalized experiences because women are not a single demographic with identical needs.



A young professional navigating identity and purpose, an entrepreneur building a business, a woman transitioning careers or someone redefining herself after a major life change may all need different forms of support. Being tech-enabled allows us to meet women where they are rather than expecting everyone to fit into one model of community.

You speak about women navigating “increasingly layered lives.” In your view, what is the single biggest challenge modern Nigerian women face that isn’t being discussed in mainstream corporate circles?

I would hesitate to identify one single challenge because women are not a monolithic group and our experiences are incredibly diverse. I think, the belief that there is a single biggest issue might be the issue in and of itself.

Not every woman is married. Not every woman is a mother. Not every woman is balancing family responsibilities alongside a career. Different women are navigating different realities and different pressures.

What I do think deserves more conversation is the pressure many women experience to fit into predefined expectations of what success, fulfilment or womanhood should look like.

For some women, that pressure may exist around career progression. For others, it may relate to marriage, motherhood, financial independence, entrepreneurship, identity or personal choices.

Mainstream corporate conversations often focus heavily on professional milestones while paying less attention to the complexity of the person behind the role. Many women today are trying to build lives that are authentic to who they are while simultaneously managing external expectations from society, culture and even social media. I think creating room for more honest and nuanced conversations around that complexity is important.

How has your background in branding and development strategy influenced the way you curated the IH experience?

Branding taught me that people do not simply buy products; they connect with experiences, emotions and meaning.

Development strategy taught me that intentions are not enough. You need systems, structure and measurable outcomes.

So with IH, we intentionally curated an experience rather than simply building a platform. Every touchpoint matters — the language, the visuals, the environment, the conversations and even what people feel when they enter the space. Women already live in environments where they are constantly performing. We wanted to create something that felt thoughtful, non-performative and authentic.

Community is a word many organizations use. What makes the IH community experience intentionally different?

Community has become a very popular word, but proximity alone does not automatically create connection. You can place thousands of people in a WhatsApp group or online space and still have people feel unseen. At IH, community is intentionally curated rather than simply assembled. We are not trying to build a crowd; we are trying to build meaningful relationships and experiences. That means paying attention to culture, not just numbers. It means creating spaces where women feel safe enough to speak honestly, where listening matters as much as speaking and where interactions go beyond networking or surface-level engagement. Our Listening Line, virtual hangouts and community experiences are designed around genuine connection because we believe women should not have to perform strength or perfection to belong. The goal is not simply access to people; it is access to support, understanding and shared humanity.

IH describes itself as “a safe space for women to exist without explanation.” What does that actually look like in practice beyond being a slogan?

For us, a safe space is not simply a room where people are allowed to speak. It is an environment intentionally designed around trust, respect and authenticity.

In practice, it means women do not have to arrive with perfectly packaged stories or polished versions of themselves. They do not have to justify every life choice, defend every season they are in or constantly prove productivity and strength.

Sometimes existing without explanation means having a difficult day and not feeling pressure to immediately turn it into a lesson. Sometimes it means being able to say, “I am figuring things out.” Sometimes it means being able to vent without immediately receiving unsolicited advice. We want women to feel that they can enter IH spaces and just be themselves.

Many platforms focus on empowering women to do more. Does IH promote the messaging of doing more and being more?

I think women today already receive enormous messaging around becoming more — be more productive, be more successful, be more present, be more accomplished, do more, achieve more. While growth and ambition are important, I do not think every conversation around women should begin with adding more pressure.



IH is less focused on telling women they need to become someone else and more focused on creating room for women to acknowledge and understand who they already are. Sometimes growth looks like building a business or stepping into leadership. Sometimes growth looks like resting, setting boundaries or changing direction. We are not interested in promoting endless performance. We are interested in supporting authentic evolution.

In an era of social media influencers, how does Iya Henry distinguish between “having a following” and “building an impact-driven support system”?

Reach and impact are not necessarily the same thing. A following can create visibility, but visibility alone does not always create transformation. Impact requires consistency, trust and meaningful outcomes. At IH, success is not measured simply by audience size. We ask different questions: Are women finding support systems? Are they having healthier conversations? Are they feeling seen? Are meaningful relationships and opportunities being created?

For us, depth matters as much as scale.

Your work spans lifestyle, wellness, education and entrepreneurship. How do these different ventures connect with the broader mission of Iya Henry?

At first glance they may appear like separate ventures, but for me they all sit under the same philosophy: creating experiences and systems that improve everyday life. Food, wellness, education, self-care and community all influence how people live and function. Lekki Living, the frozen ready-meal business addresses practical realities around time and nourishment. ASq Life, a self-care brand speaks to restoration and intentional living. My work in education, through The Rock Montessori School, shapes growth and development.

IH exists at the intersection of many of those ideas because women do not experience life in separate categories. Our personal well-being, work, relationships, growth and environment constantly influence one another.

As a Director of The Rock Montessori School, a Christian nursery and primary school, how does your experience in early childhood education inform your perspective on growth and evolution in adult women?

Working with children teaches you something powerful: growth is rarely linear. Children learn through exploration, mistakes, repetition and encouragement. They need safe environments where they are given room to develop at

their own pace. I don't think adults are different. Many women are navigating seasons of rediscovery and reinvention. Some are revisiting dreams they paused years ago. Others are entering entirely new chapters of life. My experience in education constantly reminds me that people flourish when they are given support, patience and space to grow.

Why should conversations around well-being and community matter to businesses and institutions, not just individuals?

Human beings thrive through connection and companionship. I once read a thought that stayed with me: “It is not good for man to be alone.” Simply put, people need people.

Now people do not stop being human when they enter workplaces. Employees, leaders and entrepreneurs do not leave their experiences, responsibilities or personal realities at the door. Staff well-being influences how people think, collaborate, create and lead. Organisations often focus heavily on performance outcomes, but sustainable productivity is built on healthy people operating within healthy environments.

When people feel supported and connected, they become more engaged, more creative and better able to contribute meaningfully. Community and well-being should not be viewed as soft issues or secondary conversations; they are essential components of building stronger institutions, healthier cultures and ultimately stronger societies.

As you scale Iya Henry, what is your vision for the organization's role in Nigeria's creative and business ecosystem over the next five years?

My vision is for Iya Henry to become a living network of support, opportunity and growth rather than simply a platform. I see IH creating spaces where community, technology, creativity, business and social impact intersect. I see opportunities for mentorship, partnerships, learning experiences, content creation and initiatives that help women build meaningful lives and meaningful work. I would like IH to become a trusted institution that helps women not only navigate life but also create, contribute and thrive.

Ultimately, I want women to encounter IH and feel seen, supported and equipped to evolve into the fullest versions of themselves.

To know more about Iya Henry, you can visit its website www.IyaHenry.com and Instagram handle @IyaHenry

MEET 17YR OLD GENIUS ABDULAI OJONIMI WHO SCORED 347 IN UTME, EMERGING INTERSWITCH SPAK ACHIEVER

CHARLES OGWO



Teen brilliance continues to shine in Nigeria as 17-year-old Abdulai Ojonimi of Christ the King College (CKC), Abuja, records an outstanding 347 score in the 2026 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

Beyond his exceptional academic performance, the young scholar has also distinguished himself as an Interswitch SPAK

achiever, further cementing his reputation as one of the country's promising young minds in science and technology.

Born on October 7, 2009, Ojonimi hails from Ofu Local Government Area of Kogi State, he is the first of four children of Danjuma Abdulai and Blessing Abdulai, whose unwavering support and encouragement have played a significant role in his educational journey.

Ojonimi aspires to study Medicine at the University of Ibadan, his institution of first choice. Beyond academics, he enjoys listening to music, drawing, and watching movies or television series as healthy ways to relax after intensive study sessions.

Emma Ogu, the principal of CKC Gwagwalada-Abuja, in his comment, said, “Christ the King College, Gwagwalada, proudly celebrates one of its shining stars, Abdulai Ojonimi, who emerged as the college’s highest scorer in the 2026 UTME with an outstanding score of 347.

“This remarkable achievement places him among the top-performing candidates in the country and brings great honour to the CKC community. His success reflects years of dedication, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to academic excellence.”

Ojonimi’s journey to this achievement has been marked by consistency and a genuine passion for learning. Long before sitting for the UTME, he cultivated the habit of studying ahead of schedule, revising consistently, and challenging himself with advanced questions.

His teachers describe him as attentive, respectful, and highly motivated, while his classmates know him as a supportive peer who willingly explains difficult concepts and shares useful study strategies.

For Ojonimi, excellence is not a one-time event but a lifestyle shaped by daily commitment and determination. His academic ability was further demonstrated through his participation in the 2025 Interswitch SPAK National Science Competition, a prestigious contest for SS2 students across Nigeria in the core STEM subjects of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Mathematics.

In preparation for the competition, Ojonimi devoted several months to intensive

study, using the opportunity to master his science syllabuses far ahead of classroom expectations.

This rigorous preparation sharpened both his speed and accuracy in problem-solving while also boosting his confidence for future examinations, including the UTME. His hard work earned him a place in the semifinals of the competition, ranking him among the top 15 SS2 science students nationwide.

What makes Ojonimi’s story particularly inspiring is not only his academic achievements but also the character behind them. He is widely admired for his humility, calm disposition, and willingness to help others succeed.

Within the school community, he regularly tutors classmates, leads group discussions, and asks thoughtful questions that enrich classroom learning. He carries the name of Christ the King College with dignity and pride, demonstrating that true excellence combines knowledge, integrity, leadership, and service.

Ojonimi’s greatest motivation remains his desire to continually push beyond limits, maximise his potential, and achieve his dreams.

His story serves as a powerful reminder that through hard work, perseverance, discipline, and faith, greatness is attainable. The entire CKC community looks forward to seeing him attain even greater heights in the years ahead and prays for God’s continued guidance, wisdom, and success in all his future endeavours.

The management, staff, and students of Christ the King College, Gwagwalada congratulate Ojonimi on his exceptional achievements in both the 2026 UTME and the Interswitch SPAK competition.

FLUENT FOODIE: 10 CULINARY WORDS TO LEARN BEFORE YOUR NEXT DINNER DATE

ESTHER EMOEKPERE



Food content is everywhere now. One scroll through TikTok, Instagram or YouTube and you will hear people casually throwing around words like “gourmet,” “umami” or “artisan” like everybody was born knowing what they mean.

Somehow, food has developed its own language, and if you are not deeply immersed in restaurant culture or online food spaces, it can sometimes feel like people are speaking in code over a plate of pasta.

The funny thing is that many of these terms are actually very simple once somebody explains them properly.

So here are some popular food and restaurant terms you have probably heard before and what they actually mean.

Gourmet

Gourmet basically refers to food that is considered high quality, carefully prepared or more refined than everyday meals. It often means extra attention was paid to ingredients, presentation or cooking technique. That said, some restaurants use “gourmet” very loosely. Adding parsley on top of fries does not automatically make them gourmet.

Fusion

Fusion food combines elements from different cultures or cuisines into one dish. For example, suya pizza or jollof risotto would count as fusion meals because they mix Nigerian flavors with dishes from other parts of the world. When done properly, fusion can be exciting. When done badly, it can feel very confusing.

Al Dente

You will mostly hear this term when talking about pasta. Al dente is an Italian phrase that means “to the tooth.” It simply describes pasta that is cooked until it is firm when bitten, not soft and soggy.

Artisan

Artisan usually refers to food made in a more traditional or handcrafted way instead of mass production. So when you hear “artisan bread,” the restaurant is trying to say the bread was freshly made with extra care. Sometimes it is true. Sometimes it is just branding.

Platter

A platter is simply a large serving that contains different food items together. Restaurants often use platters for group meals or combo servings. Think grilled chicken, fries, wings and sausages all served on one tray.

Signature dish

This is the meal a restaurant is most known for. It is usually the dish they believe best represents their brand or cooking style. If a waiter recommends the signature dish, that is often the restaurant’s pride and joy.

Infused

Infused means an ingredient has been soaked or blended with another flavor over time. For example, a lemon infused drink simply means lemon flavor has been added deeply into the drink instead of just squeezed on top. Restaurants love this word because it sounds expensive.

À la Carte

À la carte is a French phrase that means “according to the menu”, or more literally, “by the card.” When a restaurant is à la carte, it means each item on the menu is priced and ordered separately. You build your meal yourself, you choose a starter, you choose a main, you choose a side, you choose a dessert, and you pay for each one individually.

Umami

Umami is known as the fifth basic taste alongside sweet, salty, sour and bitter. It describes that rich, savory flavor often found in grilled meat, mushrooms, soy sauce or well seasoned broths. The word is Japanese and roughly translates to “pleasant savoury taste.” It is the reason a good broth tastes the way it does, and why some dishes make you want to keep eating past the point of hunger.

Mise en Place

A French phrase that means “everything in its place.” It refers to the practice of preparing and organising all your ingredients before you begin cooking — chopping, measuring, portioning, arranging, so that when you start, everything you need is already within reach. It is a professional kitchen discipline, but it explains a lot about why restaurant food often comes together so quickly once you order.

AN UNPLANNED NIGHT AT RED SKILLET

ESTHER EMOEKPERE



I have never been one to do anything on a whim. I plan, calculate, overthink and mentally rehearse almost every move before I make it. But life becomes a little less predictable when your friends are the complete opposite.

On Saturday night, their unpredictability won.

After spending the entire day glued to our phones, endlessly scrolling through social media and pretending we were resting, someone suddenly suggested we go out for dinner. At 9 p.m.

On a normal day, I would have said no. Lagos traffic, late-night stress, the possibility of disappointment, all valid reasons to stay home. But there is a saying that some of the best moments in life are unplanned, and maybe that was enough reason to take the chance.

That chance led us to Red Skillet in Magodo GRA. Magodo, by the way, is quietly becoming one of Lagos'

underrated food hubs. Every street seems to hide a restaurant, lounge or late-night spot trying to outdo the next.

Getting there was surprisingly easy. No unnecessary stress locating the place, no confusing turns, no calling for directions every five minutes. Small wins like that already set the mood right in Lagos.

But the moment we stepped into Red Skillet, reality interrupted the fantasy a little.

The first thing that greeted us was the strong smell of weed hanging heavily in the air. There was a football match that night, and the outdoor seating area felt more like a viewing centre than a restaurant. Loud commentary, smoke, groups of men deeply invested in the game, definitely not the calm dinner setting we imagined.

My friend even paused and asked, "Wait, is this the restaurant?"

We immediately asked if there was another seating option, and thankfully there was. We were directed indoors, with a warning that it was also a snooker area filled mostly with men playing games. At that point, anything

felt better than inhaling smoke while trying to enjoy dinner.

Oddly enough, the indoor space gave me my first moment of nostalgia that night.

The seats were benches. Not the most comfortable setup, but not terrible either. Growing up, my church used benches instead of chairs, so sitting there instantly transported me back to childhood Sundays — long services, restless legs and the oddly comforting sound of wooden benches shifting during prayer.

It is funny how restaurants can sometimes remind you of places completely unrelated to food.

A waiter eventually came over with a menu that had clearly lived a full life already. Worn edges, fading print and slight creases.

The options themselves were familiar: starters, mains, burgers, fries and platters. Nothing too experimental, nothing trying too hard to be fancy. The prices were also refreshingly reasonable, which made their “affordable gourmet meals” tagline feel honest.

I initially wanted to order the Shayo Busta, mostly because it came with garri.

That detail alone sold me.



There is something deeply Nigerian about garri that instantly feels personal. I have had it countless times at home, but never in a restaurant setting, and I was curious to see how that experience would feel. Unfortunately, the garri was unavailable, and with that, my mini adventure died before it even started.

Red Skillet said, “Not today.”

I eventually settled for chicken kebab and chips, served with ketchup and a pepper sauce that completely stole the show. Smoky, spicy and genuinely flavorful, it was the kind of sauce that quietly upgrades a simple meal.

For drinks, I ordered a cranberry-based smoothie whose name I honestly cannot remember anymore. Maybe that says something about the drink, or maybe I was just too hungry at that point. Either way, I have noticed myself gravitating toward cranberry drinks lately, so the choice felt automatic.

My friend ordered what the menu described as Chinese stir-fry pasta, though the flavors leaned far more Nigerian than Chinese. Not necessarily a bad thing, just not what the name prepares you for.

Drinks became another adventure entirely because several options on the menu were unavailable, forcing multiple changes before my friend eventually settled for a Fayrouz.

And then came the waiting.

Our food took over 30 minutes to arrive, which is worth knowing if you are the impatient type or someone squeezing

dinner into a tight schedule. By the time the meals arrived, exhaustion had already started creeping in, so we asked for takeaway packs instead.



One thing I will give Red Skillet credit for: the packaging was excellent. Clean, sturdy and thoughtfully done.

For both meals and drinks, the bill came to ₦25,900.

Red Skillet is probably not the restaurant you visit for aesthetics or perfectly curated Instagram pictures. It does not scream luxury, and parts of the experience feel rough around the edges. But underneath all that, it stays committed to the one thing that matters most: the food.

And maybe that is what made the night memorable.

Not perfection. Not aesthetics. Not even the chaos.

Just the beauty of saying yes to an unplanned night in Lagos and discovering that sometimes, even flawed experiences make good stories.



THE BUSINESS OF LIVE PERFORMANCE: HOW M54 STUDIOS IS SCALING AFRICAN THEATRE IN THE DIASPORA



Following the success of African-led stage productions across the diaspora, M54 Studios has emerged as one of the newest companies pushing Nigerian live theatre into a more ambitious commercial and cultural space with its breakout production, *No Wahala Therapy*.

The comedy-drama stage play, which debuted in London to an audience of more than 1,900 attendees, combines humour, music, social commentary, and deeply relatable African immigrant experiences in a way that resonates strongly with diaspora audiences.

Structured around the concept of a chaotic “therapy session,” the production explores the realities

of modern African life abroad from immigration struggles and financial pressures to relationships, identity clashes, parental expectations, cultural misunderstandings, and the emotional burden of balancing two worlds.

Unlike traditional theatre productions that often target niche audiences, *No Wahala Therapy* was designed as a large-scale entertainment experience tailored specifically for Africans in the diaspora and culturally curious audiences seeking authentic storytelling.

The show blends the energy of Nollywood, stand-up comedy, live music, and stage theatre into a format that feels both familiar and refreshingly different.

Produced by UK-based entertainment company M54 Studios and directed by Mofe Duncan, the production featured well-known Nollywood actors, Odunlade Adekola, Timini Egbuson, BamBam Olawunmi and Ronke Oshodi Oke alongside UK-based talent, Motara AkanniLawrence, with Jude Chibueze Meju serving as Stage Manager, creating a bridge between the Nigerian entertainment industry and emerging African creatives in the United Kingdom.

The company says this model forms part of its broader long-term strategy to build a sustainable African theatre ecosystem outside Nigeria while creating opportunities for African actors, performers, production crew, and creatives living in the diaspora.

Speaking about the vision behind the production, founder Kolawole Lamikanra explained that No Wahala Therapy was never intended to be “just another stage play,” but rather the beginning of a wider movement to position African live entertainment as a commercially viable and globally exportable cultural product.

“There are millions of Africans living outside the continent whose everyday realities are rarely represented authentically on stage,” he said.

“We wanted to create something that felt honest, hilarious, emotional, and culturally specific, while still maintaining the production value and ambition expected from premium live entertainment.”

Audience reactions following the London performances reflected the growing appetite for culturally rooted African storytelling outside Nigeria. Many attendees described the production as one of the most relatable African stage experiences they had seen in the UK, praising its ability to combine humour with emotionally recognisable themes around migration, marriage, career pressure, parenting, and community expectations.

The show also generated significant online engagement across social media platforms, with attendees sharing clips, testimonials, and reactions describing the production as “authentic,” “refreshing,” and “a true representation of African diaspora life.” According to the producers, the response confirmed that there is substantial untapped demand for premium African theatre experiences in international markets.

Industry observers say productions like No Wahala Therapy reflect a broader evolution within African entertainment, where live experiences are becoming increasingly important alongside film and streaming. As Afrobeats, Nollywood, and African popular culture continue to expand globally, theatre is beginning to emerge as another major platform through which African stories can travel internationally.

M54 Studios appears to be positioning itself at the centre of that movement. Beyond No Wahala Therapy, the company has announced plans to develop additional theatre productions, UK and international tours, training initiatives for UK-based African creatives, and eventually a theatre-to-streaming distribution model focused on African stories and diaspora audiences.

Among its upcoming projects is Love in Lagos, described as an African reimagination of Romeo and Juliet, alongside other concepts designed to merge African storytelling, music, live performance, and cinematic production values. The company is also exploring ways to train and integrate UK-based African talent into future productions, helping to build a stronger pipeline of performers and production professionals within the diaspora.

For Lamikanra, the long-term ambition goes beyond individual stage plays. He believes African theatre can become part of a much larger entertainment ecosystem capable of generating intellectual property, touring productions, streaming content, and international cultural influence.

“We believe African stories deserve the same scale, structure, and ambition that audiences already see in other global entertainment industries,” he said.

“This is not only about creating shows. It’s about building a platform and an ecosystem where African stories can consistently thrive on international stages.”

With the growing popularity of African storytelling worldwide and increasing interest in culturally authentic live experiences, productions like No Wahala Therapy may signal the beginning of a new chapter for African theatre in the diaspora, one that combines entertainment, cultural identity, and scalable commercial ambition.

NESTLÉ SUMMIT TACKLES NIGERIA'S CHILD MALNUTRITION CRISIS

ROYAL IBEH



For many Nigerian families, putting nutritious meals on the table every day remains a daily struggle that affects children's growth and future potential.

Nigeria bears one of Africa's heaviest burdens of child malnutrition. Approximately 32 percent to 34 percent of children under five are stunted due to chronic undernutrition, affecting their physical growth and cognitive development, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report.

Acute malnutrition (wasting) impacts around seven percent to 11 percent of young children, while millions more face micronutrient deficiencies often called hidden hunger.

Projections suggest that up to 35 million Nigerians could experience acute food insecurity in 2026, with northern regions hit hardest.

These challenges lead to lost human capital, higher healthcare costs, and reduced national productivity.

Against this backdrop, Nestlé Nigeria convened government officials, healthcare professionals, development partners, academia, industry leaders, civil society, and media at the Nestlé for Good Summit 2026 in Lagos.

The gathering focused on practical pathways to improving nutrition across the life stages, strengthening local food systems, and building more resilient communities. Participants explored the role of partnerships in addressing interconnected challenges spanning nutrition, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability.

Speaking at the event, Wassim Elhusseini, the managing director and chief executive officer of Nestlé Nigeria PLC, said the Summit reflects Nestlé's long-standing belief that creating shared value is fundamental to how the company operates.

"At Nestlé, we are guided by a simple but powerful purpose: to unlock the power of food to enhance quality of life for everyone, today and for generations to come. Delivering good food consistently and at scale depends on strong systems across the value chain — from responsible sourcing and manufacturing to distribution, livelihoods, capability development, and environmental sustainability," he said.

He added that Nestlé for Good provides a clearer, more connected expression of how the company delivers impact across

Nutrition, Thriving Communities, and the Planet.

In her keynote address, Folashade Bada Ambrose-Medebem, the commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, commended Nestlé Nigeria for convening stakeholders around issues critical to both public wellbeing and economic development.

"The conversations we are having today are not only about food. They are about human capital, productivity, public health, economic growth, and ultimately, the future of our society," she said.

She also underscored the importance of sustained collaboration across government, industry, development institutions, and communities in delivering improved nutrition outcomes at scale.

Providing further perspective on the company's approach, Victoria Uwadoka, corporate communications, public affairs and sustainability lead at Nestlé Nigeria, noted that the platform helps bring together the full scope of Nestlé's impact.

"Nestlé for Good is not simply about showcasing individual initiatives. It is about demonstrating how our products, sourcing, partnerships, and community investments connect in practical ways to support healthier lives and more resilient communities," she said.

Patricia Ekaba, head of corporate communications, Public Affairs and Sustainability for Central and West Africa, highlighted the importance of long-term, system-focused thinking.

“Sustainable progress requires looking beyond short-term interventions. Business growth and social progress are interconnected, and lasting impact comes from creating value for both the business and the communities it serves,” she said.

A key feature of the Summit was an impact showcase, where participants engaged with real stories of beneficiaries connected to Nestlé’s initiatives in women empowerment, youth capability development, dairy development, and environmental sustainability.

For instance, Amina, (surname withheld) a rural woman in Nigeria whose family once faced constant worry over her children’s health. Limited income and poor access to diverse foods left her youngest ones vulnerable to malnutrition.

Through Nestlé’s Empowering Rural Women initiative, Amina received business training, mentorship, and product grants. She scaled up her small retail business, increasing her earnings significantly. With better income, she now provides more balanced meals for her children, including fortified staples that help combat nutrient deficiencies.

“The training changed everything. I can now support my family better and even help other women in my community,” she shares.

Another story comes from the dairy development programme. A smallholder dairy farmer and mother named Fatima joined Nestlé-supported cooperatives that provide training, better animal husbandry practices, and reliable market access for milk.

Her household income rose steadily, allowing her to afford nutritious foods and invest in her children’s education.

“Before, my children were often sick and small for their age. Now they are stronger, and I feel more hopeful about their future,” Fatima says.

In Ogun state, 24-year-old Yusuf dropped out of school early but joined a Nestlé youth capability programme focused on agribusiness and food processing. “I used to think farming had no future,” he recalls.

Today, he works with smallholder farmers improving grain quality and has started his own small enterprise. “I can now support my younger siblings with better food. It feels good to break the cycle,” Yusuf says.

These stories, shared at the

summit’s impact showcase, put faces to the data and show how targeted interventions in women’s empowerment, youth skills, dairy farming, and sustainability create ripple effects.

These real beneficiary stories, illustrated how targeted interventions across the value chain are contributing to improved livelihoods, stronger communities, and more sustainable practices.

The Summit also provided an opportunity for stakeholders to experience how Nestlé’s products and initiatives contribute to nutrition, livelihoods, and sustainability across different stages of the food system.

For instance, Nestlé tackles malnutrition through multiple integrated approaches:

Fortification of popular consumer products to fight hidden hunger; dairy development supporting thousands of smallholder farmers through cooperatives, training, and market linkages; women empowerment programmes that have supported hundreds of rural women retailers with training, mentorship, and grants, boosting household incomes and nutrition; youth skills development via technical training initiatives in agribusiness and food processing and sustainable sourcing and regenerative practices that strengthen local food systems and resilience.

These efforts align with Nigeria’s national nutrition priorities and demonstrate the Creating Shared Value (CSV) approach, generating business success while delivering societal benefits.

Stakeholders at the summit left with renewed commitment to turn dialogue into measurable action: fewer malnourished children, stronger rural livelihoods, and more resilient food systems.

For families like those of Amina and Fatima, such partnerships offer practical hope for healthier, brighter futures.



TEN COUNTRIES WITH THE BEST HEALTH CARE IN 2026

CHISOM MICHAEL



New data from Numbeo's 2026 Health Care Index has highlighted the countries with the world's best-rated healthcare systems, ranking nations based on medical quality, staff competence, waiting times, accessibility, affordability, and healthcare infrastructure.

The report shows that strong healthcare systems are not always tied to the highest spending levels. Countries such as Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan ranked highly due to their focus on universal healthcare coverage, preventive care, and efficient hospital networks.

Taiwan's single-payer healthcare system, which covers nearly the entire population while maintaining low administrative costs, was identified as one of the strongest models driving public satisfaction and healthcare efficiency globally.

According to Numbeo's 2026 Health Care Index, Europe recorded the highest number of countries in the top 10, while Asia-Pacific nations occupied four of the leading positions.

1. Taiwan

Taiwan ranked first with a Health Care Index score of 87.1. The country spent about \$2,400 per person on healthcare in 2023. Taiwan's healthcare model combines public insurance coverage with digital health systems that support access to treatment.

2. South Korea

South Korea placed second with a score of 82.9 and healthcare spending of \$3,100 per capita. The country has expanded hospital infrastructure and medical technology while maintaining a national insurance system that covers most residents.

3. Netherlands

The Netherlands ranked third with a score of 81.5. Healthcare spending reached \$6,800 per person in 2023, one of the highest levels on the list. The Dutch healthcare system combines private insurance providers with government regulation aimed at maintaining access and patient care standards.

4. Japan

Japan recorded a score of 80.1 with healthcare spending of \$3,600 per capita. The country continues to focus on preventive care, routine health checks, and universal health coverage, which contribute to long life expectancy and public confidence in the healthcare system.

5. Austria

Austria ranked fifth with a Health Care Index score of 78.9. The country spent about \$6,700 per person on healthcare in 2023. Austria's healthcare system is supported through public insurance and a network of hospitals and clinics across the country.

6. Ecuador

Ecuador emerged as the only South American country in the top 10.

It scored 77.7 despite healthcare spending of just \$509 per capita. The ranking highlights how lower-cost healthcare systems can still achieve positive public ratings when access and service delivery improve.

7. Finland

Finland recorded a score of 77.6 with healthcare spending of \$5,500 per person. The Nordic country continues to prioritise public healthcare access and local medical services through municipal health programmes.

8. Thailand

Thailand ranked eighth with a score of 77.5 and healthcare spending of \$327 per capita. The country's universal healthcare programme has expanded access to treatment for millions of people while operating with lower healthcare costs than many developed nations.

9. Denmark

Denmark scored 77.2 with healthcare spending of \$6,700 per person. The Danish healthcare system is funded mainly through taxation and focuses on primary care and hospital access for residents.

10. Spain

Spain completed the top 10 with a score of 77.2 and healthcare spending of \$3,100 per capita. The country maintains a public healthcare system that provides medical services through regional health authorities.

The ranking reflects the growing importance of accessibility and efficiency in healthcare delivery. It also highlights the gap between countries with established healthcare systems and nations where limited funding, shortages of medical workers, and weak infrastructure continue to affect patient care.

THE WORLD'S 10 FREEST COUNTRIES IN 2025

CHISOM MICHAEL



Finland has been ranked the world's freest country in 2026 with a perfect score of 100, according to Freedom House's latest Freedom in the World report. The annual report assessed political rights and civil liberties across 195 countries and territories, revealing that global freedom declined for the 20th consecutive year.

The report showed that more than 50 countries experienced declines in freedom scores, including the United States, which recorded one of its sharpest annual drops and its lowest score on record. Freedom House cited growing concerns over democratic institutions, political participation, freedom of expression, and civil liberties in several nations.

European and Pacific countries dominated the top rankings, with Finland, New Zealand, Norway, and Sweden leading the list. The report attributed their high scores to strong electoral systems, independent judiciaries, press freedom, and robust legal protections for citizens.

In contrast, South Sudan received the lowest score of zero, reflecting severe restrictions on political rights and civil liberties. Freedom House said conflicts, political instability, media restrictions, and pressure on democratic institutions continue to fuel the global decline in freedom.

Here are the world's 10 freest countries in 2026.

1. Finland — 100

Finland recorded a perfect score of 100, placing it first globally. The country maintained strong political participation, judicial independence and media freedom. Citizens continue to enjoy broad civil liberties, while public institutions operate with high levels of trust and transparency.

2. New Zealand — 99

New Zealand ranked second with a score of 99. The country has maintained open elections, freedom of speech and protections for minority rights. Its democratic institutions remain stable, supported by public confidence in governance and the rule of law.

3. Norway — 99

Norway shared the same score as New Zealand. The country continues to rank highly for press freedom, political rights and access to justice. Public accountability and social protections also contributed to its position near the top of the index.

4. Sweden — 99

Sweden retained one of the highest freedom scores in the world. The country's democratic system, legal protections and open civic space supported its ranking. Freedom House also noted the strength of Sweden's institutions and electoral processes.

5. Ireland — 98

Ireland scored 98, reflecting strong protections for civil liberties and political participation.

The country has maintained stable democratic structures and protections for freedom of expression, assembly and association.

6. Canada — 97

Canada ranked sixth with a score of 97. The report highlighted the country's electoral integrity, independent judiciary and legal protections for citizens. Canada also remained one of the highest-scoring countries in North America.

7. Denmark — 97

Denmark continued its presence among the world's highest-ranked democracies. The country recorded strong performances in governance, transparency and civic rights. Its legal and political institutions remain central to its high score.

8. Luxembourg — 97

Luxembourg scored 97 and remained one of Europe's top-performing countries on political rights and civil liberties. The country's democratic system and protections for individual freedoms contributed to its ranking.

9. Netherlands — 97

The Netherlands maintained a score of 97, supported by press freedom, political participation and legal protections. The country also recorded strong institutional performance and public access to democratic processes.

10. San Marino — 97

San Marino completed the top 10 with a score of 97. Despite its small size, the country continued to record strong performances in political representation, civil rights and institutional independence.

WHY INTELLIGENT WOMEN RAISE SMARTER ACADEMIC CHILDREN

CHARLES OGWO



Ugochukwu Emenike was an extra brilliant pupil in Central School, Ndeaboh in Aninri Local Government Area of Enugu State, always coming top in all the subjects, especially mathematics, but his mother was an illiterate trade.

But that was not the case with Eugenia Okorafor, whose mother was the head teacher at another school, she was always struggling with her studies. This got Okorafor Eze, her father, the class teacher to Ugochukwu known for his mastery of mathematics and other subjects, worried.

Experts say while academic qualifications remain important, intelligence, critical thinking, and problem-solving abilities in mothers may have an even greater influence on a child's academic development. Studies and observations increasingly suggest that children raised by intellectually curious and mentally

sharp mothers often benefit from stronger learning habits, better communication skills, and higher academic performance.

Confirming this, Adaobi Nsofor, a teacher in Abuja, said a mother's intellect rubs off on her children.

Besides, she emphasised that not being educated does not mean one is not intelligent.

"That a woman can't speak any learned language, she learns in the school or didn't see the four walls of school doesn't she is not intelligent.

"You can tell that a woman is intelligent, even though she has not gone to school, by the way she administers even her family. I believe that a mother's intelligent quotient rubs off on the child, not necessarily her level of education," she said.



However, Nsofor noted that a mother's educational level could help her children's social life, but not necessarily their academic prowess.

"It may rub off in the sense that the children's quality of life may improve based on the woman's educational level due to her exposure.

"A woman's level of education may refine her mannerisms and refine the way she interacts with her children, but what nobody can take away from her is how intelligent she is; and that's what the children has taken on without any physical effort at it," she noted.

A growing body of research suggests that a mother's genetics and educational background may play a significant role in shaping a child's academic success.

From inherited cognitive abilities to the learning environment created at home, experts say these factors can influence children's performance in school, study habits, confidence, and overall intellectual development.

Gloria Akinsola, a teacher in Lagos disclosed that children of more educated mothers tend to do better in early education.

"Educated mothers usually provide more language exposure, structure and connection with school," she said.

However, she emphasised that this is not fixed because children of illiterate parents often excel when the home still has those three things, even if they come through oral storytelling, strict routines, and support from teachers or relatives.

"So mother's education shifts the odds, but parental attitude, consistency, and community support can outweigh it. The key is not the certificate, it is making learning visible and valued at home," she said.

According to a study in the gender equality in and through education report by Usawa Agenda, "A child whose mother has a university degree or higher is significantly more likely to post stronger learning outcomes than a child whose mother attained only primary education or below."

Jessica Osuere, chief executive officer at RubiesHub Educational Services, also affirmed that a mother's level of education can influence a child's early learning, but according to her, it is not the only factor that determines academic success.



“An educated mother may be better positioned to support homework, encourage reading habits, communicate effectively with teachers, and expose the child to learning opportunities from an early age.

“These can positively affect a child’s confidence and academic development. However, education level alone does not guarantee a child’s success or failure,” she said.

Osuere cited instances where many children from illiterate or less educated homes excel academically because of discipline, strong values, parental encouragement, good teachers, personal determination, supportive environments, and access to quality education.

“In research language we would say the relationship is more of an influence than a fixed determinant. A mother’s education can provide an advantage, especially in early childhood development, but a child’s academic performance is ultimately shaped by a combination of home environment, parenting style, school quality, motivation, peer influence, and societal support,” she stressed.

Research has proven that women are more likely to transmit intelligence genes to their children because they carry the X chromosome and women have two of these, while men only have one.

But in addition to this, scientists now believe genes for advanced cognitive functions which are inherited from the father may be automatically deactivated.

The Usawa Agenda findings in Kenya indicates that girls generally outperform boys in key learning indicators, it also showed that a mother’s level of education remains one of the strongest predictors of a child’s performance in both Mathematics and English literacy, regardless of gender.

Ultimately, the foundation of a child’s academic success is not built on certificates alone, but on the quality of guidance, thinking, and values they receive at home.

Intelligent women often pass down curiosity, discipline, communication skills, and a love for learning, qualities that can help children excel academically and thrive beyond the classroom.

NIGERIA'S YOUNG GENIUSES SHINE AT 2026 VERBOHEIT MATHEMATICS AWARD COMPETITION

CHARLES OGWO



Nigeria's brightest young mathematics talents took centre stage at the 2026 Verboheit Mathematics Award Competition as students from across the country, who showcased exceptional problem-solving skills, creativity and academic excellence during the league modelled contest were rewarded.

Tosin Ojo, the convener/founder at Verboheit Mathematics League Competition's award ceremony presented the awards to the best 20 out of the over 300 students that applied.

In the award ceremony held in Lagos on Saturday, May 23, Chimkwesiri Anyinam from Penny International College emerged as the overall winner, and was rewarded with a prize money of N250,000.

Ukeme-Obong Danison from Kina High School, Port Harcourt emerged as the first runner-up, and got N150,000, while Kuranga Muhammad

from Vetland Senior Grammar School, who emerged as the second runner-up got the sum of N100,000.

Abdllah Adeyemo from Greater Tomorrow International Day College emerged as the first winner of the newly introduced Dipo Olomofe Award, and received the sum of N100,000.

Speaking about the competition, the convener explained that she started the competition in 2024, inspired by her background.

"I looked at my journey, my career journey, and I sort of looked at what were the core skills that were most instrumental to what I've been able to do, and I found out that there were just two skills, basically mathematics and literacy.

"I realised I had a good maths teacher who played a key role in laying strong foundational skills for numbers," she said.



In addition, she said, “The reason we started this competition is to put back the idea that numbers are very critical. The goal is not just about the money prize but inculcating critical skills such as perseverance, hard work, resilience, and grit in students.

“This is a different type of competition, it’s about how you finish, and not how you started. There are some students that may barely make it to the screening stage, but when they continue every week for six weeks, they would have learned something great; the idea is to develop students.

If it is a one-off competition, the superstars will be the ones that will make it up the ranks, but as a process, every single child that persevered, would have gained something.

“The biggest thing in this competition may not be the money prize, but looking back, and realising you have gained a lot from the competitive.”

Tosin Ojo’s experience as a successful investment professional has shown that the foundational skills in mathematics, developed at the secondary school level is very critical to success in many areas of life in one’s later years, especially in business, entrepreneurship and finance.

She further explained that through Verboheit Mathematics competition, she aims to reignite the desire for hard-work, perseverance and thoroughness, values she said have been significantly eroded in recent years, especially in the young minds of school students.

Tolulope Elubode, representing Grovane Advisory Partners, one of the sponsors of the competition, highlighted the crucial roles mathematics plays in a person’s life.

“Mathematics generally is something that we need even in life.

“Everything is a number, and that’s the reason mathematics is an important course in school; it’s something you need to apply to your daily life,” he said.

Omolade Marquis, senior growth marketer at Cowrywise, reiterated the imperativeness of mathematics skills, when she said, “Maths is one of the core things in life, hence, you have to focus in it.”

Paul Idowu, one of the volunteers, earlier in his address disclosed that the competition aims to reward mathematical and analytical prowess of students.



Idowu further revealed that in 2024, the competition received 150 entries from 25 schools, 215 entries in 2025 from 42 schools, and over 350 applications in 2026.

Toba Oyebanji, principal partner at Fortune Plus Consult Limited, applauded the organisers of the competition and pledged to reward the 19 volunteers with N20,000 and N10,000 each, according to their categories.

The organisers explained that the competition comes in preliminary stage where participants solve maths problems every week for six weeks to gain a spot on the league table to qualify for the knock-out stage.

Those who qualified for the knock-out stage will move to intense one-on-one battles for supremacy and bragging rights.

From this stage the final 20 participants will move to the final stage, which is a journey of intellectual thrill and problem-solving mastery.

Kuranga Muhammad from Vetland Senior Grammar School, who won N100,000, expressed his gratitude to the organisers and his joy for being among the best three in the competition.



"I really want to say a big thanks to the organisers for this opportunity to improve our maths and analytical skills.

"I feel very proud and happy for this feat, and I look forward to doing better next year," he said.

Another beneficiary of the competition, who was among best 10 participants, said participating in competition among other things helped her to develop her self-esteem.

THE SHEA LESSON: ARE WOMEN SQUEEZED OUT OF VALUE CAPTURE?

EKEMINI AKPAKPAN

As a woman evolving through life, I have increasingly come to realize that the value of women is constantly shaped by the systems around us.

From adolescence, many girls become introduced to value in distorted ways. As puberty sets in, attention shifts toward appearance. Society celebrates beauty, desirability, and femininity, and at that age, a girl could easily be misled into believing that her greatest asset lies in how she is perceived. But that is often only the visible tip of something much deeper.

Beneath it are deeply embedded gender norms that shape how value itself is assigned. Gender norms do not simply shape expectations around women and girls; they also shape which forms of contribution are rewarded, protected, invested in, or ignored.

The problem is not that women's contributions are not valuable. Beauty, care, emotional labour, and community building matter deeply. The issue is that societies often reward these forms of contribution symbolically while concentrating ownership, capital, and long-term economic gains elsewhere.

Years later, I encountered this same pattern in an entirely different setting. I once worked on a multi-country project focused on embedding gender equality across agricultural value chains to improve women's livelihoods. My role involved identifying and addressing structural barriers that prevented women from fully participating in, and benefiting from, economic systems. Looking back now, I realize that much of the work involved correcting distorted systems of value.

Women were already contributing significantly. They were already present, already working, already producing. Yet many remained concentrated in lower-return activities, while ownership, processing, financing, and decision-making opportunities existed elsewhere in the chain. The challenge was not participation. It was upward mobility within the system itself.

Recently, at WISCAR, as we prepare for our upcoming Financial Confidence Mastery Series focused on helping women understand and capture their value, I found myself returning to the same unsettling question: How many times have women been taught where to contribute, but not how to position themselves where long-term value accumulates?

The Story of Shea: The Myth of Participation
Gender equality, I often tell people, is not fundamentally about sameness between women and men, nor can it be reduced to social media battles over gender. At its core, gender equality is about fixing systems that exclude women.

Nigeria's shea value chain offers an important example. Women are not absent from the shea economy. In fact, they overwhelmingly sustain it. Estimates suggest that women account for as much as 90–95 percent of shea nut collection and early-stage processing activities. Yet participation and economic positioning are not always the same thing.

Because if you look closely at the chain, women remain concentrated at its lower end. They collect nuts, sort produce, process at small scale, and undertake much of the labour-intensive work that sustains the industry. But the higher-value segments, including industrial refining, export coordination, large-scale financing, infrastructure ownership, and market control, often sit elsewhere.

And then came Nigeria's recent restrictions on raw shea exports, designed to stimulate domestic processing, increase local value addition, and retain more economic gains within the country. On paper, the logic is compelling. Policymakers argued that Nigeria should not remain a supplier of raw commodities while higher-value processing and profits happen elsewhere. Yet policy does not enter a neutral system. It enters an existing system of unequal ownership, bargaining power, and market access. This is where the shea story becomes a gender story.

If women are already concentrated in the lower and less profitable segments of the chain, what happens when value begins to shift upward toward domestic processing without first ensuring women possess the financing, equipment, technology, and ownership structures required to move upward with it? This is what gender-blind systems often miss. They see participation and assume inclusion. But participation alone does not determine who captures long-term value.

Following the initial six-month restriction period, the Federal Government extended the policy to February 2027, signaling its continued commitment to domestic industrialization and value addition within the shea sector. The launch of a 30,000-metric-tonne shea processing plant in Niger State further reflects an important attempt to strengthen local processing capacity.

However, the challenge is that Nigeria's current processing infrastructure still remains significantly below total national shea output. In other words, while the country is attempting to move value upward through domestic processing, the infrastructure required to absorb and equitably distribute that value remains limited. And this is where industrial policy intersects directly with gender inclusion.

If industrial upgrading occurs before women are intentionally positioned to participate in higher-value segments of the chain, then value addition may expand without necessarily expanding inclusive value capture.

From Gender-Blind Policy to Inclusive Value Capture Nigeria's shea value chain must become truly inclusive. There is a need to evolve across three stages: from gender-blind implementation, to gender-responsive stabilization, and ultimately toward gender-transformative restructuring that intentionally positions women to capture value across the chain.

1. Short-Term: Gender-Responsive Stabilisation

The immediate priority should be protecting vulnerable participants within the transition process, particularly rural women concentrated at the lowest end of the chain.

At the policy level, trade restrictions and industrial reforms should also undergo mandatory Gender Impact Assessments in line with Nigeria's National Gender Policy commitments. At this extension phase, Industrial transitions should not occur without clear mitigation pathways for groups disproportionately exposed to economic shocks. This could include introducing guaranteed minimum farm-gate pricing mechanisms to reduce vulnerability to opportunistic purchasing practices. Industrial incentives can also be tied to inclusion metrics, ensuring that large processors source a defined percentage of inputs directly from women-led cooperatives at fair pricing structures.

2. Medium-Term: Gender-Transformative Upgrading

Beyond protection, the more important challenge is upgrading women's economic positioning within the chain itself.

Currently, much of the processing infrastructure remains centralized and capital-intensive, limiting access for rural women producers. Expanding smaller-scale processing hubs and decentralized equipment access within producing communities could help women move beyond raw nut collection into higher-value semi-processing activities.

Financing will also be critical. Institutions such as the development Banks can play a transformative role by creating concessional financing windows specifically designed for women-led cooperatives and processors. Without intentional financing access, industrial upgrading risks remaining concentrated among already-capitalized actors.

Technical upgrading matters equally. Partnerships with organizations that support advanced processing training, quality certification, and market readiness for women-led enterprises. Because moving women upward within the chain is not simply about participation; it is about increasing their share of captured value.

3. Long-Term: Structural Value Capture

Ultimately, the conversation must move beyond livelihoods toward ownership. If Nigeria successfully transitions toward exporting refined shea products, cosmetics inputs, and higher-value derivatives, women cannot remain concentrated only at the raw material stage of the chain. They must also gain access to commodity exchange systems, export markets, processing ownership, and equity participation.

This may require creating dedicated commodity exchange access channels for women-led cooperatives, strengthening long-term land and resource rights around shea parklands, and ensuring women-owned enterprises are integrated into export consortiums and industrial partnerships.

Final Thoughts

Perhaps this is the larger lesson from shea.

Women are often encouraged toward forms of contribution that sustain systems, while ownership, capital, infrastructure, and long-term value accumulation remain concentrated elsewhere. And over time, participation without upward mobility begins to look like inclusion, even when it is not.

Because the real test of whether a system is equitable is not simply whether women are present within it. It is whether they are positioned to own, influence, and grow with the value that system creates.

And perhaps that conversation begins much earlier than policy. It begins with how societies teach girls to understand value itself, not merely as something attached to appearance, care, or sacrifice, but as something connected to ownership, agency, capital, and long-term economic power.

WHY AFRICAN ART NEEDS MORE EDITORS, NOT JUST CURATORS

Visibility, Memory & the Labour of Interpretation

When an exhibition closes, the walls come down, and the artworks go back into crates. What remains, if anything remains, is language. The catalogue, if one were printed. The reviews, if any, were written. The archive, if anyone thought to build one. Much of African art history exists in the gap between what happened and what was documented. That gap is, in large part, an editorial problem.

The curatorial star system that has grown around African art — accelerated by biennales, international pavilions, and expanding museum culture — has made the curator a recognisable public figure. That visibility is earned. But it has quietly eclipsed the writers, editors, publishers, translators, and archivists without whom art history cannot be written at all. This is not a corrective to the curator. It is a more honest accounting of what it takes to build a lasting intellectual ecosystem around art.

In this digest, we examine the structural imbalance between curatorial visibility and editorial labour in African art; we look at how archival work shapes cultural memory long after exhibitions close; and we look at the independent writers, journals, and publishing collectives quietly rebuilding the intellectual infrastructure that African art deserves.



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African curatorial leadership on a global stage at the 61st Venice Biennale

The Dakar Biennale has existed since 1992. The Venice Biennale has hosted African national pavilions with increasing ambition. Zeitz MOCAA opened in Cape Town in 2017, announcing a new era of institutional confidence on the continent. These achievements are real – representing decades of advocacy and vision. The curators behind them became the people journalists interviewed, and institutions celebrated.

There is something structurally inevitable about this. Exhibitions are events; events produce photographs and opening nights. Curators appear in those photographs. Writers and editors work in offices and email threads, producing paragraphs — and paragraphs do not photograph well. The result is a conversation about African art that is rich in curatorial vision and thin on critical analysis. That imbalance is not the curator's fault. It reflects how we have chosen to resource and celebrate creative intellectual work.

The Invisible Labour Behind Cultural Memory

For an exhibition to survive its own closing, someone has to write the catalogue essay — not a press release, but a sustained critical engagement. Someone has to edit it, push back on its assumptions, and check its claims. Someone has to translate it. Someone has to archive it. Publications like Chimurenga, founded by Ntone Edjabe, have done this work with intellectual daring. Contemporary And (C&) has built a transnational conversation across multiple languages. NKA: Journal of Contemporary African Art has sustained serious scholarship for three decades. They are the institutional memory of the ecosystem — often operating on budgets that would embarrass a small gallery opening.

Many African exhibitions disappear from public memory simply because they were never adequately written about. The show happened, people saw it — then the walls came down, and, with no one resourced to document it properly, it vanished. Not from the artists' CVs. From history.

Why Writing About Art Matters

There is a temptation to treat writing about art as a luxury — something done once the essential work of making and showing is secured. This is exactly backwards. Good criticism is an act of intellectual care. An artist who has been written about deeply has something no press release can provide: a record. A place in a conversation that will outlast the gallery that showed them.

Publicity tells you a show happened. Criticism tells you what it meant and why it matters. Scholarship builds the frameworks within which both eventually make sense. Storytelling, the long-form essay, and the intimate interview do what none of them alone can: it makes the human being behind the work visible and refuse to reduce them to a style or a trend. Many emerging African artists currently have only the first of these. Very few have the sustained written engagement that gives a practice genuine historical durability.

The Publishing Gap

Funding for independent cultural magazines is precarious by definition. Philanthropic support for criticism, as distinct from artistic practice itself, remains underdeveloped across the continent. The consequence is that much of the most authoritative documentation of African art history has been produced by Western museums, American universities, and European publishing houses. This is not merely a question of geography. It is a question of interpretive authority: who decides what the work means, which artists matter, and how the story gets told. When that authority rests primarily in external institutions, the archive reflects their priorities — however well-intentioned. The missing African archives are not a minor gap. They are chapters that may never be recovered.

What Survives

Curators build the rooms in which art is seen. Editors, writers, publishers, translators, and archivists build the rooms in which it is understood — and understanding, unlike an exhibition, does not close after eight weeks. The infrastructure of cultural memory is unglamorous: filing cabinets, editorial budgets, arguments over the right word. It is the decision to commission a 4,000-word essay on an artist that no major institution has yet noticed. It is the archivist who scans the catalogue before it deteriorates. Fifty years from now, when scholars try to understand what African contemporary art was doing in the early decades of this century, what it argued, who it spoke to, what it refused, they will be working from what was written. The exhibitions will be gone. The records that survive will be the ones someone cared enough to make. African art deserves a publishing ecosystem strong enough to carry that weight — and the people doing that work deserve to be seen as the essential cultural workers they are.



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.

SIX STRATEGIES OF A BRAND AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

FEYISITAN IJIMAKINWA

In today's economic space, brands are constantly looking for innovative ways to reach their audience and build an authentic connection with their customers. One of the most effective and genuine strategies is the implementation of a brand ambassador programme.

These programmes not only foster customer loyalty but can also increase brand visibility and build trust among consumers. In this article, we will explore six fundamental strategies behind a successful brand ambassador programme that will help take your marketing strategy to the next level.

1. Identifying the right ambassadors

The first step in creating an effective brand ambassador programme is to identify the right people to represent your brand. It's not just about finding those with the highest number of social media followers, but rather individuals genuinely interested in your product or service. Authenticity is key; genuine brand ambassadors are much more persuasive to consumers than those who simply promote products for money. By finding people who truly love and use your product, you can build a solid foundation for your brand ambassador programme.

2. Fostering authenticity and transparency

Brand ambassadors must be authentic and transparent in their promotion of your product. Today's consumers are savvy and can easily detect when someone

is being fake or insincere. Allowing your brand ambassadors to share their real experiences and honest opinions builds a genuine relationship with your audience. This authenticity creates an emotional connection with consumers and strengthens trust in your brand.

3. Providing resources and support

For brand ambassadors to be effective, they need access to adequate resources and support. This includes providing detailed information about your products, training them on your brand's story and values, and being available to answer questions and offer guidance. The more empowered ambassadors feel, the more effective they will be in representing you. Additionally, consider rewarding their dedication and effort in some way, whether through discounts, free products, or financial incentives.

4. Encouraging collaboration and creativity

Collaboration and creativity are essential for a successful brand ambassador programme. Encourage your ambassadors to create original and unique content that creatively showcases your product. They can do this through reviews, tutorials, creative photos, or videos.

By fostering creativity, you not only get fresh and exciting content for your brand but also allow ambassadors to stand out and showcase their unique personalities.

Collaboration can also extend to in-person or online events, where ambassadors can interact directly with consumers and create unforgettable experiences.

5. Monitoring and measuring performance

It is crucial to track and measure the performance of your brand ambassador programme to assess its effectiveness. Use analytical tools to track website traffic, conversions, and user engagement generated by ambassadors. You can also solicit direct feedback from customers to evaluate how the programme has impacted their perception of the brand. This information will help you adjust your strategy as needed and make informed decisions to improve the programme's performance in the future.

6. Adapting and evolving

Digital marketing is constantly evolving, and strategies that work today may not be as effective tomorrow. Therefore, it is crucial to be willing to adapt and evolve your brand ambassador programme according to market trends and consumer preferences. Stay abreast of the latest developments in social media, technology, and consumer behaviour to ensure your programme is always up-to-date and relevant to your audience.

In a world saturated with advertising, trust and credibility are indispensable assets for any brand. Brand ambassadors, when carefully selected and allowed to be authentic in their promotion, can generate genuine trust among consumers. Testimonials and personal recommendations have a much greater impact than paid ads because they come from real individuals who have had real experiences with the product or service.

Consumer trust is not easily earned, but when built through genuine relationships with brand ambassadors, it can lead to long-term loyalty and customers becoming passionate advocates for your brand.

Last line

A well-executed brand ambassador programme can be a powerful tool that drives business growth and builds strong customer relationships. By identifying the right ambassadors, fostering authenticity and transparency, providing resources and support, encouraging collaboration and creativity, monitoring and measuring performance, and being willing to adapt and evolve, you can create a program that is genuine, effective, and sustainable in the long run.

So, are you ready to harness the power of brand ambassadors and take your marketing strategy to the next level?



FEYISITAN IJIMAKINWA

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

DEMOCRACY IS PARTICIPATION: HOW ADEBAYO IS TAKING LEADERSHIP TO NIGERIA'S GRIEVING COMMUNITIES

ADEDAYO OLALEKAN





In a nation where communities devastated by banditry, kidnappings and mass killings often receive little more than presidential statements and military assurances, Adebayo Adebayo is increasingly projecting himself as a different kind of national leader — one who believes leadership means physically standing with the people in their darkest hours.

From Plateau to Oyo and Ekiti states, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) chieftain has continued a series of condolence visits that many supporters now describe as the conduct of a “president-in-waiting” — a leader who not only speaks about insecurity but personally goes to grieving communities to comfort victims, offer hope and assure citizens that they have not been abandoned.

At the center of Adebayo’s message is one philosophy he repeatedly emphasizes wherever he goes: “Democracy is not about discussion but participation.”

For Adebayo, leadership is not measured by speeches from Abuja or carefully prepared statements from government houses. To him, governance means physically participating in the pain, fears and struggles of ordinary Nigerians. It is this philosophy that has driven his recent nationwide condolence and solidarity visits.

A Politics of Presence

In Angwa Rukuba community of Plateau State, where deadly nighttime attacks left many residents dead and families shattered, Adebayo did not merely issue a statement of sympathy, he traveled to the affected area, sat with grieving families and listened to residents recount their ordeals and even offered financial succour.

“The people of this community are saddened and battered, but they will not leave this land. God is always responsible, even if the government is not,” he said.

His words reflected both compassion and anger — compassion for victims and anger over what he described as repeated failures of governance.

Adebayo argued that the attackers terrorizing communities across Nigeria were “neither more powerful nor more intelligent than the institutions of state,” insisting that insecurity persists because leaders have failed to prioritize justice and protection of citizens.

For many residents, the significance of the visit was not merely political rhetoric, but the symbolism of a national figure physically appearing in a forgotten community during a period of grief.

The same message followed him to Ibadan, Oyo State, where he visited Governor Seyi Makinde amid growing kidnappings and insecurity in Oriire Local Government Area.

There, Adebayo openly accused President Bola Ahmed Tinubu of failing Nigerians on security. “President Tinubu has failed in his duties as Commander-in-Chief,” he declared.

But beyond criticizing the President, Adebayo used the moment to further explain his philosophy of participatory leadership.



Adebayo became particularly vocal after Tinubu's condolence visit to Benue State following the massacre in Yelewata and surrounding communities. He criticized the President for failing to visit the actual scene of the killings, arguing that explanations about bad roads were unacceptable for a Commander-in-Chief.

He also condemned what he described as the politicization of the visit, lamenting that political endorsements reportedly overshadowed the mourning of hundreds of victims.

For Adebayo, condolence visits should not become political ceremonies but opportunities for leaders to directly share the pain of

citizens.

According to him, the office of president is not ceremonial. A Commander-in-Chief, he argued, must not become distant from the suffering of the people.

That belief, he says, is why he continues to physically visit troubled communities instead of merely reacting from afar.

Taking Comfort to Ekiti Victims.

In Eda-Oniyo, Ekiti State, after fatal attacks on worshippers and the kidnapping of church members by armed bandits, Adebayo again traveled to the community to identify personally with victims.

He condemned the killings and kidnappings, insisting Nigerians should not be forced to live permanently in fear. Describing the repeated attacks across the country as evidence of "failure of governance," he maintained that the Nigerian state must be rebuilt around the protection of lives and property.

To Adebayo, insecurity is not just a security issue; it is a moral test of leadership.

Contrasting Tinubu's Approach

President Tinubu has also visited some affected communities and repeatedly condemned attacks across Plateau, Benue, Niger, Kwara and other states. His administration launched "Operation Savannah Shield," deployed troops and consistently promised justice for victims of attacks.

Yet critics argue that the federal government's responses have largely become predictable: condemnation, promises, deployments and official assurances, while killings and abductions continue.

"This Is What I Will Do as President"

Perhaps the most revealing aspect of Adebayo's recent engagements came when he was asked what he would do differently if elected president.

His answer was simple: what Nigerians are already seeing.

According to him, these condolence visits represent the exact style of leadership he would bring into office.

"This is what I would be doing as president — attending to the problems of insecurity and physically being with my people," he said.

"That is what a chief executive officer and commander-in-chief does."

The statement captures the image Adebayo appears determined to build ahead of 2027 — that of an accessible, empathetic and visibly involved leader.

At a time when many Nigerians complain of growing disconnect between leaders and citizens, Adebayo's repeated emphasis on participation rather than discussion positions him as a politician who believes leadership must be seen, felt and experienced directly by the people.

Across grieving communities from Plateau to Ekiti, the SDP presidential candidate is steadily constructing a political identity around empathy, physical presence and the promise that leadership should bring hope directly to the people — not merely statements from a distance.

MITIGATING THE 30% RISK: INSIDE NEW PLAN TO INSURE SMARTPHONES IN NIGERIA



L-R Alfred Egbai Co-founder & COO Cubecover, Deji Macaulay Co-founder CEO & Cubecover, Nnamdi Ezeigbo CEO Slot Systems Nigeria .

...as Cube Cover, SLOTR partner on automated insurtech solution

As the soaring cost of imported replacement parts drives smartphone maintenance fees to record highs, a new strategic alliance is seeking to financialize and de-risk device ownership for millions of Nigerian consumers.

In major electronics markets like Computer Village in Ikeja, Lagos, replacement screen prices for mid-tier and premium flagship devices now command between 20 percent to 30 percent of the original cost of the device, turning minor accidents into major financial disruptions.

Consumer behavioral patterns show that smartphone maintenance is one of the most overlooked recurring liabilities for Nigerians. Global mobile retail index data reveals that an estimated 25 percent to 30 percent of active mobile subscribers experience severe device damage

annually, with screen fractures accounting for over 60 percent of all recorded incidents.

Cube Cover, an innovative insurtech platform operating as a Tasala Insurance Broker company, has partnered with SLOTR Systems Limited, Nigeria’s largest omni-channel mobile retail and distribution network, to launch “SUPER FIX.”

Historically, the penetration of insurance products in Nigeria has been stifled by rigid, slow-moving manual claims processes.

Super Fix aims to disrupt this bottleneck through an auto-claims engine that triggers near-instant pre-approvals digitally, allowing consumers to walk directly into any authorised SLOTR service hub and get their devices repaired without paperwork delays.



Deji Macaulay, Co-founder of Cube Cover, highlighted that the integration of digital underwriting tools changes the old narrative of complex insurance processes.

“We are removing the complexity and delays traditionally associated with device protection by using automation and intelligent digital systems,” said Macaulay. “Customers can now protect their devices, walk into a Slot repair center when damage occurs, and receive instant approval for repairs through our auto-claims platform.”

The product is a tech-driven device protection solution designed to introduce automated retail insurance and rapid digital claims processing across Slot’s nationwide network.

The collaboration comes at a critical economic threshold. Following recent foreign exchange structural reforms, the landing cost of imported Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) smartphone parts has spiked significantly.

For SLOT Systems Limited, the partnership represents a major expansion of its corporate ecosystem. Having officially scaled its retail franchise network over the last two years, the brand is positioning device care as a vital post-sale relationship tool.

Speaking on the business rationale behind the partnership, Nnamdi Ezeigbo, CEO and Founder of SLOT Systems Limited, emphasised that high-value retail must transition from transactional transactions to ongoing consumer support.

“SLOT has always been focused on delivering trusted technology solutions and superior customer experience,” stated Ezeigbo. “Partnering with Cube Cover allows us to extend that commitment beyond device sales into device

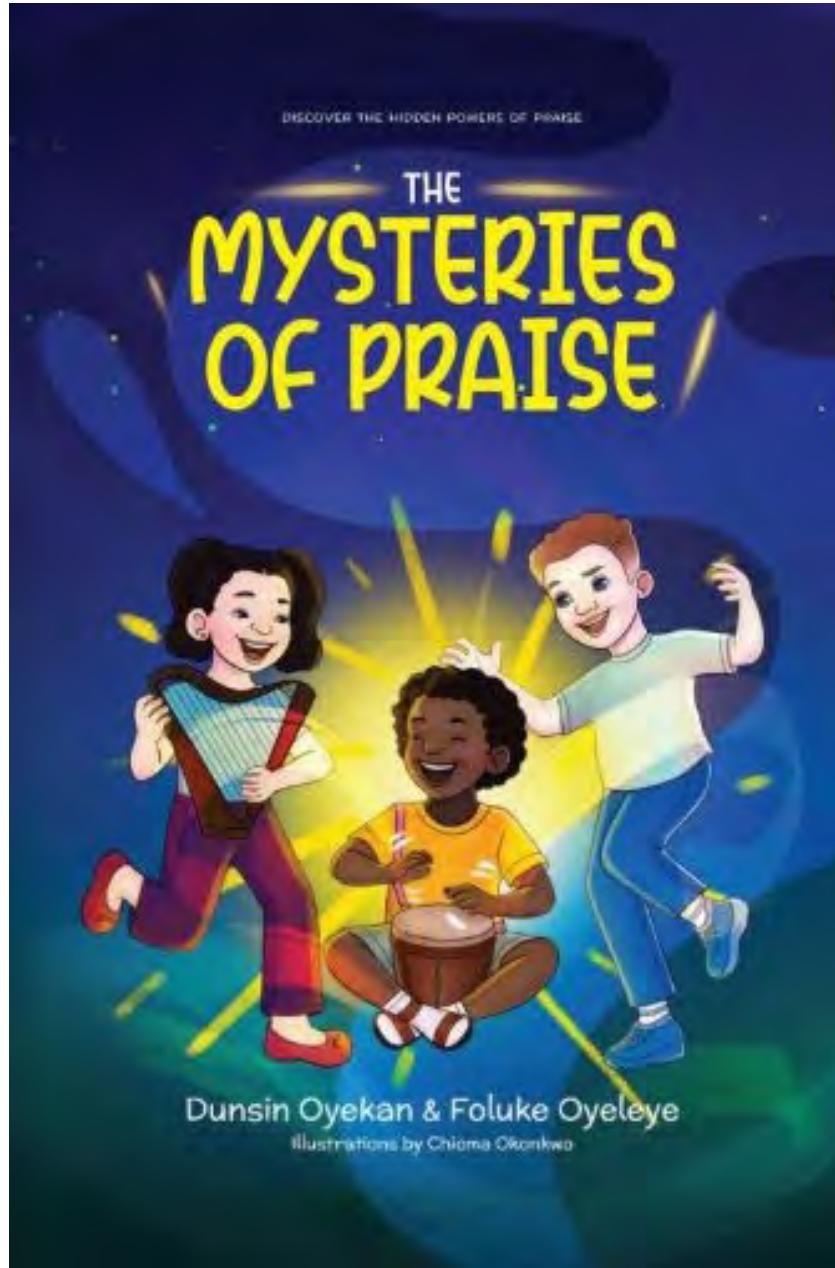
protection and care, giving our customers greater peace of mind. We are not just selling phones; we are selling trust, quality, and peace of mind.”

Ezeigbo added that with the current inflationary pressures impacting disposable income across Nigeria, giving consumers an affordable cushion against unpredictable capital expenditures on tech assets is a critical value proposition.

Under this purchase-and-protection framework, if a subscriber pays a N30,000 annual premium to safeguard a premium device (such as a hardware asset valued at N2 million to ₦3 million), they unlock N300,000 in guaranteed repair value. If a single screen replacement costs less than the total covered threshold, the remaining balance is preserved within the system to fund subsequent component repairs throughout the policy year.

To mitigate fraud and check adverse selection—such as consumers purchasing insurance after an accident has occurred—the system incorporates a mandatory initial waiting period. Onboarding, policy management, and claim tracking are fully integrated into the Cube Cover mobile application.

According to market surveys conducted by hardware platforms, while up to 64 percent of consumers immediately express intent to fix a damaged screen, financial constraints mean only 11 percent actually proceed with certified repairs. The remaining 89 percent either operate the device in a compromised, cracked state or turn to unauthorized third-party technicians who often use sub-standard parts that damage the device’s internal motherboard over time.



Unlocking Joy through Worship-A Review of Dunsin Oyekan
& Foluke Oyeleye's The Mysteries of Praise

Title: The Mysteries of Praise
Authors: Dunsin Oyekan & Foluke Oyeleye
Year of Publication: 2026
Number of Pages: 116
Category: Children's Book

THE MYSTERIES OF PRAISE

TITILADE OYEMADE

One may wonder if seeing Dunsin Oyekan listed as one of the authors of *The Mysteries of Praise* is merely a coincidence. However, considering that his name has become almost synonymous with worship and praise, it comes as no surprise that he would be connected to a book that celebrates the beauty and power of praise. Alongside him is Foluke Oyeleye, a respected children's author known for creating engaging and meaningful stories that leave lasting impressions on young readers.

The cheerful children displayed on the cover immediately capture attention and create a sense of excitement. It is the kind of cover that sparks curiosity in children, making them eager to either learn how to play a musical instrument, sing along, or simply experience the joy reflected on the faces of the children in the book.

In the opening pages, readers are introduced to the powerful idea that names can influence identity and purpose in life. Dunsin Oyekan reintroduces himself to younger readers and to those who may not yet be familiar with his ministry and passion for praise. This personal touch immediately creates a connection between Oyekan and his audience, making the reading experience feel warm and inviting.

One of the strongest qualities of *The Mysteries of Praise* is its conversational style. Rather than simply telling a story, the authors interact directly with the reader, making the book feel engaging and personal. This approach keeps children fully involved and makes it difficult for them to lose concentration.

What makes this book particularly unique is its focus on teaching children about praise and worship from a biblical perspective. Through 21 Bible stories, the authors carefully explain the significance of praising God in different situations. The lessons go beyond music and singing, helping children understand praise as an expression of gratitude, faith, joy, and a growing relationship with God. The illustrations are absolutely beautiful and captivating. Every page is colourful, expressive, and visually engaging, bringing the stories and lessons to life in a memorable way. The artistic presentation adds excitement to the overall reading experience.

Another remarkable feature of the book is its interactive exercises and activities. This is not a book children simply read and abandon; it requires participation, reflection, and creativity. The activities encourage children to think deeply, use their imagination, and personally engage with the lessons being taught. Because many of the exercises are individual and interactive, families with more than one child may find it worthwhile to purchase separate copies so each child can fully enjoy the experience.

The book also encourages readers to develop a personal relationship with God. There is something deeply intimate about the way the lessons are presented, making the reading experience feel personal to each child. It becomes more than just a storybook; it becomes a spiritual journey filled with discovery, learning, and self-reflection.

Interestingly, *The Mysteries of Praise* is not only beneficial for children. Adults can also learn valuable lessons from its message. The simplicity of the writing, combined with its spiritual depth, serves as a reminder of the importance of praise, gratitude, and worship in everyday life. Parents reading alongside their children may find themselves equally inspired and encouraged.

The collaboration between Dunsin Oyekan and Foluke Oyeleye is a beautiful blend of spiritual insight and creative storytelling. Together, they have created a book that educates, inspires, entertains, and uplifts its readers while laying a strong spiritual foundation for children at an early stage in life.

By the end of the book, children will undoubtedly be filled with joy and a deeper understanding of the mysteries behind praise. *The Mysteries of Praise* is full of life, a delightful read that leaves young readers smiling while stirring their curiosity about worship, music, and faith.



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FERGUSON, GUARDIOLA AND THE MEN WHO CONQUERED ENGLAND

ANTHONY NLEBEM



Since the formation of the Premier League in 1992, England's top flight has evolved into the most competitive domestic football league in the world. Winning even one title demands tactical brilliance, financial strength, elite recruitment and exceptional management.

Yet, a select group of legendary managers have dominated the English game across different generations. Following the conclusion of the 2025/26 campaign, which saw Mikel Arteta join the list of title-winning managers, here are the five coaches who ruled English football and won the most Premier League trophies in history.

1. Alex Ferguson — 13 Titles (Manchester United)

The undisputed king of English football.

No manager comes close to Ferguson's extraordinary dominance during his legendary reign at Old Trafford. The Scottish icon won 13 Premier League titles and built one of the greatest dynasties football has ever seen.

Ferguson guided Manchester United to league triumphs in 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011 and 2013.

Beyond domestic dominance, Ferguson also delivered two UEFA Champions League titles and 10 Community Shields, cementing his place as the most successful manager in English football history.

Pep Guardiola — 6 Titles (Manchester City)

Widely regarded as the tactical architect of modern football, Guardiola transformed Manchester City into one of the most dominant forces English football has witnessed.



Since arriving at City in 2016 following successful spells with Barcelona and Bayern Munich, Guardiola has won six Premier League titles and redefined attacking football in England.

The Spaniard also guided Man City to their first-ever UEFA Champions League title in 2023 while completing multiple domestic trebles during his remarkable era at the Etihad Stadium.

His influence on modern football tactics and positional play remains unmatched in the current generation.

Arsène Wenger — 3 Titles (Arsenal)

Wenger revolutionised English football from the moment he arrived in north London in 1996.

The Frenchman transformed player nutrition, scouting systems, sports science and football culture during his historic 22-year spell at Arsenal.

Wenger won three Premier League titles, including the unforgettable 2003/04 "Invincibles" campaign when Arsenal completed an entire 38-game league season unbeaten, a feat that remains unmatched in Premier League history.

He also lifted seven FA Cups and helped redefine modern football management in England.





Jose Mourinho — 3 Titles (Chelsea)

“The Special One” arrived in England in 2004 and immediately disrupted the Ferguson-Wenger dominance.

Mourinho guided Chelsea to three Premier League titles across two highly successful spells at Stamford Bridge and established one of the league’s greatest defensive teams.

His 2004/05 Chelsea side conceded only 15 goals in 38 matches — still the best defensive record in Premier League history.

The Portuguese manager also won domestic trophies with Chelsea and later added silverware during his time at Manchester United.

Jürgen Klopp — 1 Title (Liverpool)

Although Klopp won only one Premier League title, his impact on Liverpool and English football was enormous.

The German ended Liverpool’s 30-year wait for a league title when he guided the Reds to the 2019/20 Premier League crown in dominant fashion.

Klopp also restored Liverpool as a European powerhouse, winning the UEFA Champions League, FA Cup, League Cup and FIFA Club World Cup during his unforgettable tenure at Anfield.

His high-intensity “gegenpressing” philosophy transformed Liverpool into one of Europe’s most feared teams and re-established the club among football’s elite.



WEEKENDER

MOVIE REVIEW

MY DEAREST ASSASIN (2026)

A young lady with a rare blood type was attacked by some bad guys while she was very little. They killed her parents and in the process of trying to take her away, another set of assassins came around to save her and took her away. She settles down with this new family and stays indoors for years. She is happy with her new family and loves them all. Unfortunately, the very first day she steps her foot outside the house, she gets seen by the bad guys who killed her parents years ago. You will need to go check out this fantastic action movie to find out how her new family protected her with their lives and avoided her being taken away, knowing she will be killed. The 128m Thai drama, romance, action movie was directed by Taweewat Wantha. They featured actors like Pimchanok Luevisadpaibul, Thanapob Leeratanakachorn, Sivakorn Adulsuttikul, Toni Rakkaen, Chartayocom Hiranyasthiti, Teerawat Mulvilai, Nikon Sae Tang, Chupong Changprung, Namo Rebilut, Ariyapol Lekpitthaya etc.



18TH ROSE (2026)

If you enjoy Filipino movies, then you might want to try out this brand new movie on Netflix, the movie was okay, but not really my kind of movie as I struggled to get to the end of this movie. Rose was a teenager who worked in a cafe and was in charge of selling internet airtimes. Jordan was a young teenager boy who just changed cities and wasn't happy at all, as he really missed the big city and his dad, but his mom felt that this was for a good cause. Jordan struggled with mixing up and making new friends, he just hated the relocation. Well you will need to check out this new teenage dramatic movie to find out how what started out as a very toxic friendship turned into a very strong bond where they both found out that they really needed each other. The 131m heartfelt, bittersweet, emotional, Filipino drama, romance was directed by Dolly Dulu, Kye Echari, Xyriel Manabat, Nikki Valdez, Cris Villanueva, Yayo Aguila, Gai Cortez and many more.



COLORS OF LOVE (2021)

If you enjoy romantic movies, then you might want to check out this romantic movie from 2021, this movie kept popping up on my timeline, so I decided to check it out, as I couldn't find any action movie. Taylor, a librarian, was traveling to visit her brother Craig when her car went off the road. Luckily a good Samaritan by the name Joel stops by to help her and give her a lift to the city. When she arrived the city, she noticed that her phone was gone, but only to have Joel come around with it. They became friends as a result of his kindness, but their friendship faces a huge stumbling block as Taylor discovers that Joel is the big guy that wants to buy her brother's vintage hotel, which will take him out of the job he loves so much. Well, you will need to go check out this movie to find out how Taylor fought for her brother and how she chose family over love. The 89m Canadian drama, romance film based on books was directed by Bradley Walsh, Chad Michael Murray, Jessica Lowndes, Dennis Andres, Mani Ogunsuyi, etc.



WEEKEND QUOTES



1

Be above board with God!
.....WhispersbyTEN

2

Receive a waiting help, a
following help and a permanent
help. Take it
.....WhispersbyTEN

3

The tiny rod that holds heaven
and the earth. He is God
.....WhispersbyTEN

4

The source of rain that gives
comfort like no other.
I bow before you
.....WhispersbyTEN