A JOYFUL GIVER

FLORENCE AJIMOBİ @ 60

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A cousin of mine recently lost her house to fire. It was gutted to the ground. Needless to say it was a harrowing experience but we truly thank God that she was lucky enough to escape alive and live to tell the tale unscathed.

So as usual, with such misfortunes, people rummage through whatever items they have and collect things to give. I did the exact same and just kept packing stuff that I knew I wouldn’t miss their absence. Before I knew it, I had filled up a Ghana-must-go bag and literally had to stuff in as much as the bag could contain without bursting at the seams.

Now, you might wonder what all this is about? Two things...how much clothes do we really need and how relevant are they in the scheme of things? When compared to much more important things like health and life, it pales in comparison. As we get older, we should really learn to attach less importance to material things and focus more on spirituality and wellness of being.

When I dropped the stuff off at my cousin’s, I was impressed by her calm disposition and realized yet again that when you have a close shave with death, nothing else matters compared to your gratitude to God. We should learn to minimize because how much mileage does one really get for all the material things we spend money on? Not just that, how many of the items in our wardrobes do we really remember? Some are so long forgotten that it takes seeing something similar on someone else for us to remember that we actually have them!

Bottom line, things should be done in moderation and priorities set straight. In 5 Bags Every Woman Should Own, the article reveals how you really can get by with just the five bags as weird as it might sound to some!

If your wardrobe is about to burst, decongest, decongest...decongest!
The inauguration of Governor Dapo Abiodun and Deputy Governor, Noimot Salaka-Oyedele was held recently at the M.K.O Abiola Stadium, amidst their families, friends, well wishers and political allies. A luncheon was then held at OK Event Center while the inauguration ball took place at OOPL Event center, Abeokuta.

At the dinner, a few speeches were made and the highlights of the evening was not just the scintilating performances by Davido, Olamide and King Sunny Ade, it was also the couple dance between the Governor and his delectable wife. It was such a moving moment.

Governor Abiodun went on to thank the guests for sharing this special moment with him and he assured everyone that he will do everything within his power to ensure Ogun state earns the respect it deserves.
Lagos, Nigeria – Leading global payments technology company and UEFA Champions League sponsor, Mastercard, hosted partners, sports legends and other celebrities at an exclusive viewing of the televised UEFA Champions League final match between Liverpool and Tottenham.

On the 1st of June, over 500 Mastercard partners gathered at the Eko Hotel and Suites to watch Liverpool win the cup in the final match of the season. Also present to enjoy the live football action were Nigeria’s soccer greats Kanu Nwankwo and Augustine ‘Jay Jay’ Okocha.

Commenting on Mastercard’s decision to host a viewing event, Omoke Adebanjo, Area Business Head at Mastercard West Africa said: “We organized this viewing event as a way for us to directly engage with our customers, connect them to their passion for football and share in the experience of witnessing priceless moments with them. We also wanted to provide football lovers in Nigeria with a chance to get closer to some of the icons of the game who joined us today. Watching the finals with our partners in Nigeria has been a fun and rewarding event.”

Guests were also entertained with music by Kiss Daniel performing hit songs such as Woju and his latest single, 4Dayz.

Former Nigeria Super Eagles Captain, Kanu Nwankwo, whilst commenting on the game said it was a much fought for win, but there can only be one winner at the end of the day. He believes that each team put their best foot forward and that Liverpool deserve the win today.

Mastercard has been a sponsor of the UEFA Champions League since 1994.
Mixing prints without looking like a hot mess can be a bit tricky - these fashionable street style stars show how to do it the right way.

**TREND TO TRY**

**MIXING PRINTS**

Be eclectic: When compared to donning more muted, neutral pieces, wearing prints will undoubtedly make you stand out – even more so when you’re mixing different prints together. Hence, embrace the chance to be slightly weird and go out of your comfort zone. Dare to combine everything together in one outfit, such as stripes, herringbone patterns, leopard print and even fishnet stockings.

**PLAY WITH CONTRAST**

For an outfit that will turn heads, pair prints that would usually not go together. Stripes and animal prints are a perfect example.

**PICK A DOMINANT COLOUR**

One way to make a multi-print look appear more cohesive is to have a single colour family tie the whole outfit together.

**THINK OF THE SHAPE**

Another trick to look put-together when combining prints is to think in terms of geometric shapes. For example, stripes paired to go well with stripes and so on other shapes.

**PAIR WITH BASICS**

To avoid going overboard with the print mixing, it’s wiser to start out with just one print on a look, such as leopard and place keep the rest of the outfit simple and neutral with basics, like a plain white tee or a black skirt.

**GO ALL OUT**

Fashion is meant to be fun, so be confident enough to throw all the rules out of the window if that’s what you want. A print top with a printed shirt with tons of standout accessories? No says yes.
Florence Ajimobi, immediate former First Lady of Oyo state is full of radiance as she embraces her 60th year on earth. What she’s passionate about is the improvement and quality of lives of vulnerable groups, especially women and children. Her goal is ensuring the less privileged are empowered for financial independence. In pursuit of these worthy objectives, Florence birthed and nurtured relevant organizations and institutions to lend credence to these noble causes, which include the award winning ABC Foundation which provides easy access to basic medical care. She recently turned 60 and FUNKE BAB’S-KUFEJI net in an interview with the former First Lady who didn’t look a day older than 40 to talk about her life growing up in Ibadan, her passion for the less privilege and more.

You look absolutely Fabulous at 60, is there anything you do to look this way?

My look is absolutely God’s grace nothing more. He is the foundation upon which all my existence is built so anything you see in me is just a reflection of His goodness.

You were born and breed in Ibadan; what fond memories do you have of your childhood?

Ibadan has been my home because God had bestowed all the good things of life to me in this ancient city. I had my education here, got my first job here and then my greatest gift, which is my husband. As a dutiful wife, it is normal for me to support my husband in all he does that is why you see me being active in politics but running for political office in the future is not in my agenda for now.

As a First Lady, what was a typical day like for you?

My day always and still starts with inviting God into my affairs through prayer, followed by attending to my hygiene and getting my husband ready for the day starting with his food to his appearance. I then scan through the dailies once I settle down, treat mails that come in and depending on the urgency, I attend to the task of the office of the wife of the Governor or my business. And later in the day, I retire back to the kitchen to prepare a meal for my husband when get back from work.

You are an entrepreneur with chains of departmental stores, how are you able to balance all aspects of your life, projects, business and family?

Like I said earlier it is the grace of God because combining all the roles is not an easy task most especially maintaining the homework balance, as they are all demanding. But with God’s backing and strong will together with dedication and hard work, I am able to manage all successfully without anyone lagging behind.

You have birthed many organisations and institutions of which the award winning ABC Foundation stands out, tell us how and why you established this organization and what you have been able to achieve with it?

When my husband assumed office as then Governor of Oyo state, I went round some health facilities in the state and noticed that there weren’t enough to care for women and children who are the most vulnerable in the society. So I decided to do something to alleviate this problem, as I’ve always been passionate about issue of health care, which has been a long time ambition for me. To the glory of God, through the Foundation, we have been able to detect early cases of cancer that is the foremost killer in women and in some cases, men. With early detection the chances of survival increases. Therefore God has used the Foundation to save so many lives from this killer disease.

Do you intended to continue running this Foundation now your husband is out of office and if yes, what are your plans to improve on it?

Yes the Foundation is a non Governmental Organization that is totally independent from government, and still remains so. In fact, the Governor’s exit from office will afford me the opportunity to dedicate more time to the Foundation and to make it better than it is right now. There is a plan to expand it so that it can offer more services to the people.

As an advocate of women and children, what more do you think the government can do to make sure more children go to school and increase their level of education?

I think the government at all levels should create a more conducive environment both for learning and teaching in all schools. This will motivate both teachers and students because when students easily access all that is needed to learn in a nice environment, learning will be fun and when things needed to aid teaching are also available to teachers, they would leave no stone unturned to put in their best to teach.

To commemorate your 60th birthday you wrote a book titled “My Life Like a Rainbow” made you decide to write this book and what is it about?

“My Life as a Rainbow” is a book that reflects who Florence Ajimobi really is. It was written to let people know me better and to reflect on all the lessons I’ve learnt in life right from my childhood till date. It is written without embellishment. It is my true past and present recorded in the book.

Who is your target audience for this book?

Everybody should read it. There are different life lessons to be learnt from it.

Having been the wife of a politician and active in politics, will you some day, consider running for a political post?

I’m not a politician, I just happen to be a wife to one. As a dutiful wife, it is normal for me to support my husband in all he does that is why you see me being active in politics but running for political office in the future is not in my agenda for now. It’s fine not to want to get involved in politics, but do you think more women should get involved in politics in Nigeria regardless of how discouraging it might seem from the outside?

Yes I would encourage more women to run for political office or even get involved in politics because I think women are better administrators. God designed women to be compassionate and passionate and the one thing I must not forget is the ability to multi task. So when we are at the helm of affairs we can do better than men and effect positive changes in our society.

Turning 60 is a major milestone and you must have experience life lessons; what advice do you have for the younger generation who are on their marriage, will you some day, consider running for political post?

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"Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of them all?"

Don't get it twisted, surely it can't be you when you house bitterness as if she is the love of your life and you violently hug the darkness by squeezing the light out of her. You check out every aspect of yourself but you still can't see the grace dancing in your oil. Sadness on wheels, soaring on frozen tears, a heart buried in the sandy earth.

You have friends who live in luxury whilst you count your millions whistling, you then buy yourself a chair in the house of God, tremble, look in the mirror again, what do you see, your manipulative spend will never buy you a space in heaven as the currency for purchase is wrong, try kindness.

You have a wife that you don't touch, meanwhile you have several legs out there doing "open and close" for you daily, so unfair Mister.....

without "kicking" it up a notch you are also mentally, emotionally and physically abusive and your mirror shows you a good man? Get with the programme dude, your brain is flashing red. Give yourself a verbal backhander to straighten up, you are delusional.

Mirror mirror on the wall, who is the driest of them all, oops, just you....

You have a husband that you daily heen, negging the life out of his tried spirit whilst opening your jewer to every fisher of gems you can find offering magics as best, ent magyes, that is the deposit for your troubles, look in that mirror again, what do you see, mix in multiplicity, skidget in harvest.

Mirror mirror on the wall, who is the "almost" of them all, emmm, just you....

You claim that you and God are best friends but when asked to spell love you spell LV, you spell Rolls Royce, you spell PJ, your many toys you....

You kill, you maim, you destroy and strut around daily claiming you are God's best friend. Get with the programme dude, your brain is flashing red. Give yourself a verbal backhander to straighten up, you are delusional.

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How did you end up in your current role as Quality Assurance Executive of Circa Non Pareil?

I'm tasked with ascertaining the current standard and ensuring that the brand and the services we provide meet our clients' needs. As a quality assurance executive, it's my job to ensure that all things do to with the brand and the services we provide meet our high standards in order to please our esteemed clients. I'm tasked with ascertaining the current standard and ensuring that it is above one step ahead of our competitors.

Tell us a bit about Circa Non Pareil?

Circa Non Pareil is a combination of luxury, modern and minimalist ambience coupled with fine dining, lounge and bar services that gives our clients a luxurious experience.

When it comes to hospitality and lifestyle, the Lagos environs is a bit saturated, what makes Circa Non Pareil stand out?

Our style of service is what makes us unique. We have been here long enough, your hard-won favourite will close or simply go out of business. The qualities that make a place a can't-miss for you or me may change or go out of fashion. But there's a true spot that remains consistent over the course of a weekend. The qualities that make a place a can't-miss for you or me may change or go out of fashion. But there's a true spot that remains consistent over time – Circa Non Pareil! Still in its infancy, the out-of-this-world gets us in the loop. Audience makes us want to go back for another experience.

In this interview with KONYE CHELSEA AWAROBO, Deija Gray tells us why Circa Non Pareil is the number one of the venues.

My personality is very sophisticated and absolutely connected with the enigmatic. Every successful business must adapt to and improve its environment; this is what makes Circa dynamic, and game changing.

What strategies have you employed in attracting the sort of clientele you want?

That’s a trade secret, but among other things, the menu is inspired from different countries' specialties and appeals to a diverse clientele. Our service and ambiance has so far spoken volumes on our behalf; the staff have hit the best people available, training, motivating and encouraging them thereby retaining the friendliest and most efficient staff possible. Our management team is comprised of individuals whose backgrounds and game changing. However, it's important to point out that service generally does not need improvement.

You recently launched the Circa Prive, how’s that going?

Circa Prive was a big project for us, and we are excited to see that people are enjoying their experience here. The positive feedback has been overwhelming and we are working towards maintaining that standard and improving on it. It has been an amazing journey so far. And every promise to get better this is what our projections are telling us.

The upper minimalism ambience of Circa Prive gives a somewhat soothing vibe. Was this a conscious decision and why?

In today's world minimalism is the new luxury. Less is more. And that’s what we were going for with our decor. My personality is very sophisticated and absolutely connected with the enigmatic. Every successful business must adapt to and improve its environment; this is what makes Circa dynamic, and game changing. It's a digital world, things change quickly without regard for whether we are ready or not. This goes for customer needs as well. There's so much exposure so trends are constantly metamorphosing. It is a constant learning, unlearning, adapting, shifting, and innovating process. This is a Circa Non Pareil, we have our rules and we stick by them, but never to the detriment of our clients.

How has the Circa Non Pareil brand employed the power of social media with the aim of promoting its visibility?

We use social media to show a glimpse of the Circa Non Pareil lifestyle. Just show people enough to want to come and experience Circa for themselves. To tell you our social strategy would be to level the playing field. This is business. But social media is integral to our business ecosystem and strategy. You can follow our Instagram page @circanonpareil and have a feel of the business ecosystem and strategy.
DRESS CODE

The Smart casual is one of the most common yet confusing dress codes. Its ambiguous nature makes it problematic when selecting an outfit. Here's a list of guidelines on what you should be wearing and how to style them. Before starting to plan any outfit you should always consider these three things:

Where is the event held? If you haven't been, look up the venue. You can judge a lot by its décor.

The demographic of attendees - who will be there?

Lastly, ask yourself whether what you're wearing would be appropriate for another dress code. For example, if it is bordering on 'cocktail', then reconsider.

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

Pants

Tailored pants are a reliable go-to for when you're really lost on what to wear. Start with a pair of well-cut pants and the rest of your outfit should work around them.

Jumpsuits

Jumpsuits are a great way to make a statement and are an easy go-to look with little thought required. Whether it's patterned or plain, smart casual events are the perfect occasion to pull them out of your wardrobe.

Shoes

Avoid informal footwear and stick to heels. Shoes with thicker heels are also a great (comfortable) option for an event where stiletto isn't appropriate. If you decide to wear stiletto choose something with a moderate heel height.

Skirts

Pencil skirts to the knee are a classic option, but don't be afraid to experiment with other styles. Determine your occasion for the night and consider what would be appropriate and what you should leave for another occasion.

Dress

If you opt for a dress make it a simple one; keep your embellished cocktail dresses at home. Style it with accessories such as a bold necklace and a strappy pair of heels. If you're considering a maxi, be aware of the colour and fabric.
Even the most bag-crazy among us has to admit it: there’s a limit to just how many we need. Unless you’re lucky enough to rule over major closet square footage, space is an issue, and stripping down to what you really need will feel refreshing. Well, we have done the work for you, putting into consideration work, social, and travel obligations, and have settled on the only five styles you’ll ever need.

**5 bags every woman should own**

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**The Crossbody Bag**

For weekends and off-duty events, it’s a treat to store the workbag in favour of something lighter. The crossbody style is perfect, and whether worn over the shoulder or across the trunk, it leaves hands blissfully free for more important things.

**The Everyday Bag**

The most basic building block of your bag collection should be a simple style that’s just right for work and the off-duty hours. Choose something that’s easy to carry, with a simple design that goes with everything.

**The Day Purse**

Think of it as a little pocketbook that’s perfect for carrying the essentials. It’s small enough to be practical, yet stylish enough to make a statement.

**The Evening Clutch**

Think of it as a mini-handbag that’s perfect for nights out. It’s small enough to be discreet, yet stylish enough to complement your outfit.

**The Tote**

The most practical style of handbag should be a roomy tote. It’s simple yet functional, and perfect for carrying all your essentials without being too bulky.
Giambattista Valli Drama to H&M

Fast-fashion retailer H&M has teamed up with couturier Giambattista Valli for a collaborative release filled with lots of dreamy, extravagant tulle. Valli, a master of the art of excess, known for his delectably over-the-top, jaw-dropping designs that have been worn by many A-listers created a collection of glamorous dresses with H&M which he debuted at Cannes amfAR Gala. The limited-edition designs were worn by Kendall Jenner, Chiara Ferragni, Chris Lee and more. This collab also marks Valli’s first foray into menswear.

The exclusive ‘pre-drop’ is now available in select stores and online while the full collection is slated for release on 7 November 2019.

BY FUNKIE BABS-KUFJE
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