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THIS DAY

# Style



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019

# GAME CHANGERS OF 2019



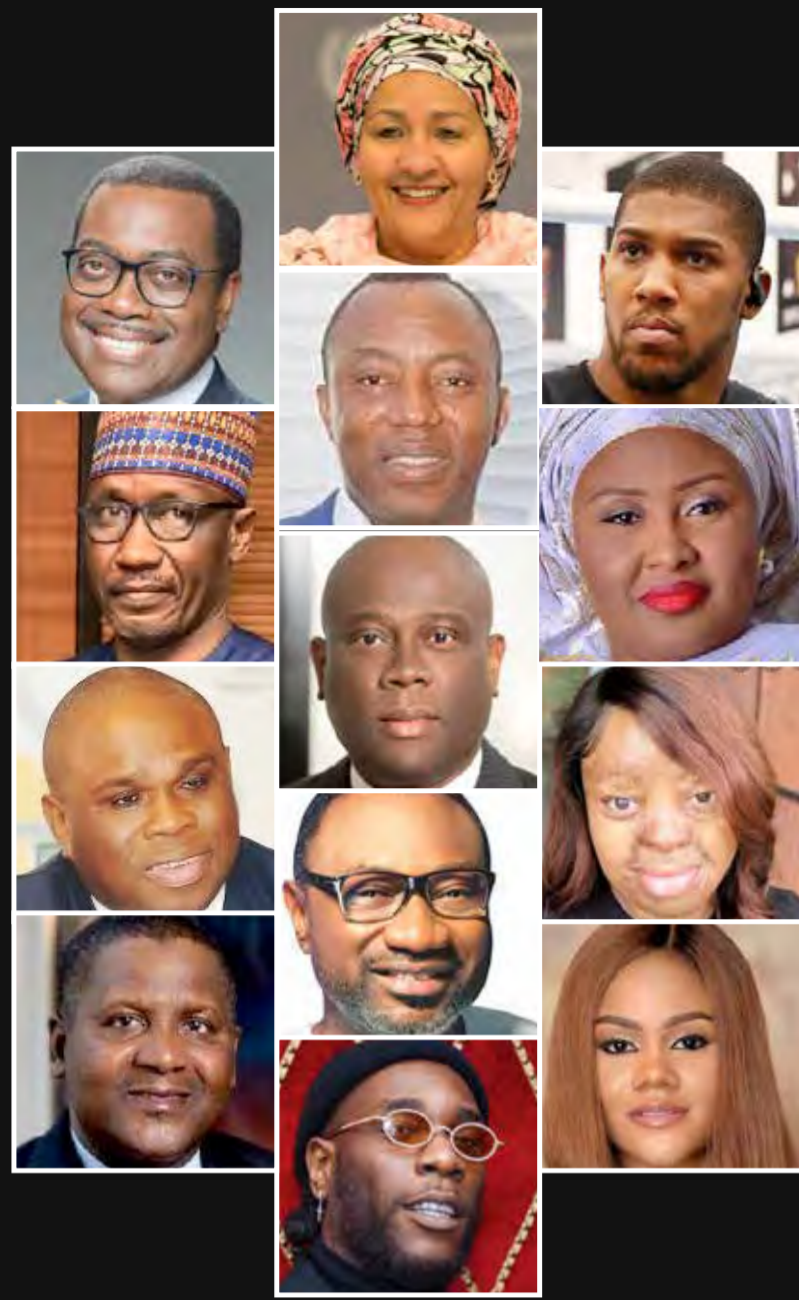
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# COVER

How do you go from strength to strength? You draw on the essence of the remarkable people who personify all that we aspire to be today. This week, we celebrate the most inspiring names from all over the country who have made an impact in our lives this year. We doff our hats to their determination, thirst for positive change, unparalleled talent, and the countless hours they put into achieving their otherwise unsurpassable goals which they met against all odds. They say for you to make it big, you have to think big! **STYLE TEAM** report.

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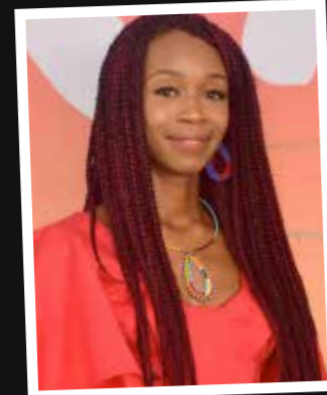
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As the year draws to a close, we thought it only proper to acknowledge the Game Changers of 2019. In a country that is fraught with negative stories and perceptions, rightly or wrongly so, it is encouraging to see individuals who have achieved phenomenal success in their various endeavors regardless of how harsh the climate in Nigeria is. And even better still, some of these individual's success stories have gone far beyond the shores of the African continent and into the global terrain. Some have won various awards from world renowned platforms and they show no sign of slowing down which means they have definitely made their marks in the sands of time and have created legacies that would live far beyond their time. And who better than us to give accolades to these heroes and heroines in our midst?



These people have touched lives, inspired many and continue to set their trails ablaze with their various acts and deeds. They are highly respected and admired for their guts, their vision and their dogged determination to build a brand that remains on top of its game. Some started as relatively unknown people to the public, but slowly grew to become a voice that cannot be ignored. Such traits are not common especially when faced with trials and challenges not to mention the bumpy ride to success. Some might not be described as necessarily popular, depending on what side of the fence you are standing on, but what cannot be denied about them is their large presence in the space they operate in.

I believe there are many more like these Game Changers to come and others, though not in the public eye, still making a positive impact in the society they live in. We can all aspire to be the best we want to be. And as long as we strive to achieve such goals, collectively, we can make the world a better place!

*Ruth*

FASHION DIRECTOR/EXECUTIVE EDITOR

## THISDAY STYLE

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

**EDITOR PRINT**  
OLUFUNKE BABS-KUFEJI 08111847086

**EDITOR DIGITAL**  
KONYE NWABOGOR 08111847087

**SENIOR ART DESIGNER**  
MATHIAS ARCHIBONG 07054965500

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
JULIET ALU  
AYODEJI ROTINWA

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
TY BELLO

**DIRECTOR, PRINT PRODUCTION**  
CHUKS ONWUDINJO 08077092196

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# THE GRAND FINALE OF THE 6TH LAFARGE AFRICA NATIONAL LITERACY COMPETITION



1st Prize winners, Ledee Prosper Barikpoa & Emmanuelle Nuakuadeekari David of Rivers State, being presented with their trophy by the Emir of Kano, HRH, Muhammadu Sanusi II; Chairman, Lafarge Africa Plc, Mobolaji Balogun; GMD/CEO, Lafarge Africa Plc, Michel Puchercois & Director, Communications, Public Affairs and Sustainable Development, Lafarge Africa Plc, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem.



1st Prize winners, Ledee Prosper Barikpoa & Emmanuelle Nuakuadeekari David of Rivers State.



L-R First Lady of Ogun State, Her Excellency, Mrs. Bamidele Abiodun; First Lady of Cross Rivers State, Her Excellency, Dr. Linda Ayade; CPASD Director, Lafarge Africa Plc, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem & Non-Executive Director, Lafarge Africa Plc, Elenda Giwa-Amu



12 Finalists of the Lafarge Africa National Literacy Competition.



Excited students arriving the venue of the 6th Lafarge Africa National Literacy Competition.



All smiles as the primary school guests cheered on the participants.



Deputy Governor, Ogun State, Her Excellency, Engr. Noimot-Salako Oyedele.



L-R, GMD/CEO, Lafarge Africa Plc, Michel Puchercois; First Lady of Gombe State, Her Excellency, Hajja Asma'u Yahaya; First Lady of Cross Rivers State, Her Excellency, Dr. Linda Ayade & Chairman, Lafarge Africa Plc, Mobolaji Balogun.



L-R, GMD/CEO, Lafarge Africa Plc, Michel Puchercois; First Lady of Ogun State, Her Excellency, Mrs. Bamidele Abiodun & Chairman, Lafarge Africa Plc, Mobolaji Balogun



Cross section of guests.



Non-Executive Director, Lafarge Africa Plc, Mrs. Elenda Giwa-Amu.



Head, Health, Safety & Environment, Lafarge Africa Plc, Folake Odegbami.



General Counsel/Company Secretary, Lafarge Africa Plc, Adewunmi Alode; Board Member, Ovie Brume Foundation, Iwalola Akin-Jimoh; CPASD Director, Lafarge Africa Plc, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem & Executive Director, Ovie Brume Foundation Adeola Awogbemi with the prize winners of the Lafarge Africa National Literacy Competition.



L-R GMD/CEO, Lafarge Africa Plc, Michel Puchercois; the Emir of Kano, HRH, Muhammadu Sanusi II & Chairman, Lafarge Africa Plc, Mobolaji Balogun.



The Emir of Kano, HRH, Muhammadu Sanusi II speaking on the theme of the Lafarge Africa National Literacy Competition.



Chairman, Lafarge Africa Plc, Mobolaji Balogun during his opening speech.



GMD/CEO, Lafarge Africa Plc, Michel Puchercois during his speech.



CPASD Director, Lafarge Africa Plc, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, with Executive Director, Ovie Brume Foundation Adeola Awogbemi and SUBEB Desk Officers.



CPASD Director, Lafarge Africa Plc, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, with Programme Manager, School, Education & Society, British Council, Lynda Ashaolu.



Director, Communications, Public Affairs & Sustainable Development, Lafarge Africa Plc, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, reading to students at the 'reading corner'.



The Emir of Kano, HRH, Muhammadu Sanusi II with the Deputy Governor, Ogun State, Her Excellency, Engr. Noimot-Salako Oyedele, the Chairman, Lafarge Africa Plc, Mobolaji Balogun and the Group Head, Education, Sterling Bank Plc, Eniola Abosede-Obe



Director, Communications, Public Affairs & Sustainable Development (CPASD), Lafarge Africa Plc, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem during her closing remarks.



L-R Representative of the First Lady of Lagos State, Wife of the Chairman of Orile-Agege LCDA, Mojisola Babatunde, with Group Head, Education, Sterling Bank Plc, Eniola Abosede-Obe.



L-R Chairman, Lafarge Africa Plc, Mobolaji Balogun; the Emir of Kano, HRH, Muhammadu Sanusi II; GMD/CEO, Lafarge Africa Plc, Michel Puchercois & CPASD Director, Lafarge Africa Plc, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem.



Director, Communications, Public Affairs & Sustainable Development, Lafarge Africa Plc, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, taking a selfie with primary school students.



L-R First Lady of Gombe State, Her Excellency, Hajja Asma'u Yahaya; First Lady of Cross Rivers State, Her Excellency, Dr. Linda Ayade; Non-Executive Director, Lafarge Africa Plc, Mrs. Elenda Giwa-Amu; Frederique Puchercois & Non-Executive Director, Unilever Plc/CEO Biola Alabi Media, Biola Alabi.



Director, Communications, Public Affairs & Sustainable Development, Lafarge Africa Plc, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem with Frederique Puchercois & Guests.



Frederique Puchercois & GMD/CEO, Lafarge Africa Plc, Michel Puchercois.



L-R 2nd Prize winners, Daniel Alao & Divine Nwafor being presented with their trophy by Director, Communications, Public Affairs & Sustainable Development, Lafarge Africa Plc, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem; First Lady of Ogun State, Her Excellency, Mrs. Bamidele Abiodun; GMD/CEO, Lafarge Africa Plc, Michel Puchercois; the Emir of Kano, HRH, Muhammadu Sanusi II; Chairman, Lafarge Africa Plc, Mobolaji Balogun & Deputy Governor, Ogun State, Her Excellency, Engr. Noimot-Salako Oyedele.



3rd Prize winners, Michael Anigwo & Kotoschukwu John from Enugu State, being presented with their cash prize by the Emir of Kano, HRH, Muhammadu Sanusi II; GMD/CEO, Lafarge Africa Plc, Michel Puchercois & Chairman, Lafarge Africa Plc, Mobolaji Balogun.

Following a keenly contested grand finale, held at the Ballroom of Oriental Hotel, Lagos on November 7, winners emerged in the sixth Lafarge Africa National Literacy Competition (LANLC) with the theme 'Bridging the Literacy Gap Together'. Master David Emmanuel and Miss Barikpoa Prosper, from Community Primary School, Rivers State, won the first prize and Ogun and Enugu States won the second and third positions respectively.

With this year's competition, Lafarge Africa has touched the lives of more than 700,000 primary school pupils in 1,665 schools across 544 local government areas. The Competition is delivered across all 109 senatorial districts in all 36 states of the federation and the FCT and is organized with the support of the State Universal Basic Education Boards (SUBEBs) in all the states of the country with Ovie Brume Foundation and TEP centre as implementing partners.

In partnership with the British Council, Oando Foundation and Sterling Bank, we are bridging the literacy gap together!



L-R First Lady of Gombe State, Her Excellency, Hajja Asma'u Yahaya; First Lady of Cross Rivers State, Her Excellency, Dr. Linda Ayade; Non-Executive Director, Lafarge Africa Plc, Mrs. Elenda Giwa-Amu & Frederique Puchercois.



L-R Business Engagement & Corporate Communications Manager, Lafarge Africa Plc, Ginkanwa Frank-Durugbor; CPASD Director, Lafarge Africa Plc, Folashade Ambrose-Medebem; Sustainable Development & Corporate Brand Manager, Lafarge Africa Plc, Titilope Oguntuga.



Primary school students in the audience.



Director, Communications, Public Affairs & Sustainable Development, Lafarge Africa Plc with Employee Volunteers of Lafarge Africa Plc.

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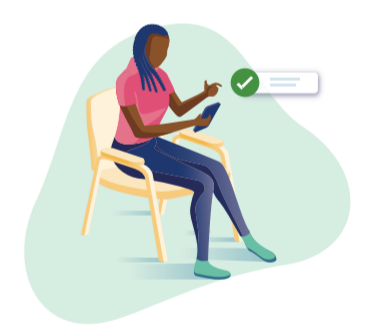


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# GAME CHANGERS OF 2019

How do you go from strength to strength? You draw on the essence of the remarkable people who personify all that we aspire to be today. This week, we celebrate the most inspiring names from all over the country who have made an impact in our lives this year: We doff our hats to their determination, thirst for positive change, unparalleled talent, and the countless hours they put into achieving their otherwise unsurpassable goals which they met against all odds. They say for you to make it big, you have to think big! From the CEO who has supported the dreams of young and upcoming entrepreneurs, to the fashion platforms who put the F-word (fabulous) into our wardrobes. They come from all sectors but one thing all have in common is that they made a huge impact in 2019!

## TAKE OVER BANKER HERBERT WIGWE

Herbert Wigwe is the Group Managing Director (GMD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of one of Africa's leading banks; Access Bank. He is not only an entrepreneur and a businessman, but also a philanthropist. Wigwe has transformed Access bank into one of Nigeria's top five banking institutions because of his dedication, commitment, discipline, and expertise. After his service year, Herbert got a job in Lagos with Coopers and Lybrand Associates Limited as a graduate assistant. While working at Coopers and Lybrand, Wigwe was also a student of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), and in 1989, he became a Chartered Accountant. As a chartered accountant, he resigned from Coopers and Lybrand then resumed work at Capital Merchant Bank as a credit analyst. In 1990, he won the British Council Scholarship to do his masters at North Wales



University (now Bangor University). In 1991, he got his masters in Banking and Finance. After his masters, he came back to Lagos to work with Guaranty Trust Bank – a fast-growing new generation bank. Gradually, he grew through the ranks and became the Executive Director of the Bank at 32 years old. Owing to his hunger for more knowledge in the financial sector, he went for a second master's degree in Financial Economics from the University of London. Herbert Wigwe is also an alumnus of the prestigious Harvard Business School Executive Management Program. In 2002, Herbert and his close friend, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede were presented with a business deal of acquiring a small-scale commercial bank – Access Bank. Access Bank at the time was ranked as the 65th largest bank out of the 89 banks in Nigeria. Notwithstanding, Herbert and his friend Aigboje were ready to risk their blossoming career to revive the bank. They transformed the bank into one of the most successful commercial banks in the world and one of the top five banks in Nigeria. In 2015, The Banker's magazine named Access Bank as one of the top 500 banks in the world. Herbert Wigwe has helped to develop some of Africa's biggest companies in the construction, telecommunications, energy, oil and gas sectors through Access Bank. In 2019, the completion of the merger between Diamond Bank and Access took place. The combined banks retained the Access Bank name led by Wigwe as the CEO. This merger afforded both banks the opportunity of leveraging on their distinct potentials to build a stronger bank. Diamond Bank benefits from Access Bank's strong risk management culture and capital management

expertise while Access Bank benefits from the Diamond Bank's substantial retail banking expertise and strong digital offering which Access Bank has taken advantage of. Together, the two companies have created one of Nigeria's leading banks, with 29 million customers and 32,000 Point of Sale (POS) terminals.



## ACTIVIST OMOYELE SOWORE



Omoyle Sowore participated in the student protest of 1989 when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) gave a condition that the Universities in Nigeria should be reduced to just five from twenty-eight before they would grant the country a loan of \$120 million. The proposed loan was to be used for an oil pipeline in Nigeria. At the time, Sowore led a protest that involved 5,100 students against the Nigerian government in 1992. Sowore was not spared as he was arrested and beaten mercilessly by the Police. Because of his insatiable appetite for social change, the arrest and torture didn't deter him. He still participated in the fight for democratic governance taking over the military rule in Nigeria on the 12th of June 1993. On August 3rd, 2019, Sowore was arrested again for his struggle and belief in

his principles. This time titled "Revolution No". The Nigerian State Security Service's arrest of him was for alleged treason of Sowore after his call for the protest. He was released for a day much to the jubilation of many only for him to be re-arrested in the court premises the next day. This cause public outcry making him more popular than ever before. The Federal Government, through the AGF, Abubakar Malami, recently ordered for Sowore's release once again.



**GLOBAL CITIZEN**  
*AMINA MOHAMMED*



Amina J. Mohammed was Minister of Environment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria from November 2015 to December 2016, where she steered the country's efforts on climate action, protecting the natural environment and conserving resources for sustainable development. Prior to this, she served as Special Adviser to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Post-2015 Development Planning, where she was instrumental in bringing about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals. Now the Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations

Amina is attempting to meet some of the world's most intractable crises and developmental challenges head on. She has been called one of the world's greatest leaders (Fortune magazine), Diplomat of the Year (Foreign Policy magazine), and Climate Warrior (Vogue).

The UN Social 500, praised her for her transparency. On social media she shares her experiences, workload and accomplishments in daily tweets and posts. We commend Amina Mohammed for her unwavering determination that marks her professional trajectory.



**RISK TAKER**  
*BUSOLA DAKOLO*



After years in which silence around rape and sexual harassment have been the norm, Nigeria is finally experiencing a wave of #MeToo proclamations and this is all thanks to Busola Dakolo! The celebrity photographer and wife of popular musician Timi Dakolo, in an interview, accused Biodun Fatoyinbo, head pastor of one of Nigeria's largest Pentecostal churches, the Commonwealth of Zion Assembly (COZA), of raping her when she was a teenager.

While more women are toying in her footsteps and bracing the odds to challenge Nigeria's widespread rape culture, it is not without challenges. Dakolo's allegation, for example, earned her a visit from the Nigerian police who claimed she was being investigated in a case of criminal conspiracy. This mother of three had to contend with trolls and negative backlash on social media, telephone threats, and an extremely difficult discussion about the rape saga.

Nigeria is a paradoxical society. It is a country where sexual relationships are front and centre in music and film and advertisements but talking about sex is a taboo

– a sin almost. It's a country that prioritizes silence over confrontation as proper and wise. They are yet to accept, appreciate and understand the effort it takes to make such a bold step and the positive impact such an action will later have on women in years to come. You can never over estimate how important that there should be growth of awareness of such issues no matter how info over broaching uncomfortable it is to broach such subjects.

Busola Dakolo might not yet have gotten the justice she sought, but she has given a voice to many women who will henceforth say NO to suffering in silence for fear of shame and stigmatization.



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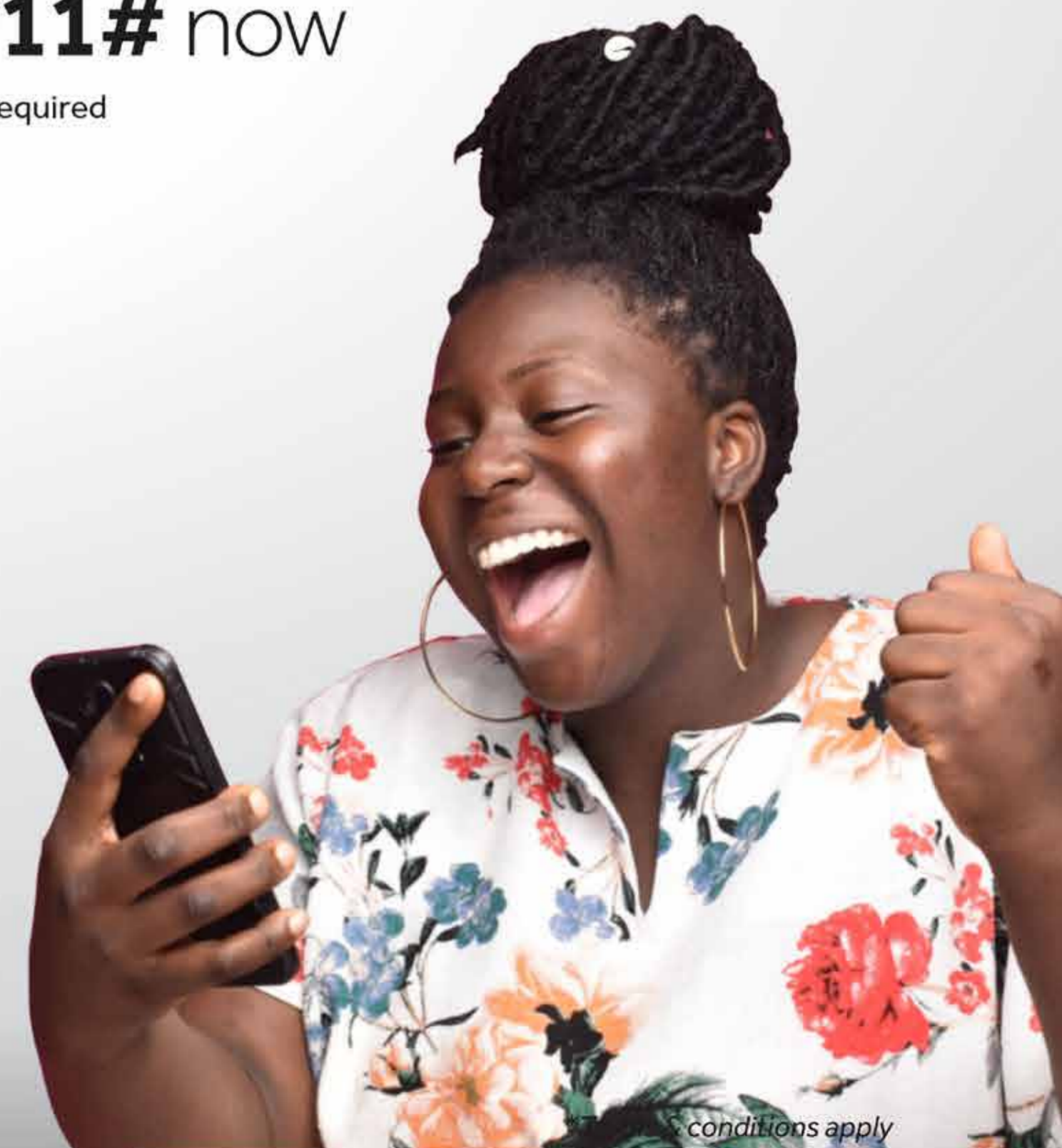
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## INTERNATIONAL BANKER BENEDICT ORAMAH



Prof. Benedict Oramah, President of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), has been named one of the most influential Africans in new rankings released by Jeune Afrique, the French language pan-African magazine, Oramah was listed at number 59 in the ranking of the 100 most influential



Africans.

Under his leadership role at Afreximbank, Oramah has deployed a series of financial instruments, including letters of credit, commercial guarantees, loans, in support of African economic integration.

Afreximbank has also successfully attracted many new countries to join it as participating states and organized the first Intra-African Trade Fair in Cairo in 2018. It also noted the Bank's record results in 2017 when it attained a net profit of \$220 million.

Just over a year ago, Oramah was decorated Professor of International Trade and Finance by Adeleke University, Nigeria. He currently serves on the Practitioner Advisory Board of the Institute for Trade and Innovation (IFTI) of Offenburg University, Gengenbach, Germany and is also a Member of the Emerging Markets Advisory Council of the Institute of International Finance; an Executive Committee Member of the Factors Chain International (FCI); a member of the Consultative Board on the World Cocoa Economy of the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO); and a Fellow of



the Institute of Credit Administration. He serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of African Trade (JAT). Professor Oramah has won several awards, including the Afreximbank Outstanding Staff Award (2010); the 2017 Banker of the Year Award of the African Banker and the Africa House Leadership Award of the New York University (2018). Aside from his intimidating successes, Oramah recently published a book entitled: 'Foundations of Structured Trade Finance', contributed a chapter on Export Credit Arrangements in Capital-Scarce Developing Economies in the Hand Book of Global Trade Policy. He has also authored Chapters in several other books and written over 40 professional/scholarly articles on a wide range of African economic, trade and trade finance issues. He has spoken at several trade and trade finance conferences worldwide.

## PERFORMER MELE KYARI



President Muhammadu Buhari recently confirmed the appointment of the Group General Manager, Crude Oil Marketing Division (COMD) of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mele Kolo Kyari, as the new Group Managing Director of the corporation making him the 19th GMD of the NNPC with a rich profile of professional and service credentials.

A geologist, Kyari is known in the oil industry as a crude oil marketer with outfield pedigree in petroleum economics and crude oil and gas trading.

With over 32 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, his tour of duty traversed the entire value chain of the petroleum industry. Under his watch, the Crude Oil Marketing Division of the NNPC has recorded noticeable transformation in the management and sales of the various Nigeria's crude oil grades via an infusion of transparency and automation of the processes. Kyari vowed to reverse the trend of petroleum products importation in the country by rehabilitating the existing refineries and encouraging private sector investment in the refineries sub-sector to end the trend of fuel importation as an oil producing country. Kyari plans to put in place a project that



will ultimately deliver at least \$20 billion in net revenues to the country, create 10,000 direct jobs and 40,000 indirect jobs. Kyari's plan is to transform Nigeria into a net exporter of petroleum products by 2023. Nigeria LNG Ltd. has decided to proceed with the construction of the country's seventh liquefied natural gas production train, which will boost the company's output by 35%. Train 7 will

increase the company's competitiveness in the global LNG market. The agreement to go ahead with the plant is a show of confidence in the country since Nigeria built its last LNG plant in 2007. The new train, which will take five years to complete, will cost about \$10 billion and will boost LNG output to 30 million tons a year from 22 million tons. Kyari believes this is a gateway to more investment in Nigeria. Kyari says it will take steps to get to Train 12 and there is an opportunity to do this which will in return, make NLNG one of the most successful venture in Nigeria

Kyari insists NNPC will be more transparent in their operations so that everyone can assess their work in time to come. He promises to continue the automation of the petroleum products sale process so that marketers can buy products online.



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## FASHION EVENT ARISE FASHION WEEK



What is the African fashion calendar without the Arise Fashion Week??? It was not surprising that again this year, the Arise Fashion Week was a roaring spectacular success. Put together by Arise Media, the show which is the biggest and most prominent fashion show in Africa, pulled global fashion brands and models to Lagos to showcase the beauty of the African fashion industry to the world. World renowned Model, Naomi Campbell worked with ARISE again as curator, second time running. In one of the workshops, Naomi announced Nigeria as one of the countries selected to get an intern to work with the

Gucci brand for a year as one of her humanitarian projects in changing the African narrative. The President of Gucci himself, Marco Bizzarri, also did a face-time call, congratulating ARISE for its giant strides in the fashion industry.

It is no gainsaying that ARISE Fashion Week continues to provide a platform where the global fashion elite meet with their African counterparts. Most importantly, an avenue where designers get to showcase their collections to a global audience of retailers, financiers, as well as the media, thus ensuring that Nigeria and the continent at large, remain firmly put on the global fashion map.



## INTERNATIONAL BANKER AKINWUNMI ADESINA



Former Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Akinwunmi Adesina is a force to reckon with. A distinguished development economist and agricultural development expert, Adesina was Vice-President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and Associate Director at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, where he worked for a decade in senior leadership positions, including as Regional Office Director and Representative for Southern Africa. He was elected President of the African Development Bank Group in 2015 and has received a number of global awards for his leadership and work in agriculture. 2019 was definitely Adesina's year as he received the Sunhak PeacePrize for his achievements in promoting food security in Africa through agricultural innovation. The biennial award honours individuals and organizations who have made a significant contribution to world peace for future generations.

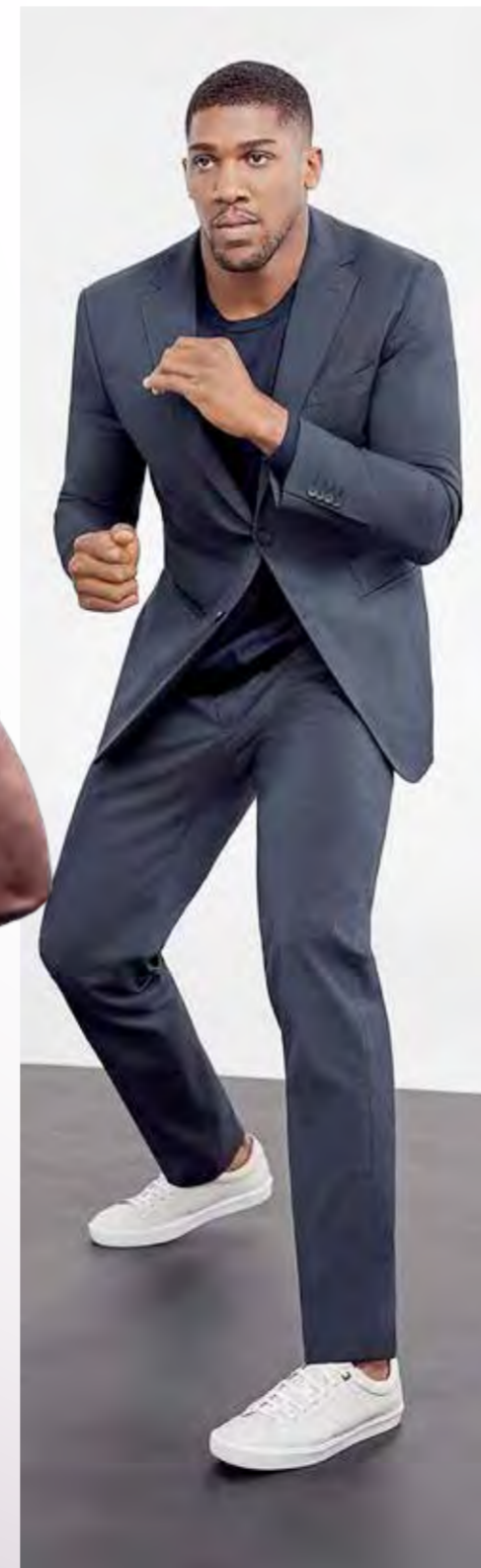


## SPORTS PERSON

### ANTHONY JOSHUA



Nigerian born-British Anthony Joshua is a name that triumphed in 2019. The two-time unifiedheavyweight champion, having held the World Boxing Association, International Boxing Federation (IBF), World Boxing Organization(WBO), and International Boxing OrganisationIBO titles since December 2019 and previously between 2016 and June 2019, lost his four titles to Mexican American underdog, Ruiz JR II in the 7th round in a fight at the at Madison Square Garden. After six months, they had a rematch at the purpose built Diriyah Arena in Saudi Arabia which saw Joshua reclaim his title and belts in a unanimous win! With his new-found form and fighting style, Joshua is already preparing for next year as he hopes to banish the memory of his only loss to Ruiz while hoping that he will remain in top shape. We definitely believe this has firmly put the heavyweight champ on the map-making 2019, a year to remember!



## ARTISTE

### BURNA BOY (DAMINI EBUNOLUWA OGULU)

2019 was the year Burna Boy earned a Grammy Nomination and cemented his place as the breakaway music star of the moment. His 19-track album, "African Giant" was nominated alongside music heavyweights including Angelique Kidjo and Altin Gun as one of the 'Best Album of 2019'. To say that it has been a standout year for Burna Boy, would be more than stating the obvious as he has a string of awards and sold out venues across the globe as proof.

Like his self-confessed idol, Fela Kuti, Burna's music feels both expansive and streamlined, worldly in its ambition yet firmly rooted in the soil from which it sprung.

His latest album "African Giant" is easily his most cohesive and strongest project, with even the diverse list of guest stars - from Damien Marley to Nigerian rapper Zlatan to Jeremih and Future - being used expertly without overkill. In all of this, Burna Boy is the true star at the center. He wears the title "African Giant" well.



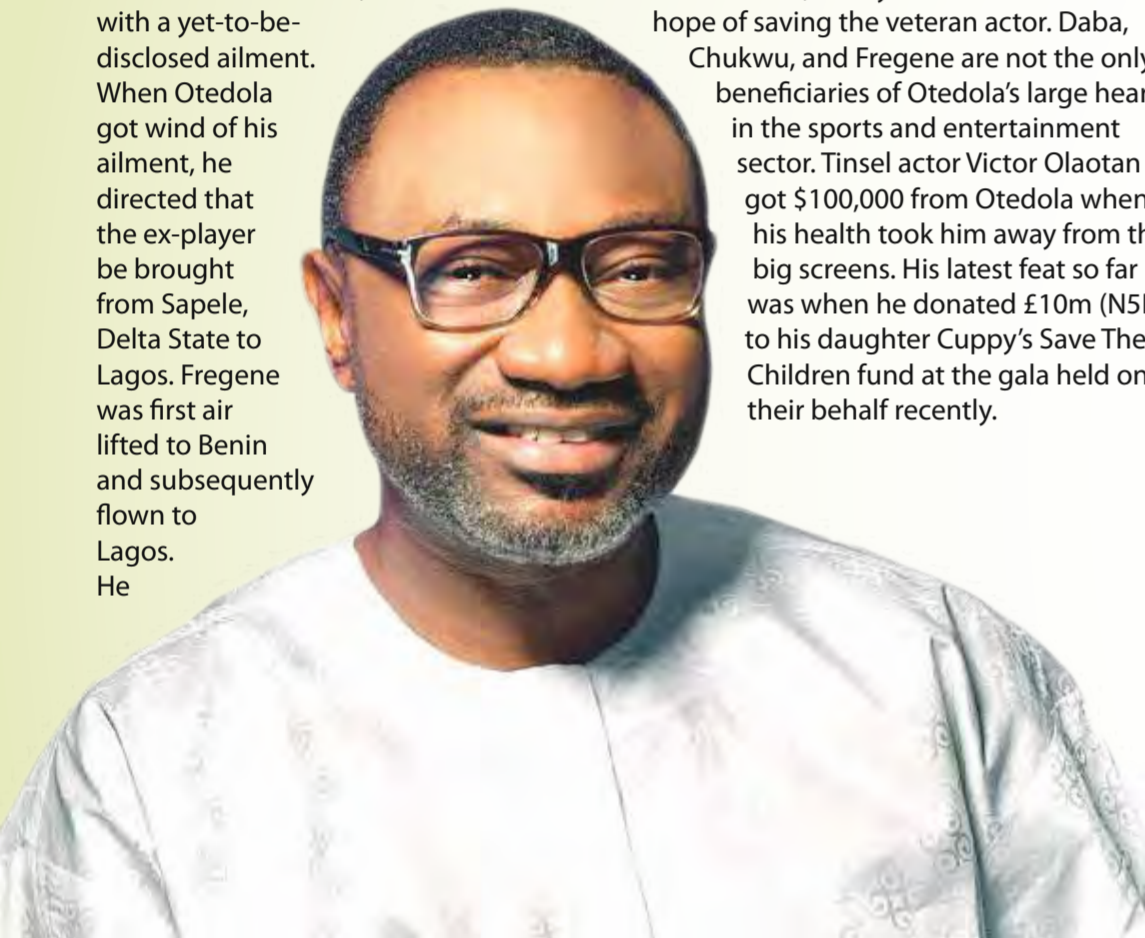
## PHILANTROPIST FEMI OTEDOLA

Not all wealthy people give freely. As we all know, giving is an art, and it is commonly said that 'It is better to give than to receive'. Femi is arguably one of the most benevolent individuals we have today. Donating millions of naira to charitable causes has become a way of life for the 57-year-old founder of Zenon Petroleum and Gas Limited, who has left no sector out.

Early this year, Otedola paid \$50,000 to offset the medical bills of former Super Eagles coach and captain, 'Chairman' Christian Chukwu who was down with cancer. He was flown to England for treatment. Otedola's gesture was not a one-off affair as he also reached out to ailing ex-Super Eagles goalkeeper Peter Fregene. Fregene, 72, represented Nigeria in the 1968 Olympic Games. He has been bedridden since 2016, with a yet-to-be-disclosed ailment. When Otedola got wind of his ailment, he directed that the ex-player be brought from Sapele, Delta State to Lagos. Fregene was first air lifted to Benin and subsequently flown to Lagos. He

has since been at the Reddington Hospital in Ikoyi. For most entrepreneurs, CSR comes naturally, but Otedola has gone even further by extending helping hands to people who never dreamt or imagined they could ever be touched, in what is now being appreciated as the 'Otedola example'. For Nigerians who grew up in the 80s, the name Sadiq Daba conjures happy television memories. When recently Daba's health took a downward turn, Otedola intervened in the veteran actor's situation, once again, giving Nigerians a positive example at a time when stories of man's inhumanity to man abound. For many fans of the actor, Otedola's intervention, when all hope seemed lost, can never be forgotten. Otedola came to the rescue of Daba, who was battling leukemia and prostate cancer. Before the billionaire's intervention, family and friends had lost hope of saving the veteran actor. Daba, Chukwu, and Fregene are not the only beneficiaries of Otedola's large heart in the sports and entertainment sector. Tinsel actor Victor Olaotan got \$100,000 from Otedola when his health took him away from the big screens. His latest feat so far was when he donated £10m (N5B) to his daughter Cuppy's Save The Children fund at the gala held on their behalf recently.

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## ENTREPRENEUR ALIKO DANGOTE

Aliko Dangote has become, without a doubt Africa's leading industrialist and entrepreneur. His success proclaims the new Nigeria of today and tomorrow. It shows that behind all the brouhaha, Nigerians are beginning to take their rightful place as Africa's leading entrepreneurs; thereby proclaiming Nigeria itself as a major frontier market in international relations.

At the age of 21, Aliko Dangote borrowed \$3,000 from his uncle to import and sell agricultural commodities in Nigeria, his native country. His business venture quickly became a success, and as a result, he managed to repay the entire loan within three months of starting operations. For the seventh time in a row, Dangote was the richest man in Africa in 2018, with an estimated net worth of \$14.1 billion. The business empire he began to build more than three decades ago, Dangote Group, is one of the largest private-sector employers in Nigeria as well as the most valuable conglomerate in West Africa.

The rise in Dangote's fortunes has been meteoric. In his own words: "About 10 years ago, I bought a company for \$4 million. It is worth \$21 billion today." Dangote made his first showing on Forbes list of the world's billionaires in 2008, with a fortune estimated at

\$3.3 billion. By 2011, this had jumped by 400% to \$13.8 billion. By November 2013, his fortune had jumped again to \$20.8 billion, making him by far the richest man in Africa according to Forbes Magazine; and the 43rd richest man in the world.

Today, Dangote Group mills flour, processes salt, produces pasta and fertilizer. Its sugar refinery is the second-largest in the world, producing 800,000 tons annually. It is the main supplier of sugar to Nigeria's soft drinks companies, breweries and confectioners. The Group exports cotton, cashew-nuts, cocoa, sesame seed and ginger to several countries. It also has major investments in real estate, banking, transport, textiles and oil and gas.

But the jewel in the crown of Dangote's business conglomerate is his cement factories. Thanks mainly to Dangote, Nigeria no longer imports cement, but is a major world producer. In 2007, Dangote commissioned a one-billion dollar cement factory in Obajana, Nigeria; the largest in Africa. Dangote Cement now employs 26,000 workers in Nigeria alone. The company is also constructing cement plants in Cameroon, Ethiopia, the Republic of Congo, Senegal, South Africa, Zambia and several other African countries; making him the largest cement manufacturer in Africa. Dangote Cement is now valued at \$20.5 billion, the first Nigerian company to surpass \$20 billion in market capitalization. Indeed, Dangote Cement alone currently accounts for more than one-quarter of the total market capitalization of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

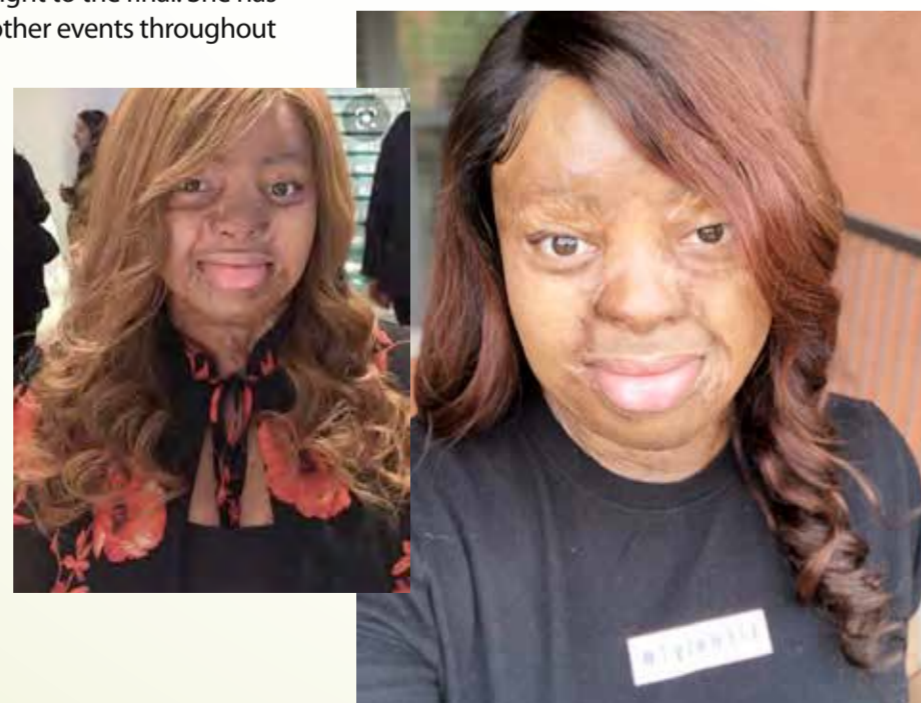


## INSPIRATIONAL PERSON KECHI OKWUCHI

Kechi is a Nigerian-American singer and motivational speaker, she was one of the two survivors in the Sosoliso Airline Flight 1145 crash on December 10 2005 and a finalist at the 12th season of Americas got talent in 2017.

Okwuchi was one of the two survivors in the crash that claimed 107 lives, 60 of which were her schoolmates. She received third degree burns over 65% of her body and was given a 30% chance of survival. Okwuchi was air-lifted to MilparkHospital in South Africa and later to Shriners Hospitals for Children in Galveston, Texas, United States where she has undergone over a hundred reconstructive surgeries. In 2015, Okwuchi graduated from the University of Saint Thomas, in Houston, Texas, United States, with a First Class Degree. She was the student speaker at the Commencement Ceremony. Okwuchi was a speaker at TedxEuston where she gave a talk titled Girls- know thyself. Kechi later went on to take part in the twelfth season of America's Got Talent in 2017 as a singer, and finished the competition as a finalist. She later participated in America's Got Talent: The Champions in 2019, where Simon Cowell gave her the

golden buzzer, sending her straight to the final. She has performed at sporting events, other events throughout the United States, South Korea and Nigeria. Okwuchi was chosen to headline Utah's 8th Annual Women of Worth Utah in 2019. Why have we picked Kechi as our Inspiration of the year? Kechi refused to give up, she has fought against all odds. She is currently an MBA student, a self taught musician and went to the biggest talent show in the world at the moment and not only did she wow the audience and the judges, she went all the way to the finals. If Kechi's story doesn't inspire you, we don't know what will.



## OUTSPOKEN PERSON AISHA BUHARI



Pretty much due to culture and religion the personality of a Northern Nigerian First Lady is of one who is sometimes seen but almost never heard. But lately, there are a lot of changes to that and the current first Lady of Nigeria Aisha Buhari is leading the pack when it comes to speaking their minds. As the mother of the nation, she has continually shown strong and enviable leadership qualities.

Although hers is not a role that enjoys constitutional backing, the office of the First Lady has since evolved into a strategic one, exerting considerable influence on the political social and even economic affairs of the nation.

While some might not agree with her sometimes outspoken style of communicating, one thing is clear, she has definitely gotten the attention of the nation. This year, Aisha has proved to us that it is possible to be in a position of power and yet openly still be in touch with your emotions and YES, we love her for it.



# WEARING THE NEWS

Newspaper dresses are creatively made from recycled newspapers. If we don't know anything about this Trashion, the one thing we know for sure is that its anything but out-dated and always eye-catching!

BY RUKY SALAKO

Fashion shows are full of these cool creations and it's like working with pattern paper but this time using newspapers. Some of these creations are also made in real fabric with newspaper print. One of our first memories of such a piece was

the one worn by Carrie Bradshaw in season three of Sex and the City. The style icon appeared in a sleeky backless dress designed by John Galliano for Christian Dior. Years later, the same dress was worn in Sex and the City 2 proving its enduring appeal.

Could it be that the newspaper print is now a timeless staple? It sure feels that way! These dresses are creative, unique, funky and elegant. Don't be reluctant to try them out.



## GET THE LOOK

BY RUKY SALAKO



Fashion Influencers are trend-setters because a lot of people look up to them for what's hot and what's not. Since Tosin Adegbite (popularly known as Toseen 21 on social media) hit our spaces on social media, she's been one fashionista to look out for. She stands out amongst all others for her originality and has blazed a trail that many want to emulate... Here's how to steal Tosin's look...

TOSIN

7 FOR ALL MANKIND

AMINA MUADDI PUMPS

BOTTEGA VENETA

VALENTINO SUNGLASSES

SELFPORTRAIT TAFFETA TOP

# Double Delight

BY RUKY SALAKO

We are always excited to bring you a new edition of Double Delight. This week we are even more excited because we have two amazing Style Influencers spotted in this £345 Rixo Charlene Psychedelic Tulip dress. This outfit can be bought online via Rixo website, or at Selfridges UK.

While Idia Aisien went for a more playful look, matching her Charlene Dress with a pair of white Gucci sneakers and a Fedora hat, Tosin Adegbite played the dress up by introducing the very trendy Balenciaga pumps and Gabriela Hearst bag. We love both looks, which would you rock??? I say BOTH.



RIXO CHARLENE PSYCHADELIC TULIP DRESS £345



ADEGBITE

IDIA AISIEN

# 10 FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT YOUR SKIN

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

You might be pretty well-versed when it comes to caring for your skin, but how much do you really know about this organ? Today, we're going to educate you with a few facts you might have not previously known about your skin. Some of this information will truly surprise you!



## 1. It's the largest organ in your body

Your skin spans 22 square feet, which makes it significantly larger than your second largest organ, the liver.

## 2. You start aging at 20

If you associate getting older with being in your 40s or 50s, we've got bad news for you. Once you hit 25 your collagen levels can start to slowly deplete which might result in the appearance of sagging skin and the onset of fine lines. Antioxidants such as Vitamin C can help maintain young, healthy-looking skin.

## 3. Sleeping can possibly give you wrinkles

Sleep is good for you—it helps your body repair and rebuild. Nevertheless, if you sleep on your side or on your stomach you could be applying pressure to your face which can contribute to the appearance of wrinkles.

## 4. Your skin has three layers

We always talk about the skin as if it's only layer, but it's made up of three; the epidermis, dermis and hypodermis.

## 5. Skin helps regulate temperature

Your skin can regulate temperature through its blood supply. When your blood vessels dilate skin allows for heat loss, when vessels constrict it helps retain heat.

## 6. Dark spots can develop on your skin

It's extremely important to wear broad-spectrum SPF 15 or higher starting in your teens and 20s. Sunspots can show up quickly on your skin and can increase with more sun exposure, making them even harder to get rid of.

## 7. We shed thousands of skin cells each minute

An incredible 30,000 to 40,000 per minute—wow!

## 8. Your skin has varying levels of thickness

Your eyelids have the thinnest skin while the palms and soles of your feet are the thickest.

## 9. You can switch skin types

Even if you've had the same exact skin type your whole life things like hormonal imbalance, climate change, and age can make your skin go from one type to another.

## 10. Genetics don't determine how your skin ages

A lot of people attribute how quickly their skin ages to their genetics, but it turns out that external factors play a huge role in skin aging. Sun exposure can account for almost 90 percent of premature aging and other factors such as pollution and smoking can factor into how quickly your skin ages.

# Dear Watcher OF TIMES... TONYE COLE



## HOW SPECIAL IS SPECIAL?

She was all of 7 years old when I met her yet she held me to such deep intellectual conversation we quickly became friends. Visits to her house were an interesting spectacle because her grandmother, who was the reason I met the family in the first place, was 82 years old and her mother at 47 had also become friends in their own right but of the three, the one who intrigued me the most was this 7 year old that was so much wiser than her age and could hold a grown man in a conversation worthy of an elders round table. But then this was no ordinary child as the story of her birth would attest and affirm.

Her mother, sent packing from 2 previous marriages for the 'sin' of barrenness as her tubes were totally blocked and she was incapable of conceiving, miraculously did so at 40 years old. So unexpected and improbable was it that she tested for everything making her feel sick until she finally did a pregnancy test 10 weeks later. Scans would later reveal an aggressive fibroid in the womb that began a life and death battle for supremacy with the yet unborn child until the day she was born. Words fail to describe the pain the mother endured, months on end, quarantined to full bed rest as the alien in the womb, fed off the hormones and goodies of pregnancy to grow to a whopping 4.+kg on delivery day.

The God of Creation permits things that we may never fully understand to happen to us in our journey through life, which we sometimes only come to appreciate much later in life. The failed marriages, unanswered prayers and futile search in all sorts of places for a child had left the mother full of rebellion and angry with God. Yet at the height of her rebellion, where all hope had been lost, He met and made her a carrier of a living child, a healthy 2.2kg at birth, a fighter from the day she was conceived who determined to defeat death in the womb and won. Two lives were gained that day, a reconciled mother to Her creator and a special child whose incredible gifts the world is blessed to have.

May we discover how special we truly are to Him.

For your comments, contributions, connect with me here: @TonyeCole1 on Twitter.

# polo avenue This Is Us

If there's one thing the Polo Avenue always delivers with its campaigns, it's the ability to transport you somewhere else. While previous releases have focused on the brands fashion muses and their elegant lifestyle, these images celebrate our Nigerian fashion roots from way back in the 50s to the 80s. Photographed by Emmanuel Oyeleke, the new campaign throws back to the Avant Garde era of fashion (which featured bold colours and high-octane glamour) and the characters of the fashion industry at that time. With luxury accessories (all from Polo Avenue of course) and throwback glamorous outfits to match, the narrative gives you a feel of what to expect when you walk into one of Nigeria's leading retail luxury store Polo Avenue.

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR



# BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

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