

...NOT IN THISDAY STYLE? THEN YOU'RE NOT IN STYLE

THIS DAY

\$4

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019

CLAIR PIERANGELO

THE NEW CONSUL GENERAL!



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COVER

Consul General Clair Pierangelo recently assumed her duties as Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos, Nigeria. In this interview with **KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR** she gives us an inside glimpse of her world in service and what it entails and also her plans to strengthen bilateral relations between Nigeria and the United States of America.

CONTENT

Society

CUPPY'S GOLD GALA (SAVE THE CHILDREN)
CUPPY'S GOLD GALA (SAVE THE CHILDREN)
 PG 6-7

CHASHA AND FEMI TIE THE KNOT IN INTIMATE STYLE PG 8-9

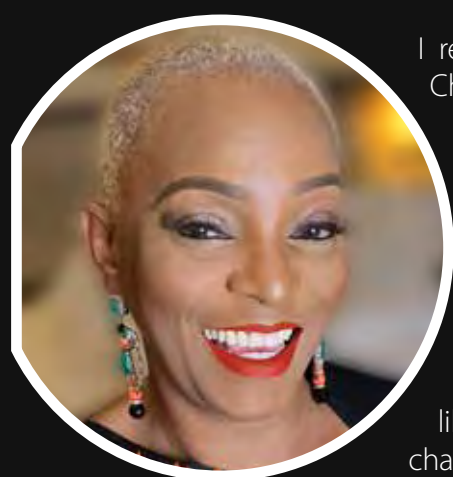
Fashion

RUBBING MINDS
 PG 10

THE SURVIVORS PG 18

HOW TO WEAR THE CAMEL COLOURS PG 20-21

-CAPSULES
-COLOURS OF LIFE
 PG 22



THISDAY STYLE

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I recently attended a two-day event titled LIVE IN LAGOS, hosted by Chimamanda Adichie for the first female Creative Director of Christian Dior, Maria Grazia Chiuri. It was an engaging affair and was a great feat of Chimamanda's to bring 'global eyes' to our home made products. as you well know, Arise Fashion week has also brought people of such status to our shores like former Vogue's Editor at Large, Andre Leon Talley to name a few, not to mention partnering with Queen of Catwalk, Naomi Campbell as the curator of the last two Arise Fashion Weeks. What this simply means is that various platforms are being created to draw global attention to our creative sectors and events like Chimamanda's have helped and are still helping to raise the bar in changing the African narrative.

Even our cover subject, the US Consul General in Nigeria, Claire Pierangelo, testified to the fact that there is so much talent here in Nigeria and America's focus in the Nigeria creative sector is being developed enough to make successful businesses out of the works of these artisans.

Our music industry has grown in leaps and bounds. With better infrastructure and financial backing put in place, other parts of the creative sector can grow just as well. We have a vibrant culture as well as the most colourful fabrics that using both benefits well, will no doubt, translate the stories of our rich heritage through our designs. I know we still have a lot to bring to the table in terms of creations and executions of our clothes and accessories. Even at that, with what we have done so far, we have come a long way from just a decade ago. We will continue to encourage global ambassadors like Chimamanda to 'carry the flag' for Nigeria in whichever way they can and commend them for doing so. I also encourage the artisans of this industry to continue to aspire to better their skills and learn as much as they can to harness their God-given talent.

Ruth

FASHION DIRECTOR/EXECUTIVE EDITOR



GREEN SEAL



ROLEX GUARANTEE



3255 MOVEMENT

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The world of Rolex is filled with stories of perpetual excellence. From the beginning, Rolex has tirelessly pursued precision and reliability in every watch. In this spirit, the company now conducts quality controls in its own laboratories that exceed watchmaking norms and standards. These tests certify superlative performance in terms of precision, waterproofness, power reserve and self-winding. Every finished Rolex watch is awarded the status of Superlative Chronometer, symbolised by the green seal and coupled with an international five-year guarantee. This is a story of perpetual excellence, the story of Rolex.

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Style by Zenith 2.0
Lifestyle Fair
 #STYLEBYZENITH2019

29th November - 1st December, 2019



The Chairman, Zenith Bank Plc; Mr Jim Ovia, con officially opening the Style by Zenith 2.0 Fair.



Mr Jim Ovia, con; DMD, Zenith Bank Plc, Dr. Adaora Umeoji and Coordinator Style by Zenith, Adobi Nwapa visiting the exhibition stalls.



Abia State Governor, H.E. Okezie Ikpeazu (PhD) with the GMD Zenith Bank Plc, Mr Ebenezer Onyeagwu visiting the Made in Aba exhibition stalls.



Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu with the GMD Zenith Bank Plc, Mr Ebenezer Onyeagwu on a tour of the exhibition stalls.



Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu addressing the audience at the masterclass session with Mo Abudu.



Abia State Governor, H.E. Okezie Ikpeazu (PhD) addressing the audience at the masterclass session.



GMD, Zenith Bank Plc, Mr Ebenezer Onyeagwu; Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu; Chairman, Zenith Bank Plc, Mr Jim Ovia con; Abia State Governor, H.E. Okezie Ikpeazu (PhD) and DMD, Dr. Adaora Umeoji.



The Chairman, Zenith Bank Plc, Mr Jim Ovia, con addressing the audience at the masterclass session with Mo Abudu.



Kelechi Amadi-Obi addressing the audience at the masterclass session.



Tems



DMD, Dr. Adaora Umeoji with Juliet Ibrahim



Flavour



Tekno



D'banj and fan



John Njamah; Adobi Nwapa; Ramsey Noah; DMD, Dr. Adaora Umeoji; GMD, Mr Ebenezer Onyeagwu; Mo Abudu; Executive Director, Umar Shuib and Shaffy Bello.



Kenny Blaq



Joe Boy



DMD, Dr. Adaora Umeoji with Juliet Ibrahim



Eku Edewor



Yemi Alade



Niniola



Jidenna



Davido



Do2dun



Fire Boy DML



IK Osakioduwa



Mo Abudu; DMD, Dr. Adaora Umeoji and Executive Director Zenith Bank Plc, Umar Shuib



Executive Directors, Zenith Bank Plc, Dr. Tope Fasanranti, Mr. Dennis Olisa and Mr Henry Oroh



Mai Atafo



Style Avenue



IK Ogonna and Alex Ekubo



Denrele with the Big Brother 2019 Crew



Kenneth Ize



Models on the Rock the Runway show



Mr Jim Ovia, con and the DMD, Dr. Adaora Umeoji, interacting with exhibitors at the lifestyle fair.



Coordinator Style by Zenith, Adobi Nwapa with Bisola Aiyeola.



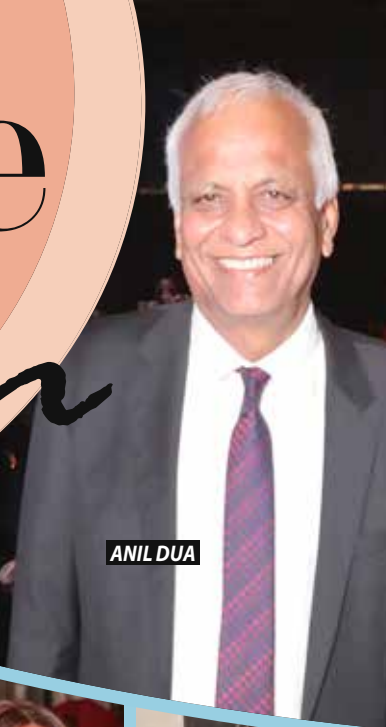
Kids and Families having fun at the ZECA Station.



The Food Court at Style By Zenith 2.0



Scene and be Seen



ANIL DUA



YETA ODUSANYA



HENRY NZEKWU



LINDA IKEJI



BERVERLY NAYA



BARBARA JAMES



SEGUN SENBANJO



SAM IWUJOKU



TERRY WAYAS



LAILA ADJI



KARIMI RABIU



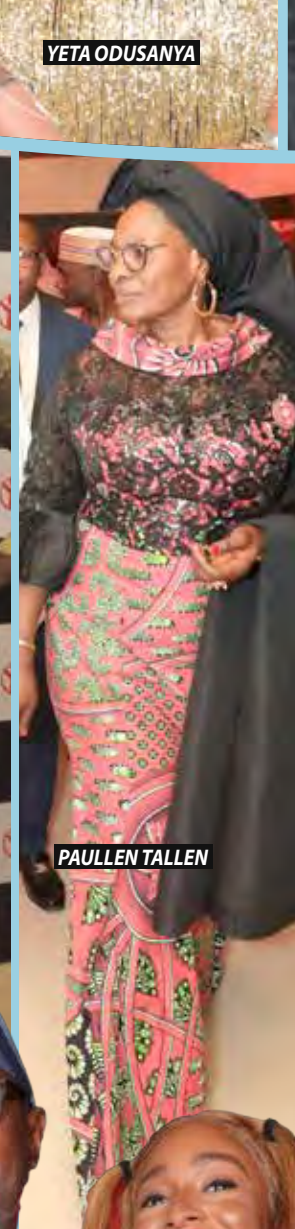
BABAGANA KINGIBE



PATIENCE TORLOWEI & TOLANI OTEDOLA



CUPPY OTEDOLA



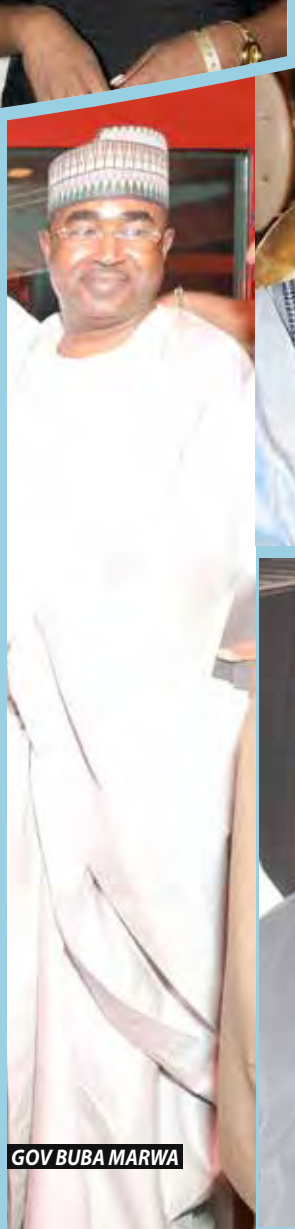
PAULLEN TALLEN



BOLA SHAGAYA



OWEN OMOGIAFO



GOV BUBA MARWA



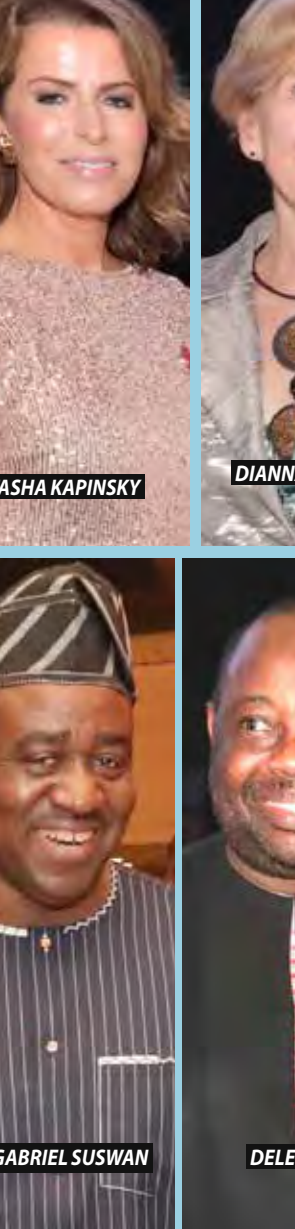
LANRE TEJUOSHO



DEP GOV MOHAMMED MANNIR YAKUBU OF KATSINA STATE



HALIMA DANGOTE



KEVIN WATKINS



NATASHA KAPINSKY



DIANNA MELROSE



DEIRDRE KEOGH



SOFIA GOINHAS

NUHU RIBADU



SEGUN AWOLOWO



WALE TINUBU



GOV GABRIEL SUSWAN



DELE MOMODU



RICHE SHITTU



SANUSI DAGGASH



PAUL ORHII

CUPPY'S GOLD GALA (SAVE THE CHILDREN)

A few weeks ago, renowned artiste and daughter of billionaire Femi Otedola, Florence Otedola simply known as Cuppy, held a fundraising dinner to support her Save The Children project. The event was very well compered by Henry Nzekwu. The evening started with a performing opera artiste followed by Cuppy and her group whose choreography and performance on stage portrayed the travails of the helpless children her NGO supports. Profound messages were written on the backdrops expressing Cuppy's cause for this gala. There was also a documentary of Cuppy's visit to these underprivileged children. After the first of many scintillating performances that evening, the CEO of Save The Children, Kevin Jenkins made a speech about the center that treats 700 children a year in Maiduguri.

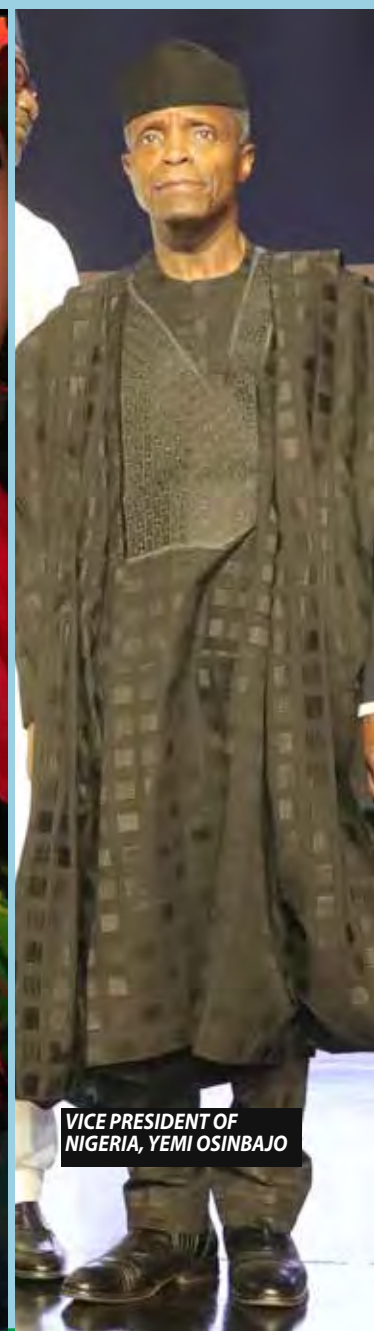
The most exciting moment was when Femi Otedola's donation of £10m was announced! The N5b donation is one of the largest ever donated to a cause in the African continent. This unparalleled donation opened the doors for more monies to be raised in the audience via live auctioning. Anthony Joshua's gloves went for N6m while one of Sonny Ade's pianos went for N4m. There were other items that night as well that went to the highest bidders.

After the Vice President of Nigeria, Prof Yemi Osinbajo's address, the Father of philanthropy, Alhaji Aliko Dangote came on stage to thank Femi for his huge donation and encouraged citizens to give back. He thereafter donated N100m to the cause.

All in all, it was a show of love by people to support the Save The Children cause. It truly was a well thought out event, and also encouraging to know that the young generation of today, especially the privileged ones, are well aware of the benefits and impacts of philanthropy.



FEMI & CUPPY OTEDOLA



VICE PRESIDENT OF NIGERIA, YEMI OSINBAJO



GOV DAFO ABIODUN OF OGUN STATE & GOV BABAJIDE SANWO-OLU OF LAGOS STATE



GOV BABAGANA ZULUM OF BORNO STATE



ALIKO DANGOTE



GOV ADAMS OSHIOMOLE



GOV BUKOLA SARAKI, FMR SENATE PRESIDENT



GOV NIYI ADEBAYO

Scene and be Seen



TOYIN MOMOH



UFUOMA OMORODE



WANDA & OSCAR IBRU



MR & MRS ERNEST OJI



SENA ANTHONY



SAMAILA ZUBAIRU



BOLA SHAGAYA



JULIA MATTER



MR AND MRS MBUI



MR AND MRS OSIBODU



BABACHIR LAWAL



DELE ALAKE



BISI AKANDE



KEMI NELSON



MOSES MOMOH



TONY IGBANOR



ADENIKE ADEJIJI



UDUIMO ITSUELLI



GOV ROTIMI AKEREDOLU OF ONDO STATE



GOV ABIOLA AJIMOBI



JIM OVIA



ATEDO PETERSIDE



ODEIN AJUMOGOBIJA



GOV TIMIPRE SYLVA

CHASHA AND FEMITE THE KNOT IN INTIMATE STYLE

Beyond the glitz and glamour, the wedding of Femi Akinyelure and his bride Chasha Momoh will remain one of the biggest love stories of 2019. Christened #TheCFWedding, Chasha and Femi's was more than a just celebration, it was a harvest of love, light and life.

Culture and class mixed freely, as the elegant couple began their journey to forever with a traditional wedding ceremony recently at the Oriental Hotel, Lagos. The colourful and glorious event which attracted people from all walks of life, also reunited families, old friends, colleagues and associates alike.

Interestingly, the traditional wedding was only a part of a multi-layered event. A few days later, close families and friends gathered at the Grand Resort Lagonissi, Athens, Greece for the white wedding. Quite conservative and modest this time as well, it also remained consistent in class and colour.



CHASHA & FEMI AKINYELE



CHARLES AND SHARON MOMOH (BRIDE'S PARENTS)



MR AND MRS AKINYELE (GROOM'S PARENTS)



VICE PRESIDENT OF NIGERIA, YEMI OSINBAJO



PRESIDENT GOODLUCK JONATHAN

THE SURVIVORS

By Dr. Kemi DaSilva-Ibru



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the WARIF Survivor Stories Series, a monthly feature, where stories of survivors of rape and sexual violence will be shared to motivate and encourage survivors to speak their truth without the fear of judgement or stigmatization and to educate the public on the sheer magnitude of this problem in our society.

The Women at Risk International Foundation (WARIF) is a non-profit organization set up in response to the high incidence of rape, sexual violence and human trafficking of young girls and women in our society. WARIF is successfully addressing this issue through a holistic approach which implements initiatives in health, education and community service.

WARIF offers assistance to survivors of rape and sexual violence at the WARIF rape crisis Centre- a safe haven where full-time trained professionals are available 6 days a week including public holidays to offer immediate medical care, forensic medical examinations, psycho-social counselling and welfare services which include shelter, legal aid and vocational skills training. These services are provided FREE of charge to any survivor who walks into the Centre.

This is Fatima's story-

I am the only daughter of my parents but before dad and mum got married, they each had a child from their past relationships. Dad had a son (Aliyu) who is 9 years older than I am, while mum had a daughter (Halima) who is 3 years older than I am. Dad and mum loved each other and agreed to live together. Not long after, she got pregnant with me. Brother Aliyu lived with us while Halima stayed with Grandma (Mum's mother) so as to reduce their financial obligations.

I started school at 3 and Mum would drop me off and pick me up from school till she got a job 2 years later. My parents decided that since my school was situated in the estate where we live, Brother Aliyu would pick me up on his way from school and take me home. The earliest Mum and Dad would get home each working day was 6pm.

Brother Aliyu was saddled with the responsibility to change my clothes, feed me, wash me, and ensure I observed my afternoon nap. However, whenever Brother Aliyu washed me, he took his time around my private area. He would emphasize that big girls like me should wash very well.

This continued for a while until one day, I woke up from my afternoon nap that Brother Aliyu will force me to take every afternoon and went to the living room hoping to find Brother Aliyu; I

Brother Aliyu continued to molest me till I was 10 years old. I believe that was when my mum began suspecting something negative was happening to me, she pleaded with my Dad to allow my Sister Halima come to the house to live with us. Brother Aliyu was not happy when Sister Halima began living with us because he knew he wouldn't have access to me like before. Bother Aliyu showed his dislike for Sister Halima and so they always got into fights. But somehow, he was able to discredit Sister Halima before my parents.

found him there laid on the couch with his eyes glued on the television. I saw naked people on the television but didn't understand why they were naked so I asked innocently, "Brother Aliyu, why are these people not wearing clothes?". He jumped up looking surprised to see me in the living room, and then he tried to persuade me so that I don't report him to our parents. He pulled me closer, and said to me, "Fatima, this people are brother and sister and it is ok for them to take off their clothes and touch each other". He added, "but they only play like this when nobody is around, I am watching it today because I want to learn more like you learn from your Barney". He continued with a scary look on his face, "Don't tell Dad and Mum if not, I won't pick you up from school and I will tell the gate man to lock you in school so that the school rats will eat you up. I will also never allow you watch Barney". I already knew that it was impossible for either Mum or Dad to pick me up from school, and I didn't want to be locked up in school so I made up my mind never to tell my parents. Brother Aliyu continued to watch his X-rated movies and he didn't have to bother whether I was there or not, he allowed me to watch it too.

A few weeks later, he asked if I really like him and I answered, "Yes, I like you Brother Aliyu, because you always take care of me". He said, "You know, I also like you very much so come let us try what this brother and sister in the television are doing". Brother Aliyu told me to lie down and took out my clothes off in an instant. He said to me, "this might be a little painful but

it's just so that we can remain brother and sister forever". After saying that, he started touching me like he did anytime he washed me. I cried in pain and he said "Don't worry my sister we are doing it right, that's how the girl in the Television felt the first time". When he was done, Brother Aliyu threatened me again like the last time and I succumbed to his threats.

Armed with my silence, my abuse continued with him adding new things he learnt from his movies and I believed he was tutoring me on what would be helpful for me. Afterwards, he would take me out to buy me my favorite sweets and drink. He said to me, "I'm so happy, you are the best sister in the whole world. I guess I was excited to hear and I wanted to remain on top so I did whatever he wanted me to do I never realized he was molesting me all the while.

Brother Aliyu continued to molest me till I was 10 years old. I believe that was when my mum began suspecting something negative was happening to me, she pleaded with my Dad to allow my Sister Halima come to the house to live with us. Brother Aliyu was not happy when Sister Halima began living with us because he knew he wouldn't have access

to me like before. Bother Aliyu showed his dislike for Sister Halima and so they always got into fights. But somehow, he was able to discredit Sister Halima before my parents.

One afternoon, Brother Aliyu checked up on Sister Halima and assumed she was sleeping. He met me in the living room, the squeaking noise of the chair when he was molesting me attracted my sister and she came to the living room. He was finally caught after 5 long years.

My dad said he would ensure Brother Aliyu never returned to our house again. My parents were very upset with me that I never told them about Aliyu's action I pleaded with them that he deceived me into believing that sexual relations is a common practice among siblings. My parents however flogged and punnished me. I felt betrayed by my parents and never felt sorry for not telling them when it all started because this is probably how they would have reacted.

Dear survivor, you are not alone and it is not your fault. Help is available.

If you have been raped or you know someone who has, please visit us at The WARIF Centre - 6, Turton Street, off Thorburn Avenue, Sabo, Yaba or call our 24-hour confidential helpline on 08092100009.

For questions or more information please contact: info@warif.org

*Real names of all mentioned have been changed for confidentiality

NESTOIL UNVEILS NEW BRAND IDENTITY



Over the last 28 years, Nestoil has evolved into a Group of companies that is widely regarded as the biggest indigenous Engineering Procurement Construction and Commissioning (EPCC) company in the Oil and Gas industry.

As the company positions for new challenges in its evolution, the Founder and Group Managing Director of Nestoil, Dr Ernest Azudialu-Obiejesi says it is time for the company to unveil a new and refreshing corporate brand identity that replicates its dynamism.

This unveil took place at an elaborate ceremony at the Civic Centre, Lagos. Thisday Style was there to capture the moments...

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more than banking



CLAIR PIERANGELO

THE NEW CONSUL GENERAL!

Consul General Clair Pierangelo recently assumed her duties as Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos, Nigeria. Having worked in various countries all over the world, she has become a seasoned hand in learning and adapting to the various cultures she has been exposed to after over 30 years in the foreign service. Needless to say, hers will be a very colourful fabric of life were she to write a memoir of her experiences abroad.

In this interview with **KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR** she gives us an inside glimpse of her world in service and what it entails and also her plans to strengthen bilateral relations between Nigeria and the United States of America.

First and foremost, we welcome you to Nigeria. Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

Well, I am what we call a native San Diego, I was born and raised in California, the West Coast city of the United States but I have also lived for a considerable period of time in Washington DC area and Boston area. So, a little bit of both sides of the United States. I have been in the US Foreign Service since I graduated from graduate school so it's a long time. I don't ever give the exact number of years because that tells you how old I am, but I'll just say 30 plus years! (laughter)

You've served in places like Indonesia and some other countries with quite interesting cultures. What was the experience like?

Indonesia much like Nigeria, is a multicultural country with a lot of different peoples who have been united under one government, people from different religious backgrounds that are finding ways to live together harmoniously. Indonesia is a majorly Muslim country, one of the largest in the world, but it also has a sizeable Christian and Hindu population as well. Really, what I took away from Indonesia is how hard you have to work at having religious unity and religious harmony in addition to achieving political unity and political harmony.

Again, like Nigeria, you could go to different provinces in Indonesia and it's really a different culture. So, you have to learn not one culture but many cultures and that might be about the food, religious practices, and even holidays. Learning the different religious traditions, I think, was the biggest challenge in Indonesia – who shakes hands, who doesn't shake hands. I try I make my host as comfortable as possible because my job is not to demand that you make me comfortable. My job is to make sure my host country interlocutors are as comfortable as possible.

What did you enjoy most in all of these places? The food perhaps?

That's an excellent question. The first thing I learned about England many years ago is that there is actually good English food, and Scottish food in particular, it all depends on how you cook it. I quite enjoyed my time in England, it is a multicultural country such that in addition to British food, many other countries are represented. In Italy, of course, everything is good. My heritage is Italian, so I was quite at home but even then, it was great to know that within different regions of Italy, that the food was very different. And I think the key to Italian food is that it is prepared very simply with good quality things, and that's a real pleasure. In Vietnam, fabulous food north and south. You just have to ask what you're eating and be careful because it's a culture that eats a lot of unusual things. I haven't been in Nigeria long enough to try the full array of Nigerian foods but I'm trying, and I've had a number of good friends who have very generously offered to cook and let me taste different things. So, I'm getting there.



I think there is an absolute understanding of the burgeoning art scene here and there is a great interest in the United States to engage and to assist and to be present in that process.



Have you tasted our famous jollof rice?

I have tasted your jollof rice. The thing they don't tell you about jollof rice is that it's very spicy! In all my travels in all my places, I have never eaten spicy rice, even Mexican rice is not spicy. When I take a bite of rice, I'm expecting a certain flavour. And jollof rice was a big surprise, but I was happy to try it because I know that in West Africa you have the competition between the different jollofs and who has the real jollof rice. Well, now that I'm in Nigeria, the answer is you have the real jollof rice. Actually, my two boys were up in boarding school in England and I took them to London and we actually went to a street festival where everybody was selling all the different types of West African foods and we saw the competition between the jollof rice in person because it continues even in London. It's a global issue: who's got the best jollof rice? (laughter).

As a female foreign officer, have you ever encountered prejudice your male colleagues were not subjected to in countries where the male role is more dominant?

I think, obviously, women will experience certain cultural norms and men will experience other cultural norms. It's not unique to women. I mean, there are certain experiences that are unique to women, certainly, I think probably the most difficult country that I worked in, I didn't live in it, but I worked in it, was Russia. That was really tough because there's just a very different attitude, even in the professional realm, toward women. I found that in Italy there was appreciation for women and so some people would take that as offensive, but I did not because they appreciated your professionalism but always remembered that you're also a woman who doors should be opened for. Those sorts of things. In Indonesia and Vietnam, a little bit of difference. In Indonesia there is, again, a lot of respect for women in the home and in the personal sense but they have a long way to go in the professional world, of accepting Indonesian women as equals. That doesn't apply directly to the diplomatic corps, but it was in many of my dealings with locals. I found out that it was a little bit more difficult for the women to engage in the

political scheme. And the Vietnam is still a communist country, so there are particular norms. In Vietnam it was more societal that, again, women are in government and in business but they are also really more respected for their role in the family and so that was sometimes difficult.

How would you describe the US-Nigeria bilateral relationship and how do you intend to improve on it during your stay?

Well, certainly the US has a very robust relationship with Nigeria across the board whether from our military to military relationship, our humanitarian assistance, our development, our commercial, and I think what we want to do is develop that across the board. There's always room for improvement. One of the key challenges I think Nigeria is looking at is that you are the largest democracy in Africa and maintaining your true democratic principles and democratic processes in a free fair and transparent manner that benefits the majority of the people is what we sort of look at as your challenge for the next 10 years. How do we assist you in that process? How do we help you supporting democratic elections? How do we support you in education for your young people? You've got this youth bulge that is coming up. This huge population of young people that need to be educated, that need to be employed, that need to be educated not just in basic education but also in the principles of a democratic society because those are the folks who are going to take Nigeria into the future.

How do you intend to create a relationship between the United States and the Nigerian creative industry to further enhance our growth and make our presence on the global stage more noticeable?

Well I think we already do have some of those relationships. There are now a couple of Nigerian singers in the United States who have attained a certain level of fame and I think that brings a real light unto the whole Nigerian music industry. In addition, we just opened on Sunday evening, the African International Film Festival, and it's highlighting documentaries this year but many of those entries are from Nigeria and from the rest of Africa and it was a beautiful opening that highlighted your Nollywood, your creativity and we have a number of directors and producers and movie makers who are going to be working directly with your movie industry especially the youth who are starting out. How do you make movies? How do you make documentaries? How do you do producing? How do you do directing?

I think there is an absolute understanding of the burgeoning art scene here and there is a great interest in the United States to engage and to assist and to be present in that process.

What role do you intend to play in empowering the youths of Nigeria and increasing business

opportunities?

That's really one of our prime focuses here at the consulate. Lagos was the capital for many years. It maintains its Capital status in a few areas in terms of education, commerce, trade, finance. This is really where those things are centered and where they can be a catalyst for the entire country. There are certainly challenges that Nigeria has in growth, whether in infrastructure or education but there's such an opportunity here. So, one of the focuses that we do is that we're always looking for opportunities, for greater trade and investment whether for American firms or Nigerian firms to create that economic environment. Because it's really key.

We recently did a program called Academy for Women Entrepreneurs which was really an eye opener for me in a variety of ways. We had 6,000 women at all the different levels - brand new entrepreneurs, people who just want to be entrepreneurs, experienced entrepreneurs who applied for the program and we selected a hundred of those in Lagos and they did a similar program in Abuja. With the idea that small and medium businesses in this country create about 80 percent of the jobs. It's not big investments, not big business. In fact, it's sometimes shocking when you build these big power plants for example, you might need 3,000 people to build it, but you'll only need 300 people to run it. It is small and medium enterprise that's going to create the opportunity for folks in Nigeria. So, we're really focused on trying to assist organizations that are working in that sphere and assist young women in particular but also young men in order to create a dynamism and create a stratum of economic growth that will help absorb that youth bulge.

Nigeria is a big country, there's a lot of opportunity, there's a lot of possibility. It's just having the mindset of how you employ people and you create opportunity at this small and medium level which is really where the dynamism is.

But these small and medium level also need financial support to make their business grow or take their business to the next level. Where do you come in here?

There are a number of local organizations like the Tony Elumelu Foundation who are, in fact, doing some of that and we're in partnership with them. They are providing training and some financial incentives for folks. It's a great program. The Lagos state government is also getting involved, and they did some microfinancing for some of the ladies in our Academy of Women Entrepreneurs. So, there's a role for local government as well as local businesses, and local philanthropic organizations. But I think this is an area in Nigeria that is really untapped as yet. There's a lot of wealth here, there's a lot of good business people here. And it's really helping to have a culture of creating a legacy. People like Tony are doing a great job of creating a legacy with the young people and I hope that's a mindset that can grow in Nigeria. You've got a number of folks who are fabulous philanthropists who focus on this but there's a lot more room for that.

For us, we partner with our skill set which is bringing together the training, bringing together the knowledge. USAID also does some microfinance programs. That's a little bit different, that's on a very small-scale humanitarian, but they certainly do microfinance programs especially in the realm of helping women.

So, what do you do when you are not working?

Oh, my gosh! Lagos is an interesting place with a lot of fun things to do which I'm just beginning to explore so any suggestions are welcome. I like to sail but that's something I need to figure out how to do here. I have a number of large dogs; they keep me company. We also try to do a lot of community events for our American consulate community and also for the American community at large and really just getting out and talking to people. Like I said, I've made some endearing and nice Nigerian friends who have taken it upon



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themselves to introduce me to Nigerian culture and to Lagos in particular and so I greatly appreciate that, the effort to get me out and show me things.

What aspect of Nigeria's culture and history would you like to experience whilst you're here?

I'll like to experience more of the music. I know there are a lot of great music clubs here and I'm hoping I'm not too old to experience them. Because, again, one of the great pleasures of my time in the Caribbean was that I was exposed to a lot of West African music. A lot of the most popular musicians there were from Nigeria, Ghana and other area in West Africa. So, I would really like to go back to those roots and experience the music scene here a little bit more.

What other places would you like to visit, sightseeing-wise or tourist attractions?

Again, there are places down along the coast that I would like to go see. We've been only briefly to a few places and I'll like to go back and spend more time there. For example, Edo state, I'll also like to spend more time in Rivers state, I'll be able to see more of the nature in Cross River state. There's a lot of history here and it's not always easy to travel to but we're hoping to make time when we go on business travel to experience other elements. I've heard of many great discoveries in archeology, discoveries up in the oceans, I think. So, there's a lot of interesting things to explore.

How does the US prepare diplomats to serve in a foreign country for the first time?

There are a couple things that we do. We do have something called the foreign service institute which is our diplomatic training academy and they will train folks when they first come into the foreign service. What is the foreign service? What is the diplomatic corps? You know, just the basic skills. And then throughout your career you'll spend time there whether it's to learn new languages, or to learn about a new country, specialized courses and studies about the culture, about the politics. We also do a lot of technical training for folks. So, before I came out the first time so many years ago as a principal officer in Indonesia, I went to a special course that looked at the specific responsibilities of a principal officer or a consular general that are much different than the specific responsibilities of say, a public affairs officer.

Before you're sent to a country, especially a non-English speaking one, is it imperative that you learn the language to a certain extent?

It's desirable and it really depends on what you are going to be doing in that country, they look at it position by position but in most countries, it's required that you go and learn the language first. I speak Haitian Creole, Italian, French, Spanish, Indonesian, Vietnamese, and just a very little bit of German.

So, will you learn to speak some Yoruba while you are in Lagos for some time?

The question is do I learn Yoruba because I'm in Lagos and learn Igbo when I am in Enugu state? Finding out that English was the official lingua franca in Nigeria was a big surprise to me even though I studied a lot about Nigeria in the past two years. All the politics, the history. I did not fully appreciate the diversity within Nigeria itself, of the different cultures, till I got here. Like in Indonesia where they have one Indonesian language, each province still had its own individual language and culture. One of the great surprises and pleasure is learning about those individual ethnicities and cultures that exist within the Nigerian whole.

As part of the learning process, do you plan to visit many other places here in Nigeria while still here?

I do. Actually, I'm required to as part of job. That's one of the best parts of my job.

We like to joke that for the consulate if we're sitting at our desk, we're not doing our job. Because our job is to be out and interacting with Nigerians of all levels.

So far, I have already made a visit to Edo state, Bayelsa, and Enugu, and I have traveled through a few other states to get to those states but those are the three so far and of course, Lagos state itself. Hopefully very soon I'll be traveling to other neighboring states here in the southern region. We cover the southern region only from east to west and my goal is to be in every state within the first year and hopefully several times within the first year.

With the exchange you've had with Nigerians as a people so far, what is your general impression of them?

Nigeria is a really interesting and important country, politically, economically, and culturally. What's very interesting for me is, having served in the Caribbean and Haiti where so much of the culture is derived from Yoruba and Igbo cultures, coming here and seeing those links. Also, learning about the links between the Yoruba people and Brazilians and how the culture that I see in the western hemisphere, makes a lot more sense once I start to see where it comes from in West Africa. I think in Nigeria, everybody talks about your entrepreneurial spirit and that's certainly true. But what causes your entrepreneurial spirit is this sort of desire to be active and accomplish things.

You've got vibrant culture, you've got vibrant music, and I think the real challenge is how to channel all this positive energy into something even more positive for the country as a whole.

How do you channel all that energy into positive politics? So that's one of the things that really interests me in talking with Nigerians. Where do you as Nigerians see yourself in the next 5-10 years and how are you hoping to get there?

RUBBING MINDS

CHIMAMANDA ADICHIE & MARIA-GRAZIA CHIURI

LIVE IN LAGOS

BY RUTH OSIME

Recently world renowned Author, Chimamanda Adichie and the first female Creative Director of Christian Dior, Maria-Grazia Chiuri came to Nigeria to host Chimamanda's pet project 'Wear Nigerian' captioned LIVE IN LAGOS. It started with a reception cocktail in honour of Chimamanda Adichie and Maria-Grazia Chiuri which took place at the beautiful edifice, Allaince Franchise in Ikoyi. Not knowing what to expect, I attended the first event with an open mind. And I am glad I did! This one was a close knit affair. On the podium were various manufacturers of shoes and bags from the East of Nigeria (Aba to be precise) alongside Aso oke and Adire (Abeokuta) from the South of Nigeria. These manufacturers went on to explain their work and their skill set to the audience. The shoe and bag manufacturers had travelled to China to learn how to harness their talent and one of them showed us a pair of rugged boots she made by hand which was perfect for our roads. She made the boots with that in mind focusing on its durability.

Chimamanda then mounted the podium with Maria where they discussed ideas and the potential growth for any new designer in the creative sector. Now the big question was "Why exactly is the Creative Director of Christian Dior here in Nigeria? What is her purpose?" I threw this question at them alongside other questions asked, the bane of which was whether Maria can achieve something beneficial for some lucky designer during this visit? Maria basically said she got inspired to visit Nigeria because of the clothes she saw on Chimamanda. She could not believe how exquisite they were and decided to come and see more where that came from. Chimamanda herself reiterated that comment. According to her, "I had attended a show where Maria was showcasing a collection for Dior. When I went backstage to greet her, amidst all the beautiful creations surrounding us, she kept admiring my dress, touching it, pushing and tugging at it gasping in admiration! I was surprised she loved it so much and I felt proud that a woman of her status would admire an outfit from a designer in Nigeria." This was where the idea of hosting Maria in Nigeria and introducing her to the creative sector grew in Chimamanda's mind.

As an ambassador of Nigerian designers, Chimamanda wears the products of up and coming designers (her own way of flying the flag of her heritage). She has been successful in drawing global attention to our creative industry. Adichie decided to take it a step further by bringing the Creative Director of Dior to our home shores to 'get a feel' of our own creative sector.



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The next day, the second leg of LIVE IN LAGOS took place at The Podium Lekki. There was a 'Wear Nigerian Fashion Show' where designers like Mai Atafu, Lola Baej, Wuman, Meena, Kiki Kamanu, Fia Factory, The LadyMaker and Emmy Kasbit showcased three pieces each. There was also a live performance by a young and beautiful sultry singer, Falana. This was followed by another conversation with Chimamanda and Maria and this time, to a much larger audience. I watched Maria's expression during the fashion show and tried to read her thoughts. She nodded her head a few times in admiration and I could not but wonder whether there was hope for any of

the designers for some form of collaboration somewhere in future. It doesn't even have to be just clothes, it could be accessories as well. We are well aware that Rome was not built in a day and such moves will take a lot of work and execution to achieve. After all, Dior's latest collection was collaborated with some designers in Cote D'Ivoire. Now that is not to say, it will be automatic for Maria to do the same here as it involves a lot of research which was also part of her visit. But as their conversation went on, Chimamanda pressed for some form of verbal commitment to which Maria said they can be the possibility of such collaboration in future. Femi Banwo of B&I legal firm, threw in a question as well about counterfeit products and how Dior deals with it. Maria was quick to say it was a losing battle trying to stop the manufacturing of fake copies!

Chimamanda jokingly chipped in that "Copying is the greatest form of flattery!" Maria went on to tell the audience how they have actually had one of their designs copied by another fashion house...before Dior launched the original copy! She also said she actually bought some of the fake Dior copies in our very own Balogun market which she was going to take with her to show her staff! Speaking of which, Femi Banwo, during the course of the evening told me that his daughter who works with IFC, visited Aba with some of her colleagues. He asked me to guess how many pairs of shoes were produced in Aba in a day? I said hundreds of thousands. He said no...that Aba market sector produces 7.5million pairs of shoes... daily!!! My jaw literally dropped!

Aside from the growth of the Aba manufacturers, the growth of Nigerian designers is moving at a fast pace and our voices are being heard through ambassadors like Chimamanda and also shows like our very own Arise Fashion Week, Gtb Fashion Weekend, Style by Zenith and Lagos Fashion Week amongst others. That is not to say there isn't more room for growth. The government and banks also have to play a big role in taking the garment business to the next level. During one of the conversations of Chimamanda and Maria, Ngozi Edozien asked about the financial aspect of the fashion business to which Nnamdi Okonkwo of Fidelity bank said banks have created a product to support the creative sector and encouraged creatives to take advantage of such opportunities.

I truly believe that like Nigerian music, our designs are going to explode across the world sooner than later. Our creations are already being acknowledged and worn by global personalities here and abroad. What we need is better infrastructure, learning the rudiments of dressmaking more so that sketching to the finished garment is executed flawlessly.

CHRISTIAN DIOR EMBRACES AFRICA!



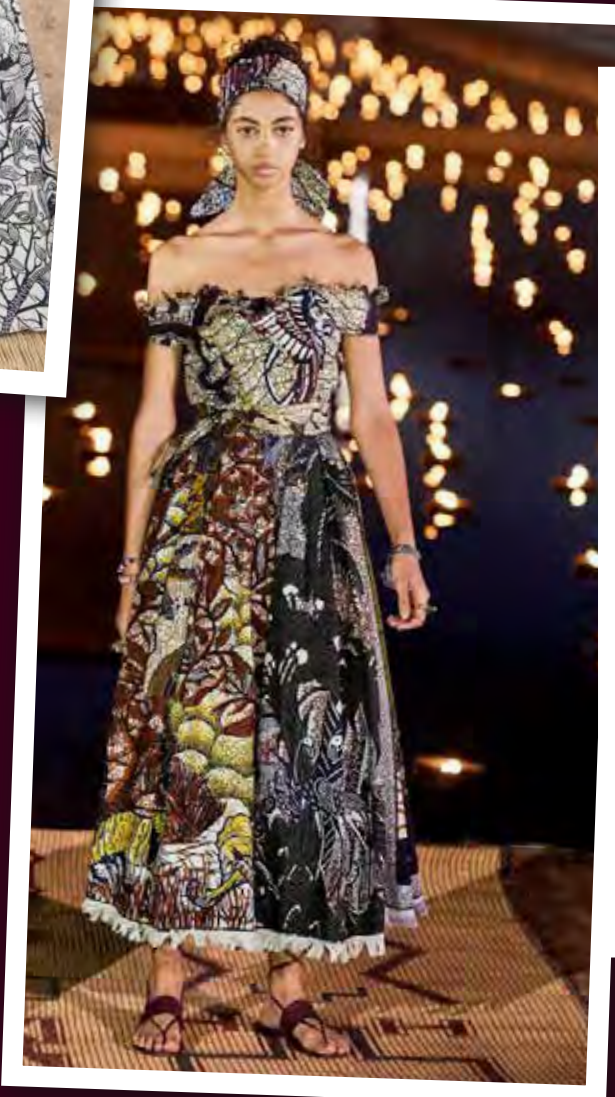
As the new Creative Director of Christian Dior, Maria Grazia collaborated with North Africa to show a collection about the richness of their culture. The fabrics featured were designed and produced as a wax print in the Ivory Coast city of Abidjan known for their shiny finish when it comes to their fabrics. This signature trademark is what makes their clothes authentic. Chiuri took it a step further by mixing these prints with contrasting fabrics but in European designs. Such mixture gives the designs a uniquely distinct look. These wax fabrics have been used by Africans for centuries but never have they been so intricately used in the most astonishing designs by Dior. Chiuri dug deep into the folklore of the originators of these wax prints who translated their stories in the narrative of the prints used. The native designs give the world a peek into their ancient traditions and history.

The prints consist of animals, all sketched magically and interwoven into different designs and textures. The richness of colour was in full display and all made from cotton wax. The boyish shapes of the models and silhouette are a replica of the creative designer herself who loves to dress androgynous as this look usually sits best with cropped hair or held tight in a bun. What Dior has done is drawn global attention to African textured fabrics and made the world take notice of its beauty and richness of culture. Although the Dutch wax print is a product

that has a multicultural past, Africans made it popular by their usage of it.

Chiuri is revolutionizing what Dior designs are used to. She is infusing a rebellious breath of fresh air and bending the rules to suit her dreams and desires. It is for this sole reason she is doing a research across Africa looking for delightful openings with plenty of promise not to mention the expansion of versatility when it comes to creations. Dior accepting, and working with fabrics such as these is breaking the norm and making a global statement with the extent of its outreach!

Maria Grazia Chiuri is a woman who looks to create a new record as the first female Creative Director and this collaboration with Wax is one of the many other ventures she has planned. Expect more unique collections. She is leaving no stone unturned to ensure she makes the most remarkable pieces Dior has ever dreamed of. Fashion is an ever revolving cycle and designs with deep origins and robust historical leanings have always held a strong appeal. People are embracing ethnicity and culture by wearing clothes through with such ethnicity can be seen. This is the vision of a woman who sees no barriers and believes in no limits. She is embracing this new research into Africa and its environs with every vigour knowing that it is a gold mine yet to be tapped. The talent, the artistry and the skill set is an enticing mix when joined together with the Dior brand.



HOW TO WEAR THE CAMEL COLOURS

STORIES BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGO

Camel-coloured outfits are so underused in the fashion world. But they will never go out of style. Camel is a neutral colour choice that goes with just about every skin tone, this hue can be used for every occasion. Because of its neutrality, the colour doesn't evoke any strong emotions, yet it is still pleasing to the eye. Find you should infuse this colour into your wardrobe.



POWEDE AWUJO

The color 'camel' works on just about every skin tone. It's beautiful on those with darker skin, and it stands out on those who are lighter. Unlike a lot of other colors, most people can get away with wearing a full camel outfit from head to toe (with a few pops of color, of course).



DAMILOLA

Camel-colored clothing pieces match well with other neutral tones. So, having a black or white outfit with camel accents will look great. And vice versa.



SADE AKINOSHO

When choosing a formal look in camel, pants are the best way to go. You can never go wrong with this. Pair with a print top with complimentary colours and you are sure to turn heads.

THISDAY Style Vol. 22, No. 8984 Sunday, December 8, 2019

Sunglasses might be a small accessory, but they have a large impact. A great pair of sunglasses can change your face, your style, and even your outlook on life.



YVONNE NWOSU

Sunglasses

The Ultimate Power Accessory

Eyewear has always been the fashion accessory par excellence, conveying the strong and decisively stylish personality of their wearer. They allow you to observe without being observed, so it's no coincidence that it has become a must have accessory for every fashion lover worth his or her salt.

Transparent frames and translucent lenses have been popular in the sunglasses market as of late, though this selection doesn't focus on one or the other, combining the two styles to create the ultimate statement look. Consider these the happy pop of color to your wardrobe needs.



TOKE MAKINWA

Celebrities live their lives with sunglasses on to protect them from the prying eyes of fans and the reckless lenses of paparazzi cameras. But their eyewear also functions as both a necessity and a symbol of style. The look? Simply black and oversized, period.



ALERO



SADE AKINOSHO



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

One Look

Two ways



Alero Adollo
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CAPSULES

On the rich in our clime and butt kissers, kilode, many put their lips to asses that give them "noonmares", and despite this, they still don't get it. Once upon a time integrity was a currency and a good name an investment but today these things don't count if your account is in red.

Where are we going as a people when even 10 year olds who have never earned "shishi" are particular about where their friends live.

All of a sudden everyone including their "village people" are either friends, associates or relatives to the nouveau riche, hmmm, orisiri, wetin slap us for face forget hm fingers for our brain, what did life add to our medication that is affecting us like this.

It's so bad that even when people know that the source of your wealth is questionable, they will still dance "skelewu" around you unperturbed, as long as a measure of it is measured into their pockets.

We have a clime where the average wealthy have become gods receiving worship without remorse, more like demanding it sef. The tragedy here are our young that we are tainting with this brush of insanity, I overheard 5 teenage children discussing how they can never travel coach, and my heart fell down in tears.

I watched in horror sometime back when there was this fuss over a young lady with a rich husband, in fact it was the grace of God that spared my fall into a nearby ditch in their effort to sign a non-existent autograph, shame catch me enh.

Then you blame the so called "runs" girls adapting to an environment that puts plenty manure into growing this kind of behaviour, just like everyone else (with their brains in debit) na hustle dem dey hustle I beg. Your poison, my caviar, all na the same.

We honestly need to do a life appraisal as a people and decide which way we want to face, we cannot do a little to the left or a little to the right with integrity, we must learn to take a stand and die there.

With the number of places of worship we have all around,

us, one will think angels should be walking the Nigerian earth, we must all be saints manna. but na lie, one wonders what we would have been like if we were not "religious", forget the fact that we are today puking all over the altar with disdain and a catch me if you can challenge, to our Maker.

Many are either in denial or in deception, or how can we not see that we all need spiritual surgery.

In the realm of souls emotions are spewed all over the gutter because the intellect is struggling with inanity, oh and the will is wherever the latest fad pulls it, "o ma se o".

My mind is stayed on this subject because if we can sort this as a people, we will be half way there. Yeah life is tough undoubtedly, but we cannot say because we want to eat meat adopt the cow as our uncle.

Values....do we remember that word, can we spell it without cringing, we are all influencers, influence positively and stop making the gutter look fabulous, it is not, understand that! Nobody is perfect agreed, we are all fallible undoubtedly but do not become a slave to your flesh through "stomach infrastructure". Ponder.

Colours of Life



with Koko Kalango

DECEMBER TO DETOX

It's December and we are counting down to the end of the year and to Christmas! I love the smell of Christmas; the decorations, the gifts, the carols, the outings. Christmas is also the holiday I most look forward to and try to prolong for as long as I can. Last year I decided that going forward, my Christmas will begin on December 1 and last up till the first week in January. By implication my Christmas decorations (complete with Christmas carols playing in the background) went up on the first of December.

This is also one of two times in the year when I shut down. During my December shut down time I pull back, take stock, reappraise life and prepare for the coming year. Part of this transition plan is to intentionally engage with God on matters past, present and future. Over the years I have come to realise that to listen to God, one needs to quieten the other voices around. It is necessary to reduce the volume of the phone, the television, activities, even the voice of people. That way, we are better able to hear Him, even if He chooses to speak in 'a still small voice'.

As the year draws to a close, I am also embarking on a declutter exercise. No room in my home will be spared. The clothes, shoes, bags, household appliances and stuff that have not been used in a while need to go. The books that my children have outgrown are always good material to give for the Rainbow Book Club annual Christmas book donation to support libraries in indigent communities. I am sure that the stuff gathering dust and crowding up my home would bring 'glad tidings of great joy' to someone somewhere, this Christmas.

In addition to the decluttering, I plan a personal detoxification. A fast is a good way to get a physical detox. I sure can do with the many benefits of fasting which include stimulating the development of stem cells, taking stress off the digestive system, boosting the immune system, and of course weight loss. It's a good opportunity to also throw in some 'me' time – like pampering myself with a full day at the spa: pedicure, manicure, facials, body scrub, massage, you name it.

Aside from getting the impurities out of my body, I intend to rid my spirit of toxics. A book club I belong to is currently reading The Power of a Praying Woman by Stormie Omartian. The book has 31 chapters and we round off this week with the last

2. Chapter 30 talks about being free from the past and chapter 31 is about making ready for the future. How timely both topics are as we round off the old year and prepare for the new.

As we read chapter 30 and fasted in November, I felt the Lord was highlighting to me the need to forgive. This came as a bit of a surprise because I would not consider forgiveness something I struggle with. But over the years I have come to recognise God's voice, and above all, I have learnt

how important it is to obey. So, as the Lord kept bringing a particular person to my attention regarding unforgiveness, I began to pray for that individual and to ask the Lord if there is anything else I need to do.

Unforgiveness and offense are toxic to our soul and we cannot afford to tolerate them. There are many other things that constitute spiritual baggage. I believe as we take the time to ask the Lord, He would show us the stuff in our lives that we need to get rid of.

Then there is digital detox. Last weekend we organised a Colours of Life Youth Seminar titled The Good, The Bad & The Ugly of Cyber Space. Part of what we came to terms with at that meeting

was the power the internet wields over its users. While the internet has undeniable good use, its negative impact can be overwhelming. Dwelling in cyberspace has been linked to emotional distress, self-esteem issues, anxiety, depression and all manner of deviant behaviours. While we decongest our minds and refresh against the new year, it would be a great idea to withdraw from that space, even if for a short time. I can imagine that this is easier said than done for most of us because we simply cannot do without our smart phones. It is what we reach out for first thing in the morning and last thing at night, attaining the status of an idol. But this is the very reason why we need to practice keeping away from it every now and then.

Clearing the clutter in our body, soul and spirits prepares us for a more fulfilling and purposeful life as 2 Timothy 2:21 says:

'So if anyone cleanses himself of what is unfit, he will be a vessel for honor: sanctified, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work.'

Let's make this month our December to Detox!

Koko Kalango is author Colours of Life devotional. She may be reached at contact@coloursoflife.org or [@koko.kalango](https://www.instagram.com/koko.kalango)

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