

THIS DAY

Style



PRESIDENTIAL INTERVIEW SERIES... **MUHAMMADU BUHARI**

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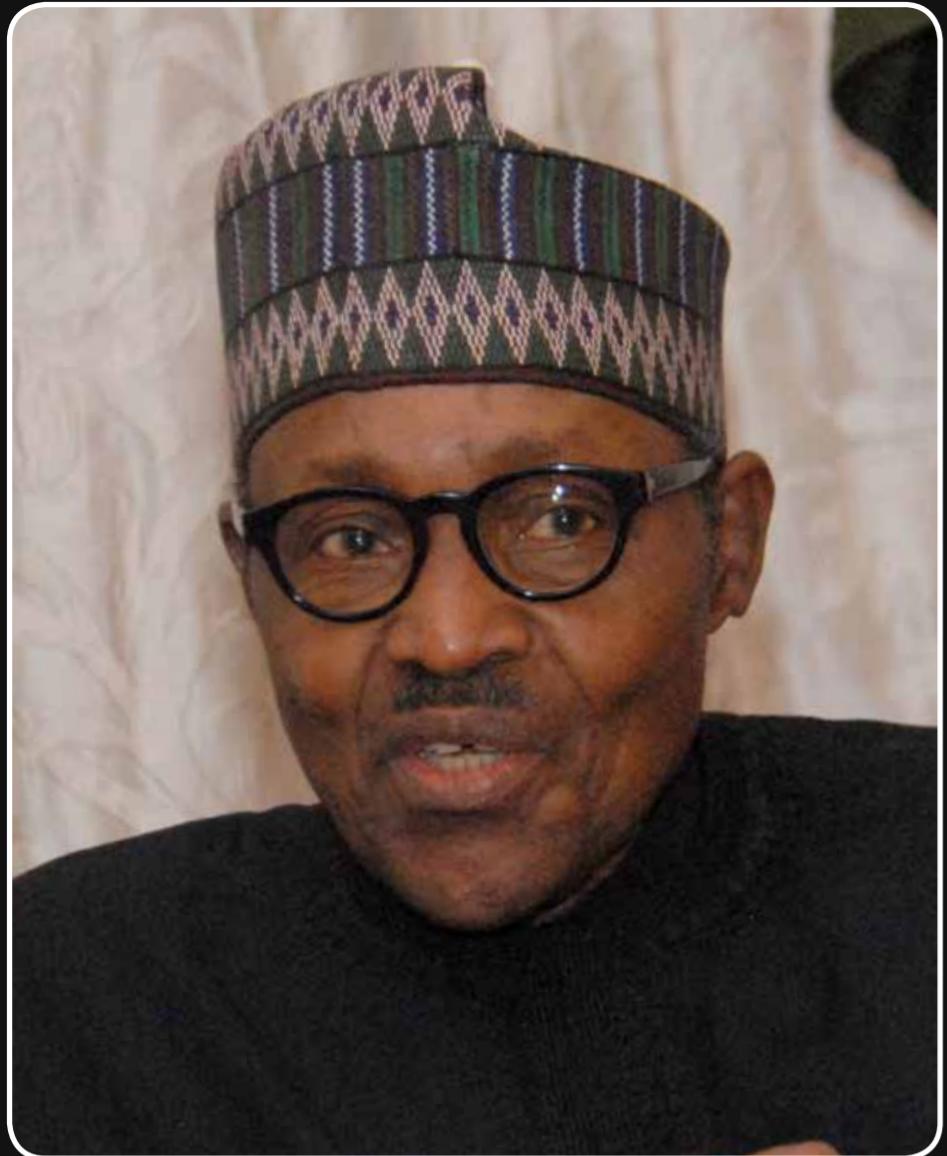
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COVER

With the Nigerian elections coming up next month, Arise TV News and its sister organization THISDAY Newspapers, have begun holding a first-ever of its kind series, exclusive only to THISDAY Newspapers and ARISE TV News channel. The one-on-one presidential debates is designed to help voters learn more about the two forefront presidential candidates, incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari, flag bearer of APC and the opposition party PDP flag bearer, Vice-President Atiku Abubakar. President Buhari's interview is the first of this series and STYLE has provided an exclusive courtesy of Assistant Editor/State House **OMOLOLU OGUNMADE**

PHOTO CREDITS: GODWIN OMOIGUI

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THISDAY STYLE

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If there is one thing I have to give to my Chairman, Nduka Obaigbena, it is how he always seems to be a step ahead because he thinks out of the box! When the Vice-Presidential debate took place a few weeks ago, many of us were totally transfixed to our TVs as we watched the leading actors on the stage, Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo of APC and Presidential running mate, Peter Obi of PDP. One reeled figures off head effortlessly while the other reeled accomplishments with equal gusto. Unfortunately they overshadowed the other three contestants as they took centre stage and fought vigorously for the crown of 'most impactful'. It was a combative discussion that certainly left an impression on the educated. Naturally, after the debate, the social media went agog. Holes were poked, statements were crosschecked and assessments made. The comments in itself were also most interesting regardless of which party you supported. So needless to say, this debate whet our appetite as we yearned for more! We wanted the Presidential contestants to have their own debate. We awaited it like die-hard fans waiting for the finals of their favourite sport! You must all agree nothing comes close to such adrenalin on the D-Day. But some of us were apprehensive and doubtful that such opportunity will arise and therefore did not exactly 'hold our breath' in anticipation lest we choke to death!

Then surprise surprise, Obaigbena gives us the most salivating scoop, a first of its kind one-on-one series with the two flag bearers of Nigeria's biggest parties, incumbent President Muhammadu Buhari of APC (All Progressive Congress) and Former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar of (People's Democratic Party) PDP. Needless to say, the whole of Nigeria, and indeed the world at large, tuned to ARISE TV last Monday evening to watch the interview session. But for those of you who missed it or could not hear every word said clearly, we are delighted to give you the transcript of the interview itself, word for word! We hope to do the same with Vice-President Atiku Abubakar, the flag bearer of PDP when he too participates in this series. We hope this will better arm you to make your final choice from all the Presidential candidates and also encourage you to do the needful and take time out to vote because your vote will make a difference believe it or not!

Ruth

FASHION DIRECTOR/EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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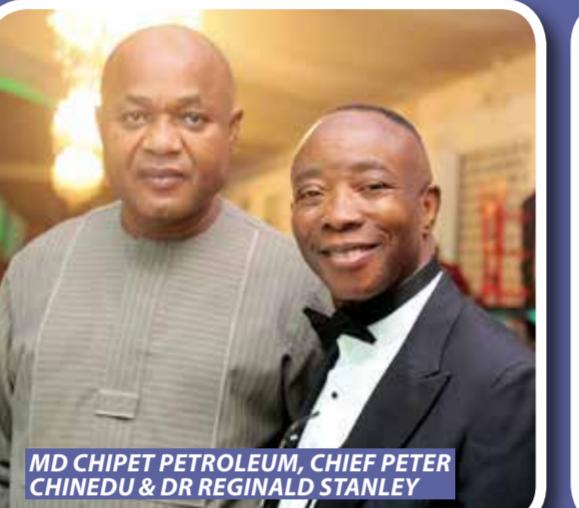
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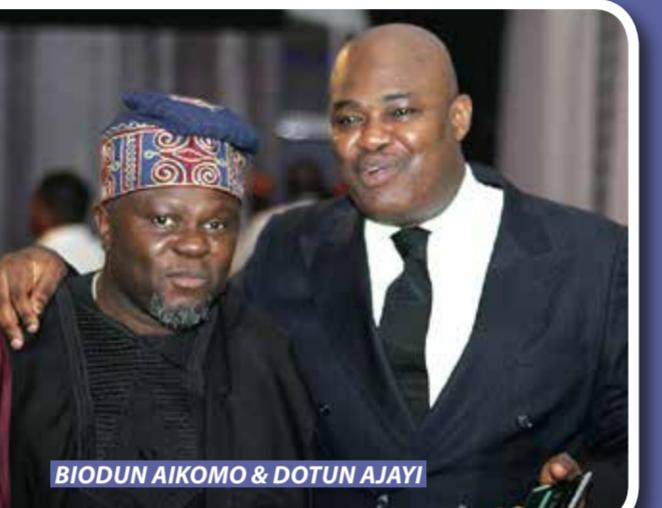
This was celebrated with a GLAM Ball which took place at The Balmoral Conference Center, Federal Palace in Victoria Island Lagos. This exquisite ceremony was meticulously put together by The Cruise Events LTD. It featured artists such as Teekay, Djinee, Adekunle Gold, 2Face Idibia, Cobham and the Legendary Ebenezer Obey. Kenny Blaq was also on hand to thrill guests with musical comedy.



MR & MRS OLUJIMI



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MR & MRS OLUJIMI WITH THEIR CHILDREN



HILDA & TUNDE ADEBOYE



AHMAD & FATIMA DAMCIDA



CHICHI OJEME & RONKE ONADEKO



L-R: MR ODUSSINA, MR SANWOOLU, MR & MRS OLUJIMI, MR REGINALD STANLEY, DR & MRS SULE



CHAIRMAN ORIADE LGA, ALHAJA WOSBAB & MRS OSIPITAN



ADAM NUHU, DEBO OLUJIMI & ALHAJI ABDULKADIR SAIDU



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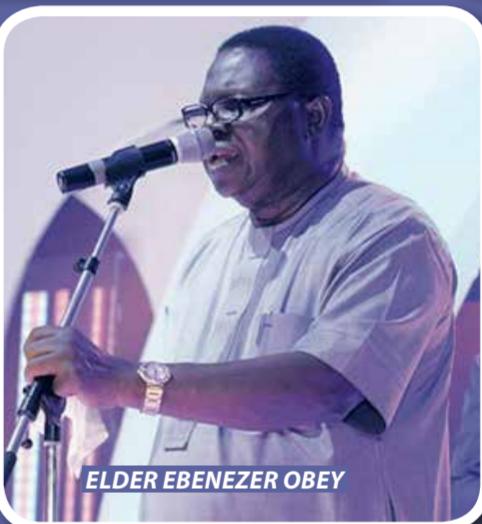
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LEATHER PANTS

Dos and Don'ts

Leather pants are like a new best friend; you're immediately intrigued and hooked. They are available in variety of silhouettes, whether you want to go edgy, sporty, or somewhere in between. Before you find your perfect pair, read through a few Dos and Don'ts for styling the look. Leather trousers, if worn wrong, can look tacky and cheap but when done right, they make you look amazingly chic and trendy. Step up your inner chic bad girl this 2019 with a pair of leather pants.

BY FUNKE BABS-KUFEJI & ISIOMA USIADE

DO pair it with a denim jacket: To pull off the casual leather pants look, you must pair it with a top in contrasting fabric and a denim jacket is one of the fabrics that is in contrast but greatly complements the leather material. Just simply put on a loose tank top and layer a denim jacket over it.

DON'T pair it with matching leather jacket: You may be tempted to do this. However, pairing a pair of leather pants with an equally trendy leather jacket will be an over kill. You will end up looking like a member of a biker gang instead of fashionable chic.

DO layer: The key to pulling off the leather pants look is to conceal the crotch area. That is why it is recommended that you wear long layers to conceal it.

DON'T pair it with a tight fitted top: When it comes to choosing a top for your leather pants, you should keep it loose, slouchy and comfortable. Some of the items that you can wear with leather pants are a tunic, a button down top, a sweatshirt, a tank top, a basic tee and much more. However, you should never ever pair it with skin-tight tops as it will look over the top. After all, this outfit is all about balance.

DO pair it with pastel colors: Leather pants will give any outfit that instant rock star look. If you wish to tone it down, you can pair it with fun and flirty pastel coloured tops.

DON'T wear it to work. Sure, leather pants are one of the trendiest pieces of clothing in the fashion industry but it can be quite selective. You can wear it to a party, a club, a bar but you should never ever wear it to work. No matter how dressed up it may look, it will not be corporate enough.



CHICAMA



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SADE AKINOSH



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CAPSULES

A new year has come and we are all charged up, full of life ready to unravel and our faith is oblivious to fate. Let me try not to burst your bubble but tell you quickly that if you do not put in the work, you cannot reap the expected fruits, no matter how excited you are.

You need to hit the ground running because time is indifferent to your plight. Your ideas must be fresh without preservatives or you may lose them to life's malaise.

The zeal you're starting with must be sustained as you cannot allow the hot air of others to deflate your plans.

The past may not have been friendly but she was kind enough to teach you lessons that will help you navigate the new year.

The blows to your fragile form becomes double jeopardy when you learn nothing from your travails.

You believed the heavens for rain in 2018 and it didn't come, prepare again, you propelled your gait for rise and you're still on ground zero, reset your mind.

You cannot expect to befriend complacency and have the power to sync the stars.

Success is a snob, she only associates with those who put in the time.

The present said to the past, "let my people go"....the past responded "I released them to you but they have refused to move".... so bury the past, embrace the present and open yourself up to the potentials of posterity.

You need to reduce the excess in your luggage so that you can travel light.

Every day counts, enter into a meditative covenant with "the break of day" and insist on periodic evaluation.

You must project the reality you want to embrace not only through mooting but through a setting of goals, walking your talk and building your hopes, block by block of grit

An old adage says: like sands through the hourglass so are the days of our lives, before you can dimple your smile another year will embrace your stream, so seize the day.

We need to be mindful, that there is no free lunch out there, lazy will not do it for you, you will need to train your brain muscles to demand the best from your mind.

Get up, Do real, Work hard and Work smart and the new year will reward your hustle. It's that simple. Congrats to you all. Welcome to 2019.



Gold is great on every skin tone, Eku glows in this gold dress paired with black pumps.

SHIMMER AND SHINE GOLD

BY FUNKE BABS-KUFEJI

They usually say all that glitters is not gold but the same can't be said about the clothes! And to mark this festive season what better opportunity is there than wearing them to various events this Christmas? Needless to say, Gold is the new black this holiday season. Get ready for all that glitters as the gold fashion trend is set to be huge at this time. With a range of gold tones available, you're sure to find one that suits you.



Gold is a glorious shade to wear - and becomes even more sophisticated when teamed with black. She has a body to die for and it is much more pronounced in this sizzling hot number.

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN



SEYI SHAY

Sometimes, you might want to opt for subtlety and let the aura of mystery keep them thinking. So if elegant sophistication is your style, opt for the subtle gold dress like Seyi Shay's.

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MICHAEL KORS SKIRT



Sometimes, you might want to opt for subtlety and let the aura of mystery keep them thinking. So if elegant sophistication is your style, opt for the subtle gold dress like Seyi Shay's.

STEPHANIE COKER – ADERINOKUN



Rose gold is a thing right now, Stephanie Coker – Aderinokun shimmers and shines in this party ready rose gold dress.

MARCO BICEGO GOLD EARRINGS

ALAIA GOLD SANDALS

GUCCI GOLD MULES



ARISE NEWS ANCHORS// FRONT ROW L-R: IDIA AISEN; OJI OKPE
BACK ROW L-R: MODELE SHARAFY YUSUF; OLANIYI OYELOWO; ARON AKEREJOLA; VICTORIA PEPPL E; NDEE AMAUGO; MAERCY AJISAFE; ADESUWA OMORUAN, REUBEN ABATI; VERONICA ODEKA

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minutes with the President in a no-holds barred interview focused on issues like lapses in security, fight against corruption, the economy, poverty alleviation and infrastructure deficits.

President Muhammadu looked much healthier and relaxed, as he tackled the questions thrown at him no matter how hard, which in itself, will enable Nigerians see him in a clearer light, observe his body language and gauge his confidence level on the job. This defining moment will no doubt inform Nigerians with the knowledge they need to decide who best to vote for, which is the sole purpose of this exercise. Nigerians, no doubt, eagerly await the next leg of the one-on-one Presidential series coming up with former Vice-President, and the flag bearer of the PDP, Atiku Abubakar.

THISDAY Style has provided an exclusive courtesy of Assistant Editor- State house correspondent, OMOLOLU OGUNMADE reports...

PRESIDENT MOHAMMADU BUHARI





In 2015 you campaigned on a tripod of restoring security, improving the economy and fighting corruption. Three years on, how will you assess the journey?

Thank you so much. It is insecurity first and I explained that we would help secure the country to manage it properly. The second agenda is the economy and the third is fighting corruption. On the economy, the youths constitute over 60 per cent of the population and a lot of them are unemployed. Potentially, they are very big dangers to the country.

Of course, on corruption, I was constrained to go public in recent times. So many times on the problem of corruption, I have challenged any of the elite to check in Europe, United States and Asia; to check what Nigeria was getting from 1999 to 2014, the 16 years of the PDP. Oil production was 2.1 million barrels per day and oil price was over \$100 per barrel. It went to \$143 per barrel, but when we came, it collapsed to \$38, \$48 per barrel and was also oscillating between \$48 and \$58 per barrel before it picked up. I also went to the Central Bank. I said 'any savings?' The governor said 'no savings.' This is what we inherited and you know the state of infrastructure more than I do – the poor condition of the roads, the rail was killed. Whatever way we can get money, that is why we are by fighting corruption.

Let's take it one by one. Let's start with insecurity. The North-east was a major problem when you took over as a result of the activities of Boko Haram insurgents. You have repeatedly said that the insurgents have been technically defeated. However, in the last few weeks, killings and raiding of communities had resumed. What is the problem? Why has the military been unable to fight Boko Haram as they should? In Zamfara State, the the governor called for emergency rule; and in your state, Katsina, the governor complained few weeks ago that kidnappers and robbers have put the state under siege. In Benue, in Plateau, in Kaduna there are incessant killings. Why have you been unable to address these?

From the main one that you mentioned in the Northeast, Boko Haram used to occupy 17 local governments mostly in Borno and Yobe States but now, physically, they are not holding any local government. They indoctrinate young people mostly boys and make churches, mosques, motor parks and markets their soft targets. This you know because you are reporting it

I ask you, where were the elite when there was irresponsible expenditure of public money? Why did they tolerate it? Educate the people and see their reaction. Where were the elite when these people were taking the money? The Nigerian elite are supposed to know how much the country is earning, where it is going. Why did they accommodate irresponsible expenditure of the 16 years of PDP?

“

yourselves. There is really what I can call fatigue in the military but there has been a warfare on terrorism.

You talked of Zamfara, Benue, you didn't mention Taraba. You see, the problem that you the press can help to solve is to ask for responsible reportage. The reason is this, the number of people killed in Taraba and Benue are not up to the number of people killed in Zamfara State but then, what the leadership of Taraba and Benue were doing, because I went through newspaper articles, they were giving it religious or ethnic tone. This was very unfair to Nigerians.

Original herdsmen used sticks and cutlasses occasionally to cut foliage and give to their animals. But these ones are having AK47 rifles and people refuse to reflect on the demise of (Muammar) Gadaffi. Gadaffi was in power for 43 years, at some stage, he decided to recruit people from Mali, Burkina Faso, from Niger, from Nigeria, Chad and from Central African Republic.

These persons, we were not told were electricians, bricklayers but were trained to shoot and kill. But when the opposition in Libya and Sudan succeeded in killing him, we encountered some of them in the Northeast and they are all over the place in Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger. You know it. That is our problem.

You asked what I have done about it. You will find out if you ask the Inspector-General of Police and the governor of Zamfara State that we virtually changed all the officers that served for

more than two years in Zamfara State and we did a lot. There are issues that I can't go public on as the commander-in-chief because it will affect the morale of the men in the front whether they are soldiers or policemen.

The situation in the Northwest or the Northeast is relatively better. But kidnapping got worse from Kaduna to Port Harcourt, from Lagos to Maiduguri and we are doing something about it. The kidnappers are organised. They are damn selfish. What they want is to get people who succeed. They either kill their parents, spouses, children and make a lot of money. We are doing our best to track them using technology and using committed Nigerians who will report to us. I'm not defending security challenges but you know that after 16 years of PDP, with the resources that I just mentioned to you, there is so much of resources at their disposal and they will do anything to use those resources at their disposal to discourage this administration but I thank God because Nigerians are understanding and the leadership of this administration is doing its best under the circumstance and we assure Nigerians that our priorities remain the same.

Why have you not changed the service chiefs and the Inspector-General of Police. One, they have reached the end of their tenure and two, with heightened insecurity across the country, they are not doing their job effectively.

Well, I accept responsibility for that. But I assure you that I am not afraid of the soldiers or the police but my understanding of security is that when we have an emergency situation, we have to be careful in tampering with the heads of security. This is one of my personal experiences. I had been a governor. I had been a minister. I had been a head of state. I had tried to come to this office three times. I was able to come the fourth time.

So, really, I measure the options critically. When we are in the emergency situation, if you remove the service chiefs, if you don't wait for appropriate time to do it, you will create a competition in the service. There are many officers in the service, but only one man can become the Chief of Army Staff. Only one man can become Chief of Air Staff. Only one man can become the Inspector-general of Police. Don't forget that it is this administration that appointed all of them.

I didn't know any of them really. I followed the records and I thought that I picked the best men. Of course, their performance may be a bit

disappointing, but I accept responsibility for not changing them. But my reason is based on my own experience. I think in handling the heads of military services, one has to be careful because you don't know the ambition of those coming up.

You said there was fatigue earlier. Don't you think that these service chiefs are tired?

It is those officers that are in the trenches. Of course, you can recall that at a certain stage, I told them to move the operational headquarters to the Northeast. It is good that you arrange retraining before changing them.

They are doing it but these things, they are the types that you don't go public about. Some of them haven't seen their families for six months. So, this question of morale may be correct. It may be the wife that is taking care of the children. But it is something that must be done properly. If you don't do it properly, then you will start blaming the leadership.

What of the Inspector-General of Police? He is not only ineffective, he has become partisan and the impression out there is that you are only keeping him there for election purposes?

I have accepted responsibility. I don't think I am afraid of him and I don't think I have organised a roadblock to say that I will lose some part of my revenues if I remove him. I will take action.

For almost four years now, we know that oil price has plunged. You have stated many times the state of the economy, how you met an empty treasury. However, criminality is high among the youth. We will like to know what you have done on the economy because unemployment has moved to 23.1 million. How are you going to assure Nigerians that you will fix the economy should you be returned for second term?

Thank you very much. I think the administration was lucky. We prayed too hard to God. In our own case, we were very lucky in 2016, 2017 and 2018, the rain was very good. I am sure that you know that we virtually achieved food security. You especially who are responsible for informing Nigerians, you may have failed in my own opinion to fully appreciate what was happening and what we did in agriculture. We made fertilizer available and we are producing it locally. We work together with another African country, Morocco.

Secondly, I called the Minister of Agriculture and

I assure you that all the assets, houses and hotels belonging to those we interrogated and arrested have been sold. Their bank accounts were frozen and the contracts given to their companies were sold and I instructed that all the money should go through the TSA. I think you should tell the people what we have done so far with loot recovery. We are still trying to recover hundreds of billions of Naija stuck in Europe and America.

“

Rural Development and the governor of Central Bank. I spoke with them but what we inherited from the colonialists is no longer viable. You take a family, maybe they have 15 hectares. If they want a loan to buy fertilizer to enhance their agricultural input, they have to get a surveyor to survey their land and take it to the bank as collateral to get loan. In the past, they might tell you from this tree to that tree is my own and not in terms of metres.

So, I called the Minister of Agriculture. I said you have to do one thing. We want to go back and do what we were doing in the First Republic. You remember Awolowo's Co-operative. It was the most successful development policy then. I said 'go and read about it and go and see how you can give farmers loans – soft loans without interest as long as the village head can say this family has got this land, that will be their collateral and then, you give them loans,' and this succeeded in what we did in 2016 and 2017 and 2018. I'm sure that you have felt it. We don't import rice virtually any more. We have stopped importing rice and we even export grains. But we want self-sufficiency in maize so that chicken feeds can be made locally. We have made tremendous progress in agriculture and some of the issues of unemployment have been addressed through agriculture.

Well, there will be a conflict because you have the figures and I have the facts.

Figures are facts.
we have done in agriculture and people are less dependent on oil now and we have succeeded in persuading the militants (in the Niger Delta) that constitutionally are entitled to 13 percent derivation. With 13 percent derivation there, we can do production. They can't claim that they must be given everything. I have a lot of respect for those who did our constitution. They did a lot of work. So, I am persuading the militants to try and understand and accept the 13 per cent derivation in the constitution. The rest belongs to the country. But what are people making trouble for? I sit here and wonder, what were they doing for 16 years? Did you know what was happening? Did you know the condition of the road from here to Onitsha, from here to Port Harcourt. The last we saw (road rehabilitation) was in Abacha's time.

Now, we are doing the roads. We are doing the rail. In power (sector), we are working on gas from Mambila to Plateau with what is available to us. So, I will recommend that you see the governor of Central Bank and the Minister of Agriculture and most importantly, (Babatunde) Fashola, the Minister of Works, Housing and Power and tell you how much of money out of what we have that we are dedicating to infrastructure which we think will provide employment, provide the industrialists with facilities to employ people. I think that if you try to compare what we have done from the time we came in till now with the resources available, I think you should be here to cooperate with me.

Your comment on food security with due respect, actually contradicts what we have. If we have achieved food security, we will not have the large unemployment rate that we have. Agriculture is the largest employer of labour, not manufacturing. If we have achieved self-sufficiency in farm produce, we will not have the rate of poverty that we have. It is an incontrovertible fact that Nigeria has taken over as the poverty capital of poverty of the world. So, how would we have achieved food security when we have 64 million people living in poverty? So, there is a conflict in what you have said.

I am telling you. That is why I recommended that you see the Minister of Agriculture and the Governor of Central Bank. How much money

Nigeria was being allocated to import rice, to import other food items and how much we are spending now on food importation? It will be impossible if we look at the improvement on our money in terms of what the Central Bank has done. Our foreign reserves by which other nations assess our currency, when we came in, was \$24 billion, but now it is \$43 billion.

I think some of these questions, if you get to the Central Bank, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Works, Housing and Power, they will answer them with facts and figures because they will tell you where we were when we came, where we are now and what we have been able to do with the resources available to us. To be fair to this administration, this is the best we can do and people will understand because they are ones who know what is happening. Last year there was heavy flooding in Bayelsa, in Kogi and in Kebbi. But notwithstanding, Nigerians are very resilient. They bounced back and we had relatively good harvests. And I am assuring you about this good harvest.

This is one of the greatest successes of this administration. People are going back to the farm. If you borrow money from the Ministry or Central Bank and went to the farm and after harvest, you give the money, nobody asks you for balance but if you borrow money from commercial bank, they will be chasing you around because your certificate is with them.

Despite your administration's social investment programme, poverty rate is still very high. If you are re-elected, what will you do differently?

What I will do differently is to encourage the people to go back to the land, seek for loans from the Central Bank and from the Ministry of Agriculture so that they can produce more because I assure you that people have realised that by going back to the land, farmers are no longer looked down upon.

They are being respected and as I told you. From personal experience, we are very happy with what farmers are doing. Look at the efforts we made in fertilizer. We have stopped importing some fertilizer now because we are getting the raw materials from Morocco and we have got the gas here. We have got so many fertilizer factories on ground and we are getting it half the price it used to be. They are available virtually in all states. So, I think we have made some progress.

As much as you said you are doing a lot in agriculture, people are afraid to stay on their farms now because of the violent activities of herders and cattle rustlers. How are you addressing this challenge?

I have told you what we have been doing. I think the law enforcement agencies must be more efficient in dealing with abductors, cattle rustlers. Again, it is what we can find out from the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. I called him and said I knew that there used to be cattle tracks and grazing areas and this was in the First Republic and any cattle rearer that allowed his cattle to stray into somebody's farm was arrested. The farmer would bring the estimated cost of the damage done to him and the cattle rearer would be asked to pay. If he couldn't pay the money, his cattle would be sold. But because of oil, everybody rushed to the city to drink oil. There is political instability in the land but we have gone back to the land and we are not regretting it.

Critics have accused your administration of



L-R: FEMI ADESINA, SPECIAL ADVISER MEDIA & PUBLICITY TO THE PRESIDENT, BOLAJI ADEBIYI, DAILY EDITOR, THISDAY NEWSPAPERS, SEGUN ADENIYI, CHAIRMAN OF THISDAY BOARD, PHILIP OGUNMADE, THISDAY STATE HOUSE BUREAU CHIEF, ENIOLA BELLO, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THISDAY NEWSPAPERS, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, PRESIDENT MUHAMMADU BHARIR, CHAIRMAN/EDITOR IN CHIEF, THISDAY GROUP & ARISE TV NETWORK, NDUKA OBAIGBENA, MANAGING DIRECTOR, ARISE TV NEWS, IJEOMA NWOGWUGWU, DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR, THISDAY NEWSPAPERS, KAYODE KOMOLAFE AND MALLAM GARBA SHEHU, SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT ON MEDIA AND PUBLICITY.



The Chief of Army Staff is not there because he is from Borno. The Chief of Air Staff is not there because he is from Kano. The Chief of Naval Staff is not there because he is from the South-South. Even in Ministries, you just don't change Permanent Secretaries like that because of the places they come from or their faces.



selective justice because once politicians being prosecuted defect to your party, they suddenly become saints and so people believe that you have not been firm in the fight against corruption.

That one too, I will have to illustrate it with the nasty experience I had in this country. When I came in the military uniform, I was much younger than this. You know what I did. I'm sure you read about it. I got the president, the vice-president, the governors and ministers and took them to Kirikiri and said you are guilty until you are able to prove yourself innocent and we had a number of committees to investigate all those that were arrested and what they took were taken away from them except a junior Minister of Education from Jigawa State Biliaminu Usman, he is late now and Adamu Ciroma, a governor of Central Bank and Minister of Finance.

These two people were the only exceptions. But what happened? I too was arrested and detained and those who stole public funds were given back the money. How many Nigerians raised their hands? Now, I come back, I'm trying to go through the system and you are calling me Baba go slow, what else can I do?

Your body language

Why should they watch my body language?

Mr. President, are you saying that you are satisfied with the fight against corruption?

I have to stop you. I didn't say so. When I was trying to be in a hurry, I too was arrested and detained. If you don't know it, I know it because I was the one who suffered... You know more than I do but I assure you that whenever we have the time, I think I will have to ask the EFCC to give you the number of assets recovered and the amount of money. That was why I said they should introduce the use of Treasury Savings Account (TSA) so that all the money coming to the government would go through one account so that what is going in and out will be seen because there are some ministries and agencies with so many bank accounts.

I assure you that assets, houses and hotels belonging to them were sold. Their bank accounts were frozen and the contracts given to their companies were sold and I said all the money should go through the TSA. I think you should tell the people what we have done so far with loot recovery. Hundreds of billions of Naira that are stuck in Europe and America, we are still trying to get.

The question is on the selective application of justice in the fight against corruption. The impression is if somebody is close to you, you will close your eyes no matter the amount of money he has stolen once he defects to your party. Godswill Akpabio for instance was under investigation but since he came to APC, his sins have been forgiven him.

Well, thank you very much. I want to assure you that I will not spare anybody. I don't think Akpabio, whatever he did when he came to APC, that I said he should be left alone. I can't remember asking the EFCC, ICP, the police to spare any corrupt person unless I don't have the facts and I told you what I went through when I tried to try everybody spontaneously. I haven't told anybody to spare Akpabio and I challenge you to provide evidence.

State police?

Why should they watch my body language?

There has been a lot of criticism about your appointments into the security agencies, that they were lopsided. Do you think this is a fair criticism?

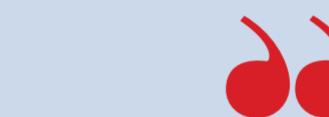
Well, all I know is that the service chiefs, the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, I appointed them when I came. The former IG of Police left and this one was appointed. I know that there is a quota system but then, if you are a field officer, in the military especially where I served, for many years, you don't promote people by their states of origin. If you do it, you are going to have the shock of your life. It will affect the morale of others that they will become deficient and it will affect the country.

I had told you about the appointments of service chiefs that you have to be careful about who you appoint. You have to be sure of their loyalty. You have to be sure of their commitment to the administration, their acceptability by the command and the service and that will be determined by their training and experience. It is a very sensitive issue.

In Zamfara, I had to direct the IG to move all officers that had been there for more than two years. So, removing the service chiefs or the IG, you can make your observation but it will have consequences. The Chief of Army Staff is not there because he is from Borno. The Chief of Air Staff is not there because he is from Kano. The Chief of Naval Staff is not there because he is from the South-south. Even in ministries, you just don't change permanent secretaries like that because of the places they come from or their faces.

Do you have anything against state police and/or the use of mercenaries so that we can flush out criminals?

State police? I have my problems with the police and I told them that with my experience, they are supposed to be on the front line. Now, until Nigerians see soldiers on the street, they don't believe they are safe. That is not good for the police. I told the police this some months ago. Now, when we came in, there were states that were not paying salaries. We had to do what we called bail out twice. Up till now, there are some that owe workers up to six months. When you



It is up to Nigerians to decide who they want as President but I assure you that I have warned the police and other law enforcement agencies that they must respect Nigerians. Nigerians must be allowed to choose who they like. I have been asking Governors in the last six months to do voter education because every ordinary Nigerian is an important person as he has one vote and I have one vote. Let them feel important. Let them use it for their own understanding.



cannot pay the salary of N18,000 minimum wage, you want to increase it to N30,000. My budget speech was not secret. I read it out. Where do we get the money?

The police are a major security organisation. Allowing the states to have police may be of no effect. I congratulated the governor of Lagos State when he started the neighbourhood police. It is a good thing but Lagos State is richer than the federal government. How many states now can't pay salaries? Then you ask them to go and set up the police. You give a policeman uniform and gun and you don't pay him for six months? I don't want to see another battle.

Now, mercenaries. I told you earlier, I was in front at the civil war. God spared my life. I think I am so patriotic the way I interpret issues. I don't like to ask South Africans or anybody to come and fight for us. I don't like it. With about 190 million of us, we cannot mobilise to fight insurgents from getting into our country? What is the use of our number then and the resources? I feel very strongly about it. I am not saying I

will not consider it but it will take time before I get convinced about why we cannot have the military and the police to flush out insurgents and abductors.

You once said you wished you were younger in handling the challenges of your office. On return from your medical vacation, you did say that you had never been that sick. Do you think you are healthy enough for the rigours of the campaign, considering your age and health situation? Do you think you have done enough for Nigerians to trust you with another four years?

I will ask you again to do an in-depth study of where we were in 2015 when we came in and where we are now on security, economy wise, the three things we campaigned on and find out what we have done. The first thing I told my party was that if the party nominated me, I would contest. I don't want diversion of interest because of the amount of time that Nigerians spend in talking. If I didn't say so, the number of people that would come out within the party that they would contest, only God would know and they would divert attention from serious issues but mercifully, they decided to leave the party.

Up till now, having lost count, there are 91 parties. Fortunately, a lot of them don't have money to pay for the contest. I think 48 or more have the money. So, I think I am strong enough to go and campaign. It is up to Nigerians to decide but I assure you that I have warned the police and other law enforcement agencies that they must respect Nigerians. Nigerians must be allowed to choose who they like. I have been asking Governors in the last six months to do voter education because every ordinary Nigerian is an important person as he has one vote and I have one vote. Let them feel important. Let them use it for their own understanding.

What do you think are your chances of winning?

I consider that with what we have done in 2015 till now with the resources available to us, I think we deserve another chance. That is why I ask Nigerians and also ask you to use your institutions to do some research and find out where we were, where we are now and where we are going. The three things I mentioned, I believe we could do better.

We intend to do better but security is number one. I said it from day one, the country has to be secured to be provided for. The country has to be secured and those doing abductions, I hope God will give them the senses to realise what they are doing to the country. Nobody can invest in the place where there is no security.

INEC Commissioner, Amina Zakari was part of the election that you lost in 2011 and was also part of the one you won in 2015. There is however a controversy that she's your niece. What is your exact relationship with the woman?

I saw her trying to explain herself. She was appointed by former President Jonathan. Is Jonathan a Hausa/Fulani man? And you said she was there when I lost election. So?

But is it true that you were the one who recommended her?

No. Not at all. All the past presidents from the time that I came out of detention to the time that I came here, none of them asked me to submit any recommendation either to his cabinet or for



any appointment. None of them asked me to bring a name. We have no blood relationship but she is a complete Nigerian. Did you study History in the university? Then, you would have known about Fulanis and the indigenous people they met here – the Hausas and the Kanuris and so on.

Othman Dan Fodio came and overran virtually the Hausas but some other modern colonialists came. They reinstated them. In my town, they reinstated the Hausas. I am from a Hausa-controlled area. She is from a Fulani controlled-area. If that is blood relationship, I accept it.

In your party, in some states such as Ogun, Imo, Zamfara; even in Rivers, we have a candidate campaigning and we have another candidate who left your party for another party but is still campaigning for you. All your sons are fighting. The second question is this. Are you going to have the same team, same process if you are re-elected? Members of your team, some have done well, some have not done well. Is there going to be a new process in appointing them? If yes, has the process started? So, let's start from the political side. Some of them have adopted you. So, you have not lost anything.

My adoption, I hope it is not for their selfish reasons. The important thing is that the party has been very impartial. There are three processes – direct, indirect and consensus and the party ought to be able in each state to choose one of the three that it agreed with but all the same, how can a governor sit and say, 'you will be governor. You will be deputy governor. You, go to Senate. You, go to House of Assembly?' It's been extremely serious. The party has been very fair. I don't know why the elite will not educate the people. Those who cannot respect them should be voted out.

But you are encouraging them.

No. I have told the police and the law enforcement agents that if anybody tries to rig this election, I will deal with them.

But you are encouraging anti-party activities. Take the case of Ogun State for instance, the guy had been here to see you twice.

Is it not his state? Is it not for the people not to vote for him? I don't tell people what they should do. Vote for the people that are qualified by your conscience to be voted for.



I consider that with what we have done with the resources available to us from 2015 till now, I think we deserve another chance. That is why I ask Nigerians and also ask you to use your institutions to do some research and find out where we were, where we are now and where we are going.



The second part of the question, if people want you to come back, they will like to see that on May 29, there are changes. If you are re-elected, are we going to wait for another six months before you constitute your cabinet?

No. You will not have to wait that long. Maybe that is the reason I haven't sought to make any cabinet change. Someone brought a paper and said I had not been fair to the South-east. I took the paper. I told him that when I won the election, I studied the votes that I scored from all the geopolitical zones. I said I got 198,000 and something, from the whole of the South-east which virtually any of the local governments could give me up country but I took the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Labour, the Minister of Industries, Trade and Investment, Minister of Science and Technology from the South-east. These four, I never knew them from Adam but from seven states of the North, I chose ministers of state who are under such ministers. How fair do you want me to be? So, I threw him away with his paper.

I think it is better to get N18,000 than to get nothing. This is what I believe. When I presented the budget, I thought I was very sincere. I told them what we were earning. How we are going to spend it because of infrastructure or the economic perspective of it. What is the essence of the elite's criticism of my budget? We ought to do much better honestly.

What are the areas you feel you are most challenged in this election apart from your zone, the Northwest, people you think will vote for you.

You know that you had inadvertently answered the question. I think more of the ordinary people than the elite. I think about the ordinary people. I believe that the ordinary people feel the impact of my effort especially the farmers because the farmers, the money they get from the Ministry of Agriculture and Central Bank, once they get the money, they pay back.

collapsed and I told you that I went to the Central Bank and said, 'oya, this is what is happening. Why?' I refused to remove him (CBN Governor) because he had to give account of what had been happening. The rail was killed. There was no power.

About 2.1 million bpd x 100 x 16 years, yet there was no provision of infrastructure. The rail was killed. But see what we have done from May 29, 2015 till now with what is available. I ask you, where were the elite when there was irresponsible expenditure of public money? Why did they tolerate it? Educate the people and see their reaction. Where were the elite then when these people were taking the money? The Nigerian elite is supposed to know how much the country is earning, where it is going. Why did they accommodate irresponsible expenditure of the 16 years of PDP?

Are you convinced that N18,000 minimum wage is what a Nigerian worker deserves?

I can only try to answer you by giving you facts. The facts I want to give you is that there are more unemployed Nigerians than the employed. Two, these states they couldn't pay the minimum wage. There are states owing up to six months salaries now. You even know more than I do. In the private sector, there is no problem. If you can't pay, you retrench but can the state government, the federal government and the local government afford to create more unemployment?

I think it is better to get N18,000 than to get nothing. This is what I believe. When I presented the budget, I thought I was very sincere. I told them what we were earning. How we are going to spend it because of infrastructure or the economic perspective of it. What is the essence of the elite's criticism of my budget? We ought to do much better honestly.

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BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

CREATING YOUR UNIQUE PERSONAL STYLE

Regardless of what life throws at us, it's important to be able to adapt while still maintaining a style that is all our own. And why exactly is this important? The impact of personal style goes far beyond making a good first impression; great style is also about approaching each day with confidence, and the ability to feel legitimately beautiful in what we are wearing. Believe it or not, the right wardrobe can make a difference in that department.

Ask for help

When you're serious about your skin, you see a dermatologist. When you want the perfect photos on your wedding day, you enlist the help of a professional photographer. The same goes for style! Don't be afraid to enlist the help of a professional stylist if you can afford it. If you can't, again social media is a good place to start.

ANITA ADETOYE

Take your lifestyle goals into consideration

The perfect wardrobe should not only represent your vision and creativity, but also be tailored to your lifestyle. Consider the persona you want to present to the world. You want your style to reflect your personality, but it also has to make sense in your field of work, your overall lifestyle, the city you live in and aligned with your long-term goals. Do you want a better job? Are you trying to make it in a particular industry? Think about adding a few sharp and appropriate professional pieces for interviews in that line of work. Or if you want to work in fashion, add more on-trend pieces.

COLLETE



Seek inspiration

Jot down the names of your favorite style icons and do a bit of research via social media to gather inspiration from their looks. Pulling different types of inspiration from several sources is a great way to figure out what you like and dislike.

JULEZ



Stock up on accessories

Accessories are, without a doubt, the easiest way to pull any look together regardless of the vibe you want to achieve. You can update jeans and a white t-shirt with a bold necklace or pair layered, delicate jewelry with a dress for a more feminine feel. A cool ear cuff or stacked rings can give you an instant edge, and pearls can make you look polished and lady-like in an instant. Add a patterned scarf, opt for edgy shoes instead of your normal black pumps, or pull out a bright clutch to add more personality.



FOLU STORMS

Trust your instincts and be authentic

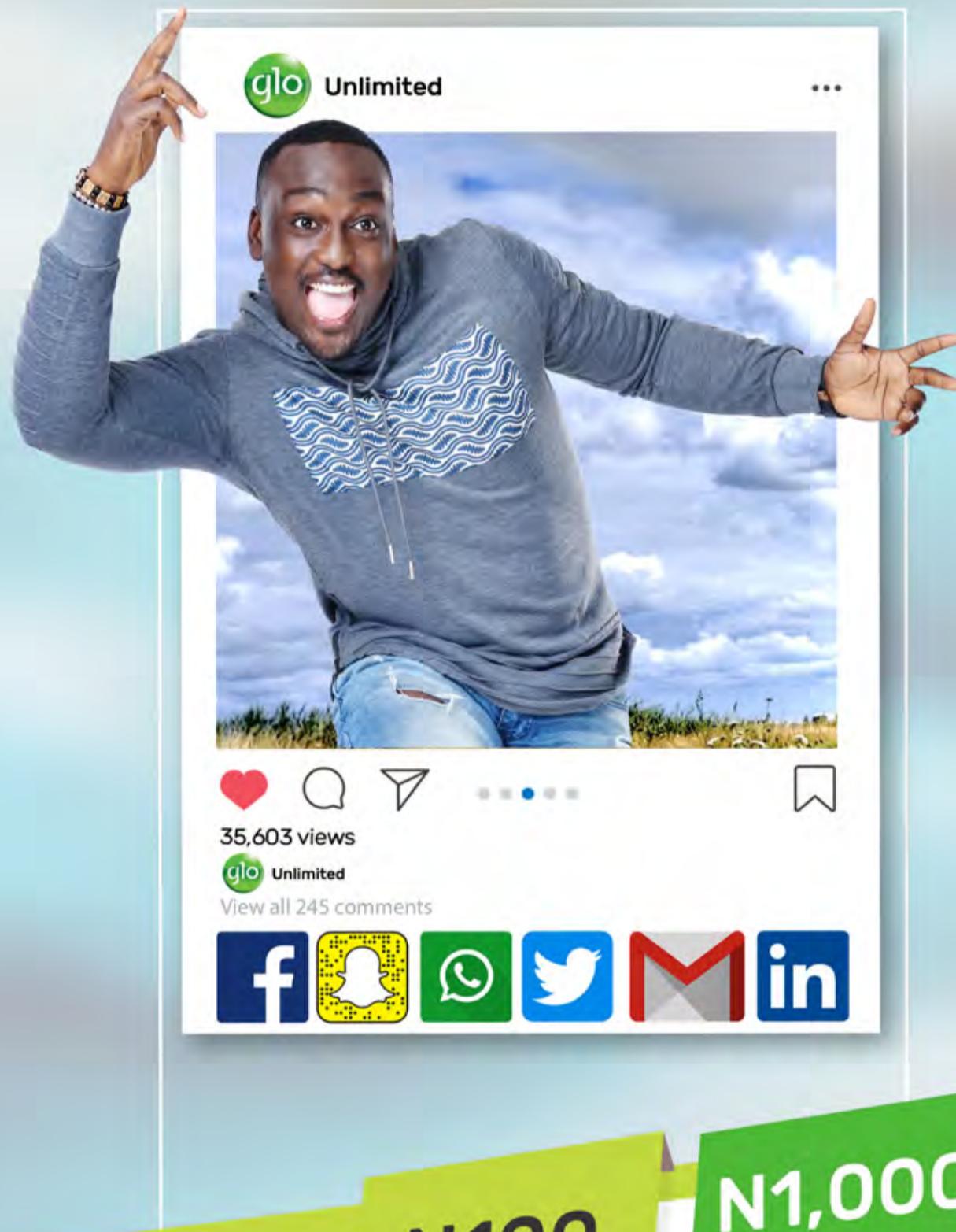
The single most important thing when developing your style is to be true to yourself. Don't focus on the size or the designer label (this will only hinder your creativity). Continue to experiment with different patterns, textures, accessories, and shoes. It all boils down to feeling good in your own skin—your style should reflect and celebrate your life, your individuality, and personality. Own your style, be proud of it, and embrace fashion as a way to express who you are and who you want to be. Pic – derin



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