

THIS  DAY

# Style

# AUSTIN AVURU

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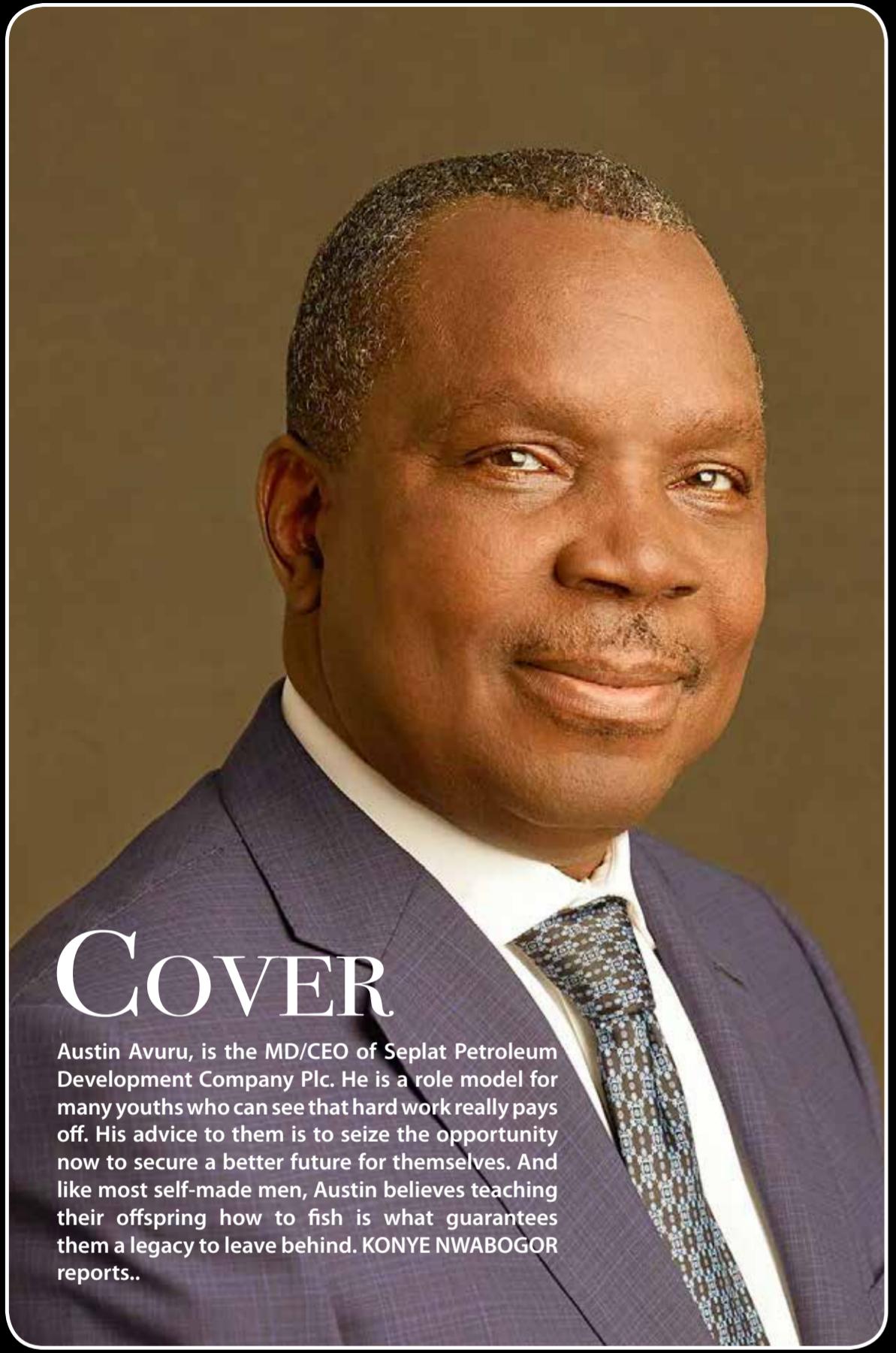
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# CONTENT



## THISDAY STYLE

**FASHION DIRECTOR/EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
RUTH OSIME 08111847085

**EDITOR PRINT** OLUFUNKE BABS-KUFEJI  
08111847086

**EDITOR DIGITAL** KONYE NWABOGOR  
08111847087

**STYLE CORRESPONDENT** MOJISOLA ALLEN  
08116759745

**STYLE CORRESPONDENT** SAFINA MOHAMMED

**SENIOR ART DESIGNER** MATHIAS ARCHIBONG  
07054965500

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
RUKY SALAKO  
JULIET ALU  
AYODEJI ROTINWA

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
TY BELLO

**DIRECTOR, PRINT PRODUCTION.**  
CHUKS ONWUDINJO  
08077092196



It's that festive time of the year again when your social diary is bursting at the seams. In fact, if care is not taken, one can break down from exhaustion from sheer lack of rest. Not only that, one tends to pile on the pounds because the treats are irresistible. It will take sheer dint of discipline to resist them because they are deliciously tempting! My advice, first and foremost, accept that you cannot attend all the events you are invited to and divide your invites into three categories. Duty bound, networking and indulgence. That way, you can prioritize properly and not feel so bad when you give some events a miss. Most of my events fall into the second category and to me, that falls into my own first category.

I also believe after a certain age, the wear and tear of your body far outweighs the need to attend every single function. And if you come to think of it, you will save some outfits in your wardrobe for a much more worthy occasion. For those of you who feel

the need to make or buy something new every time you have an event, please do try and curb such habits because not only is it a very expensive venture, it also does not make sense. One Look Two Ways shows how you can give your clothes much more mileage by wearing the pieces with something else. Mix and Match is also another way to combine your outfits and make them look totally different.

Truth is, I really do not see the need to buy or make something new week in, week out, because you want to 'stand out'. It is such a wasteful venture when the money could be put into much better use by spending it on the less privileged for instance. Speaking of which, I just heard Cool FM 97.3 asking for donation of toys for children this Christmas. They asked that the toys be dropped at their station on Keffi street. So instead of buying one more aso-ebi, why not just use the money to bless a child or children and find a similar colour to the required aso-ebi and wear that instead? Not only will you save yourself another unnecessary expenditure, you will put a smile on some faces this season! Think about it.

## Society

**EBITIMI & IFEANYI TIE THE KNOT PG 4**

**REMI MAKANJUOLA CLOCKS 70! PG 8**

## Fashion

**MIX MATCH PG 20**

**ONE LOOK, TWO WAYS PG 22**



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# Scene and be Seen



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SENATOR AJEGBO, FORMER PRESIDENT, GOODLUCK JONATHAN, FORMER FIRST LADY, MRS PATIENCE JONATHAN, THE COUPLE,IFEANYI AND EBITIMI AJEGBO, FORMER PRESIDENT OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, TIMI ALAIBE AND MRS AJEBO

FIDELIS ODITAH SAN

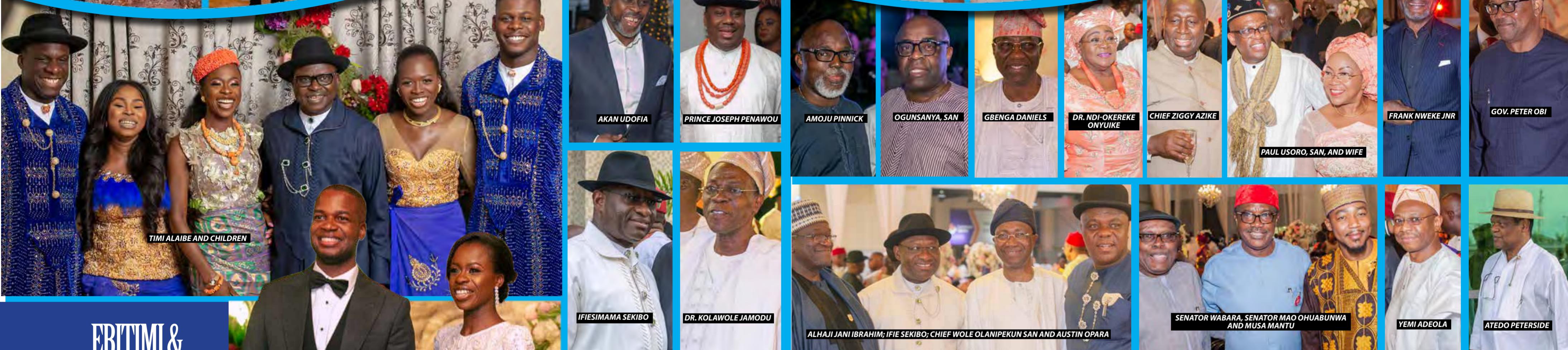
MRS OSCAR IBRU

OLOROGUN OSCAR IBRU

GOMBE STATE GOVERNOR, IBRAHIM HASSAN DANKWAMBO

HRM KING EDMUND DAUKORU, AMAYANBO NEMBE

OBI OF ONITSHA, AGBOGIDI IGWE ALFRED ACHEBE AND WIFE, IGWE NWANYI



## EBITIMI & IFEANYI TIE THE KNOT

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

The families of Chief Timi Alaibe and late Alaere Alaibe became one as their daughter Ebitimi got married to her heartthrob Ifeanyi, son of Senator Mike and Julie Ajegbo. The wedding took place at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Victoria Island while the reception was held at Landmark Centre, Victoria Island. Lagos was brought to a standstill as all movers and shakers turned out in droves to celebrate this special occasion with the young couple.

It came as no surprise that the political giants were there to add pomp and pageantry to the occasion. Two former Presidents, Gen Olusegun Obasanjo, President Goodluck Jonathan and his wife, Patience were there to show their support to two of their close friends, both fathers of the couple.

Needless to say, it was a very colourful occasion and the beautiful bride and her dashing groom were the cynosure of all eyes. It certainly was a memorable event for all the guests that attended the wedding.

Here's wishing the couple a very happy married life



IFEANYI AND EBITIMI AJEGBO





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# Scene and be Seen



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MR AND MRS AKINLUYI



CELEBRANT WITH OLORIS OF OBA OF LAGOS



FEMI PEDRO AND MRS DUPE ADELAJA



JIDE SANWO-OLU, BODE MAKANJUOLA



MOYO MAKANJUOLA AND SARA DUNCAN



DR SEUN ABIOLA



MRS FOLORUNSHO ALAKIJA AND MRS YOYIN MAKANJUOLA



NIYI AND ROTIMI MAKANJUOLA



SEN OLUREMI TINUBU AND MRS MARLIES ALLAN



J BRONZE AND MONIQUE



SHERIFF SHAGAYA



MUTIU SUNMONU AND OSAGIE OKUNBOR



DARA MAKANJUOLA



GOV. GODWIN OBASEKI OF EDO STATE



MRS SAMIRA MAKANJUOLA



MUSILIU SMITH



MRS AND MRS KEHINDE SMITH



HAKEEM SHAGAYA

## REMI MAKANJUOLA CLOCKS 70!

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

For a man who has been so successful with his various businesses in the Oil & Gas, Aviation and Marine sectors, Makajuola has played a major role in social corporate responsibility. To mark his 70th birthday, he launched The Aderemi Makajuola Lecture Theatre LASU which he launched a day before his birthday.

Makajuola is married to his heartthrob of over four decades, Yoyinsola and they are blessed with children and grandchildren, some of whom were around to mark the day with him. They ensured he had a befitting birthday. A lovely garden party was held in their compound. The Veintage band provided good music that kept some guests on their feet most of the time not to mention the sumptuous meals and lovely desserts served and downed with a robust choice of drinks. As usual, the Makajuolas left no stone unturned to ensure all their guests were well catered to. Inside the gift pack was a coffee table book that chronicles the life of Remi Makajuola, filled with pictures of family and some friends. What was most poignant were the tributes, especially the ones from his immediate family.

Here's wishing him many more happy years to come.



CELEBRANT, REMI MAKANJUOLA



CELEBRANT AND WIFE, YOYIN SOLA



BODE GEORGE



CELEBRANT AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY



SEGUN ADENIYI, MALLAM BELLO GWANDU

# FirstGem- Celebrating Two Years of Empowering Women

The FirstGem 2nd anniversary celebration held on 23 November 2018 at Harbour Point, Victoria Island, Lagos. The event was held to commemorate the achievements of various FirstGem women and also to reinvigorate women in their quest for financial literacy and discipline. The event brought together women from all walks of life with one common goal - financial independence - for which FirstGem was created.

FirstGem is a lifestyle product created by FirstBank to meet the economic needs and aspirations of women.



1). Dr Adesola Adeduntan, Managing Director, First Bank of Nigeria Limited and Subsidiaries; Ibukun Awosika, Chairman, FirstBank; Arunma Oteh, Vice President/Treasurer, World Bank; Nimi Akinkugbe, CEO Bestman Games and Gbenga Shobo, Deputy Managing Director, FirstBank



2). Dr Adesola Adeduntan, Managing Director/CEO, First Bank of Nigeria Limited & Subsidiaries delivering the welcome address



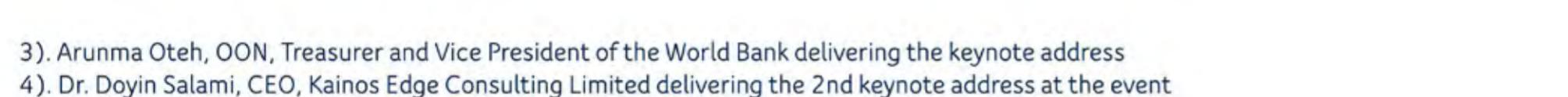
3). Arunma Oteh, OON, Treasurer and Vice President of the World Bank delivering the keynote address



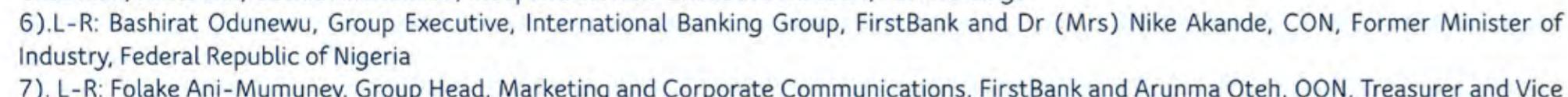
4). Dr Doyin Salami, CEO, Kainos Edge Consulting Limited delivering the 2nd keynote address at the event



5). L-R: Folake Ani-Mumuney, Group Head, Marketing and Corporate Communications, FirstBank; Fatima Daku, Relationship Manager, Public Sector Group, Abuja, FirstBank; Dr Adesola Adeduntan, Managing Director/CEO, First Bank of Nigeria Limited & Subsidiaries; Ibukun Awosika, Chairman, FirstBank; Cecilia Akintomide, Independent Non-Executive Director, FBN Holdings



6). L-R: Bashirat Odunewu, Group Executive, International Banking Group, FirstBank and Dr (Mrs) Nike Akande, CON, Former Minister of Industry, Federal Republic of Nigeria



7). L-R: Folake Ani-Mumuney, Group Head, Marketing and Corporate Communications, FirstBank and Arunma Oteh, OON, Treasurer and Vice President of the World Bank



8). L-R: Her Excellency, Betsy Obaseki, First Lady of Edo State and Gbenga Shobo, Deputy Managing Director, FirstBank

## Other Highlights of the Event



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BACK ROW L-R: MODELE SHARAFYA YUSUF; OLANIYI OYELOWO; ARON AKEREJOLA; VICTORIA PEPPLE; NDEE AMAUGO; MAERCY AJISAFE; ADESUWA OMORUAN, REUBEN ABATI; VERONICA ODEKA

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Cover photographs by TTY Bello

**Augustine Ojunkwu Avuru**, popularly known as Austin Avuru, is the MD/CEO of one of Nigeria's leading crude oil exploration companies, Seplat Petroleum Development Company Plc. His is not inherited wealth but self made as a result of hard work and sheer dint of courage and confidence and the success of his business is a testament to that. As one of Nigeria's most astute businessmen, Avuru is a role model for many youths who can see that hard work really pays off. Yes, opportunities and some luck might come in handy but knowing how to seize the moment and use it to your advantage is what really counts. And like most selfmade men, teaching their offspring how to fish is what guarantees them a legacy to leave behind.

Austin Avuru got a degree in Geology, from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka in 1980 then went to University of Ibadan for a Postgraduate Diploma in Petroleum Engineering, graduating in 1992. In 1980, Avuru began his career in NNPC where he worked for 12 years, after which he moved on to Allied Energy Resources where he worked for another 10 years then left to set up on his own and that was how Platform Petroleum Limited was berthed which now became Seplat Petroleum Company Plc when he merged with A.B.C Orjiakor's Shebah Petroleum Company Limited. **KONYE NWABOGOR** reports.

**Who played a major role in your life whilst growing up and how has that helped define the man you are today?**  
My Mother. She always admonished us that when you are blessed with a clean piece of yam, learn to hide it under the table. She always underplayed her accomplishments. Such has always been her humility. In addition, she always exhibited the virtues of integrity and generosity.

**Now that you are 60, looking back, what are some of the major milestones in your life that come to mind?**

Having kids. I had my first daughter 13 years after my first marriage. 15 years later, I started having my current set of young kids from my wife, Victoria. So you can see how I went from having no kid in 13 years to now having two sons and three daughters. Only God can do such things.

The second key milestone was venturing out of paid employment 16 years ago. It enabled me seek and deliver my full potentials.

**After losing your dad at the tender age of four making your mum a single mother, did you have to become a man at a relatively young age to carry some of her responsibilities to lighten her burden?**

My mum played the role of both mother and father. Even today, at 85 and not very strong, she has a huge influence on all of us, her six children.

**Can you recall any fond memories of your dad as he passed away at your infancy?**  
Carrying me on his shoulders. That is all I can faintly remember.

**What gave you succour during this trying**



*I had my first daughter 13 years after my first marriage. 15 years later, I started having my current set of young kids from my wife, Victoria. So you can see how I went from having no kid in 13 years to now having two sons and three daughters. Only God can do such things*



**time?**  
My mum filled the gap. The extended family structure in the village also helped a great deal.

**How long have you been in the oil business and for our young readers who look up to your success story for inspiration, what are the key things to know and master before veering into the Oil & Gas sector?**

38 years, since graduation from UNN in 1980. I would say, hard work, humility and integrity

(plus a good dose of God's grace) will always, ultimately produce results.

**Many also believe Nigeria's reliance on the Oil & Gas sector backfired on us as a nation when the prices crashed. What is your take on this?**

Oil & Gas revenues should only be an enabler (like any other rental revenue) for broader economic development. We have failed, over the past 60 years to utilize it prudently. We have behaved the way a randy and undisciplined child treats his inheritance.

**We are also nation blessed with oil minerals and yet most of our refineries are working below capacity if at all, for lack of care and upkeep, not to mention the numerous issues with bunkering. In layman's terms, what will you advice to be done in order for us to produce oil at its fullest capacity?**

Government should only provide the enabling environment for the Private Sector to efficiently operate the industry. The refineries should be sold.

**With abundant oil in our shores, why is it that we still experience petrol shortage every now and then?**

Our three refineries, which were properly interlinked to an elaborate distribution system of pipelines and 19 depots across the Country are all dysfunctional! This huge infrastructure network has been abandoned

*The youths of today have to seize the future from the current breed of failed leaders. The future belongs to them.*

and in Houston for two-three weeks respectively each year.

**Do you have any favourite holiday spots and if so, do so tell us why you love this place so much?**

Our homes in the village and Houston, South Africa, Monaco and summer in Calgary.

**Most people have a bucket list (things they will like to do before their time is up). At 60, have you been able to tick some, if not all, of your boxes? And if not, what things are still on that list that you will like to do God willing?**

My remaining strong wish is to build a Catholic (Jesuit) Secondary School in my village.

**If you were to be described by your wife, children and friends, what do you think each party will say about you?**

They will most likely say I am their role model and mentor.

**Most people feel some sense of obligation to give back to society. Do you have any foundation you have set up solely for this cause and if so, what is it called and what is the goal of the NGO?**

The Austin Avuru Foundation. We have been giving back. A Catholic Church with generous Clergy Residences in Abbi and a well-equipped, 50-bed



for wholesome importation. Until we revamp this infrastructure, the nation will continue to suffer from shortages and leakages.

**You have written a book. What is it about and what inspired you to write it?**

That was a compilation of my opinion articles and public lectures up to 2005. Since I took this job in 2010, I have stopped writing, for fear of my views jeopardising the fortunes of the Company I now run.

**Has it been launched and where is it being sold?**

It is sold quietly out of my office and at industry conferences. It was never launched.

By God's grace, I will retire around my 62nd birthday.

**And if so what do you plan to do after retirement?**

I will manage a small investment Company focusing on Oil and Gas upstream, Real Estate, Capital Market Investment and Agriculture.

**Like most successful businessmen, you do not have the luxury of spending enough quality time with your family. So when you do have this luxury, what do you most enjoy doing with your family?**

We spend quality time in our homes in the village

hospital in Abbi built and handed over to the Catholic Church are some of our star projects. Platform Petroleum was also built in my honour, a fully equipped Geology Department for my Alma mater, UNN. We also run various Secondary and tertiary scholarship Schemes.

**In a nation of disillusioned youths who do not see a better tomorrow in their future, what advice will you give them to boost their morale and boost their confidence in this better tomorrow?**

The youths of today have to seize the future from the current breed of failed leaders. The future belongs to them.



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# Mix & Match

On a scale of tricky trends, we put mixing prints right up at the top. But here's the good news: It doesn't take a rocket scientist to master the art of mixing and matching. Once you learn a few simple tricks of the trade, you'll be pairing patterns like an expert in no time. We promise, it's easier than it looks.

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

## Double up on the Same Print

The exact same print can be worn together in varying shades. For best results, either make sure the colours are complementary or different shades of the same family.



CHICAMA

JENNIFER OSEH

## Learn the Color Rule

When mixing three vibrant prints, you'll want to choose colors that are evenly spaced out on the color wheel. If three patterns feel too loud to you, tone down your outfit by making one of the prints a solid or a neutral.

## Stick to Similar Tones

When your prints don't match, your colour story should. In other words, pair pastels with other pastels. The same goes for earth tones and jewel tones.



NINI

Once you have these easy rules noted, don't be afraid to mix and match patterns at will. Some of the best combinations happen by accident.



SHADE LADIPO

## Start off Small

If you're a beginner, start mixing patterns by replacing the solid shirt in your everyday outfit with a soft print.



TOKE MAKINWA

## Be Adventurous

In the world of mixing and matching, stripes and dots are considered neutrals. They'll go with just about anything. Including each other

Pic- Alero



INIDIMA OKOJIE

## Play with Size

The same print in different sizes will pair well together, regardless of color scheme.



ALERIO

## Know Your Neutrals

# One Look Two Ways

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

How cool would it be to have an outfit so versatile that you can restyle and still look totally different! We stumbled on this two-piece outfit from Tongoro studio on our favourite fashionista Ozinna Anumudu and we love how it allows her to rock it in a way that looks like she picked a totally different outfit. A fashion tip to pick from here would be to shop pieces, which have the capacity to be versatile without losing its stand out appeal. You can go shopping now and then thank us later.



OZINNA ANUMUDU



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