We are back to the swing of things as the New Year commences. One would have thought the never-ending parties would cease as pockets are being pulled tighter to accommodate the financial excesses of the just concluded festive period. But that doesn’t seem to be the case as events are still propping up though not quite in the same frenetic pace of two weeks past. Our cover personality, Chief Rasaq Okoya’s 80th recent birthday celebration was a full on high-octane party to celebrate one of Nigeria’s most successful industrialists! Though eight decades old, he is still going strong as you will read about in his latest interview.

All the same, we still thank God that we are here to witness the new decade. While at it, we have to prepare ourselves, mentally, financially, spiritually and physically to make this new decade a worthwhile venture. Learn from our failures, pursue our visions and goals harder, be more tolerant of other people’s excesses or bad behavior, be more forgiving, talk less and listen more as and when required, have better foresight and wisdom, strengthen our faith, fight off inner demons and fears, be more courageous and just generally try and be more impactful in the lives of those we know and meet in this journey called LIFE.

As you know, one thing that never fades regardless of year or time is Fashion. It is an every revolving cycle and there is always something new coming up! In this edition, we have many interesting topics that will catch your attention and hopefully you might learn a thing or two from them. Style Trends To Try, Style Tips, You Be The Judge amongst others should give you something to feed your eyes on!
It was a thrilling fashion and cultural fusion as renowned author and fashion icon Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, hosted friend and Christian Dior Creative Director Maria Grazia Chiuri in Lagos recently. Chiuri held a Masterclass for Nigerian designers and also took part in a very insightful conversation with Adichie, to the delight of guests. Ms Chiuri and Ms Adichie were also hosted at a cocktail reception by the French Network—represented by Ambassador of France to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Mr. Jérôme Pasquier, and Consul General of France in Lagos, Mrs Laurence Monmayrant—in collaboration with the Consul General of Italy in Lagos, Dr Maurizio Busanelli, at the Alliance Française/ Mike Adenuga Centre, Ikoyi, Lagos.

Chimamanda's affinity for Nigerian fashion is no secret. She has taken on the role of ambassador for the Nigerian fashion industry and given brands more visibility and global recognition through her Wear Nigerian project.

Atafo, The Lady Maker, Lola Baej, Emmy Kasbit, Kiki Kamanu, FIA Factory, The Wuman Brand and Meena Official were invited to showcase their collections at the Wear Nigerian mini-fashion show, which took place during a formal gala evening branded: “An Evening with Maria Grazia Chuiri and Chimamanda Adichie in Lagos.”
Queen's College Yaba, Lagos set of 1989, recently held a three day event to celebrate their 30th anniversary of leaving the school. The events started with a group trip to the Inagbe Resort to catch up with old classmates and friends in a relaxing and fun environment. The next day was an award ceremony held for the existing students of Queens College to honour all students with outstanding academic performance, after which they visited the old people’s home to spend time and give gifts. Day two came to an end with the set hosting some of the teachers that taught them while at school.

On the final day, a dinner party was held at the Radisson Hotel in Victoria Island. Hajia Aisha Abubakar, from class of 1983 and Nkoli Ogbolu class of 1976, gave keynote addresses. Other special guests at the dinner included the present President of QCOGA - Ifueko Omogui-Okauru and other excos. The celebrations presented opportunities to relax, reconnect and rebuild old friendships while giving back to Queen’s College and the society.

**OGQC CELEBRATE 30 YEARS ANNIVERSARY**

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**UNUSUAL PRAISE AND WORSHIP BY CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE DIVINE MERCY**

Unusual Praise is an Annual Catholic Praise and Worship Event organized by the Catholic Church of the Divine Mercy with the support of the Catholic Archbishop of Lagos and a few brothers from the Catholic Church of the Assumption Falomo and St. Charles Borromeo. It gathers Christians and non-Christians alike to thank God for his faithfulness through praise in form of Gospel music and hymns. It is also oriented towards Evangelization. The 2019 edition attracted Reverend Fathers and Sisters and some notable Nigerians. It also hosted the second edition of the Unusual Entrepreneurs, where 250 lucky persons were awarded.
# ntel Data Plans

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The perfumery with exquisite luxury fragrances for men and women

Rare Dahlia located at the Wells Carlton Hotel & Apartments II Gaduwa Street, Off Josuari St, Suite 90021 1, Abuja, Nigeria

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LOW RISE

Low rise jeans look great on women with a well-defined waist because they sit a little below your belly button. This style is well suited for women with skinny and super straight legs or pencil skinnies. They are perfect for a slimming effect caused by adding a dressed-down, casual look. These can also provide a touch of modernity.

Whether you’re a denim addict or a jean fanatic, denim is a source of joy for all. From a festival staple, to a new season basic to an old pair of jeans you can’t get rid of, this particular trend is one that never gets old. Take the traditional jeans mix with a hint of unusual, add some pieces you wouldn’t expect and you have yourself a whole new wardrobe. Mix, match, and wear top to toe if you like, the rules are there to be broken. Get ready for the denim revolution.

BOYFRIEND JEANS

People started calling these boyfriend jeans because they looked like they were borrowed from him. From runways to airport looks, everyone is sporting these. These give you endless outfit possibilities – from runways to airport looks, you can rely on these jeans for safe choices like skinny or straight-leg jeans.

BOOT CUT

What was initially considered skinny jeans slowly became a hot favorite among women of all age groups. These come with a great fit all the way down and subtly open out past your shins. They are great choices for curvy women.

FLARED

These particularly started getting popular as a 90s fashion statement, and are now back with a bang. While the boot cut jeans open up slowly below the knees, this style flares up.

Plain white sneakers

A pair of plain white sneakers will never go out of season. From a casual look to your race day, you just don’t need more footwear or boots, and you can’t make a wrong choice. It’s comfortable to walk and looks better than your usual kicks shown in skinny jeans or denim. They are a popular choice for women who are looking for a bit of casual get-up and for adding a dressed-down, athleisure look. These can also provide a touch of modernity.

FASHION TRENDS COME AND GO, BUT THERE ARE CLOTHING STAPLES THAT LAST FROM SEASON TO SEASON. THERE ARE CHOSSES YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON HAVING RATHER THAN BUYING EVERY TRENDY ITEM THAT CATCHES YOUR INTEREST. INVESTING IN QUALITY, MUST-HAVE PIECES FOR YOUR WARDROBE CAN ALWAYS SAVE YOU TIME AND MONEY IN THE LONG RUN. SUCH ITEMS GO WITH ALMOST ANYTHING IN YOUR WARDROBE AND COMPLEMENT WITH A PIECE YOU DECIDE TO SPICE YOUR CASUAL OUTFIT UP WITH.

BOOKD IN A BAG FOR EVERY WOMAN

A staple for every woman, black pumps will never fail you. It’s the basic shoe option for your 9-5 job, holiday parties or a night out. Besides them, it can also dress up even your casual “beach day” outfits. A good pair that you can actually wear in.

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Dear Watcher,

IF NOT ME THEN WHO?

She was exquisitely dressed as usual, carrying herself with the confidence of a woman who has faced many battles and was accustomed to winning. Her makeup was subtle and perfect applied on a skin that radiated with the freshness of one who knew she was beautiful and took care of herself. She was her best brand and had built an empire on the products she so easily displayed and in the process had inspired a whole generation of entrepreneurs in the art of beauty, proudly Nigerian and an advocate of the best that the nation had to offer.

As we sat briefly in the green room, one of many we had occupied together, set once more to inspire and share life experiences with a room full of young entrepreneurs hungry yet uncertain of what lay ahead of them, our conversation inevitably centered on our nation and the growing sense of despondency amongst the youths. The spontaneity with which the masses latched onto reports of xenophobia in South Africa to rob, burn and destroy was a sign of a barely contained anger.

Engulfed in the violence, her children barely escaped with their lives after the mob smashed windscreen and windows of their SUV. The acts of violence unleashed on any perceived wealth citizens found in a luxury vehicle was the rude awakening that all was not well in paradise.

The Creator of all mankind had set out a world devoid of envy, greed, avarice, pride, selfishness and hatred but man was deceived into believing he wasn’t who he already was. That fall replaced one created to fulfill purpose into believing he wasn’t who he already was. Selfishness and hatred until man was deceived into believing he wasn’t who he already was.

For your comments, contributions, connect with me here: @TonyeCole1 on Twitter.
preparing for the new school season?

With our tailored solutions, we ensure you get your kids back to school with ease.

Visit www.accessbankplc.com or call 07003000000 to get started.
Billionaire Industrialist and founder of Eleganza Group of companies, Chief Rasaq Okoya needs little or no introduction as he is one of Nigeria’s foremost business men. He started and built his multi-billion Empire with just 220 investment back in the 70s and like they say, the rest is history. Today Okoya is known as the industrialist, whose quest for excellence has pushed the boundaries of entrepreneurial distinction and he continues to set standards not only as an industrialist, but also a real estate mogul and businessman with the Midas touch. As he turns 80, FUNKE RAIS-KUFJEJ speaks to some of Chief Okoya’s close family members and friends who give an insight into the enigma and business mogul’s life. They also speak about his entrepreneurial journey and the impact he has made in the lives of those he has touched one way or the other. The celebrant himself, Chief Rasaq Okoya, also speaks about turning 80 and his plans for the future.

You have been fortunate to live a very fulfilled life. As you turn 80, do you have any regrets?

I have a few regrets which include a few failed marriages in the past and every business decision I have made has either been unsuccessful or a learning experience. But overall, Allah has been very kind to me and I’m indeed grateful.

With over 60 years in business what other plans do you have for the next five years?

Production is my life. I enjoy manufacturing goods.

I have travelled to several countries and get inspiration from what I see in Europe. I believe in this great country Nigeria and I believe that with good policies, it will be greater than before.

The Eleganza of today is stronger and more able than it ever was.

You built an empire from manufacturing different products, but took a break when the business and economy wasn’t very lucrative only to revive it once again. Why did you make this decision?

Eleganza had been under the storm in the recent past, trying to survive in the industrial sector - as a result of past mismanagement and planning. This led to my factory not running in full capacity which incurred lots of debts and liabilities. As a result of this, I had to diversify into property investment on a large scale and concentrate on it to help keep everything afloat. But thankfully, we back now bigger and better, ready for what ever is thrown our way.

What lasting solutions do you think should be put in place to encourage more people to manufacture locally?

When I started, there were a lot of business opportunities in Nigeria. But now so many products have flooded the Nigerian market. The federal government should stop the importation of goods that can be produced locally. The government should improve on the power supply and promote more technical schools for training of our youths.

What life philosophy do you live by?

My wife would say I’m not a fashionable man but running the factory, she works 7am to 7pm daily and honestly she is doing very well. I just give her support and advice and if when needed. The factory runs without me being there and the factory is already able to sustain itself such that Eleganza Industrial City will be a company for today, tomorrow and the future. I want my legacy, Eleganza groups to live on and it is my prayer that it lives on Insha Allah.

With my knowledge about production and life so far, passion with the drive takes priority in all endeavours. But to be successful and be able to maintain market leadership for years, you must be wise.

What measures have you put in place to make sure your factory sustains?

I have already taken a back seat. As of today, my wife Shade, is running the factory, she works 7am to 7pm daily and honestly she is doing very well. I just give her support and advice and if when needed. The factory runs without me being there and the factory is already able to sustain itself such that Eleganza Industrial City will be a company for today, tomorrow and the future. I want my legacy, Eleganza groups to live on and it is my prayer that it lives on Insha Allah.

What do you think about your lifestyle?

Hard work, honesty, determination and most of all, believing in the Almighy Allah’s blessing.

How will you describe your style?

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What advice will you give anyone who wants to go into manufacturing in Nigeria to make sure they are successful?

With my knowledge about production and life so far, passion with the drive takes priority in all endeavours. But to be successful and be able to maintain market leadership for years, you must be wise.

Study the market closely and know when to diversify or invest further when necessary. Manufacturing is a very taxing and energy consuming business so it is important that you have enough interest and passion in whatever you choose to put out there for the consumers. Make sure it is something you yourself can use.

What other plans do you have for the next five years?

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**What is your fondest memory of your father?**

All these years after my father's death, I suppose the memories that stand out would have to be the times we had together. Growing up there was great emphasis put on the importance of our education. As such, whenever I received good grades, I was great emphasis put on the importance of our discipline that comes with it. With our mother, she was a very loving and supportive woman who cares for all that I stand for. He is a teacher, advisor and much more. Till date, his humility amazes me.

You have worked closely with him running the Eleganza group of companies/factory, what are some key business traits you have mastered? I have learnt a lot from his wealth of experience in manufacturing, investing, administrations and life in general. He taught me the importance of hard work and to take nothing for granted. I use the passion he has for any project he embarks on and this has rubbed off on me. I put my heart into all I do and just like him, failure isn't an option when it comes to business. He also has taught me the importance of going into business with all you have to make you happy because once you do what you love, giving your very best is a given.

Tell us something fascinating about him? My husband is a very shy person though he likes to go out and have a good time. He is super active for his age that even I myself wonder where he gets all the energy from. He is a family man and over the years this has become a part of him.

What message for him as he turns 80? I wish my husband ‘solves on me’ only the very best as he turns 80. I wish him Allah’s continuous blessings, a sound and happy mind that will make him enjoy all he has laboured for. And he will continue to see his children’s children in Allah’s name. Amen.

**What are your fondest memories of you growing up as Chief Okoya's sister?**

First of all, he is more of a father to me than a brother because I was barely four years old when our father died in 1965. Since then, my brother has been taking care of all my needs in life. But his most pivotal impact on me is his love and hard work, which are still on going in the family.

Which parent will you say had the most impact on you? What qualities of his make him stand out? My father was like her, we never remarried having lost her husband at a young age; therefore my bother was like her growing up? Which parent will you say had the most impact on me is his love and hard work, which are still on going in the family.

**What fond childhood memories do you have of your brother?**

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**What will you like to say to him as he turns the big 80?**

Lagos Island. What struck me about him was his outlook, we are so many, where do I even begin? I was the first of the special group of Nigerian people, to take the mantle to the next level? With over 40 years of friendship, how will you describe Chief Okoya and what will you say are his strongest traits? Aware of Lagos (A family name). I clearly desire to see that his friends and those around him prospered is one of his strongest traits. He is indeed a very generous and accommodating fellow. I had no hesitation in taking time off work to join his family, other friends and world at large in celebrating with him because he is indeed not the kind of man you meet easily.

Is there one thing you know about Chief Okoya that many people do not know? His remarkable kindness and extreme generosity plus volunteering spirit of giving. He is also a very resourceful person who sees and makes economically viable opportunities from where a lot of people either see problems or disasters. A clear example is how he has always pioneered industrial cities around areas in Lagos where many never thought would blossom. From the Port Harcourt expressway to Alausa in Lagos, his contributions were massive. What strikes me about him was his outlook; we are so many, where do I begin? I was the first of the special group of Nigerian people, to take the mantle to the next level. We have admired each other in achieving our goals. We share the same ideology and ambitions on becoming industrialists and creating products that could compete with foreign goods, and leaving Nigeria better than we met it. His sense of industry and straightforwardness means that we are aligned in values.

What will you like to say to him as he turns the big 80? I pray for him all I pray for myself at this stage which I have encouraged each other in achieving our goals. We have shared the same ideology and ambitions on becoming industrialists and creating products that could compete with foreign goods, and leaving Nigeria better than we met it. His sense of industry and straightforwardness means that we are aligned in values.

As I reflect on the major milestones he has accomplished, people, to take the mantle to the next level? With over 40 years of friendship, how will you describe Chief Okoya and what will you say are his strongest traits? Aware of Lagos (A family name). I clearly desire to see that his friends and those around him prospered is one of his strongest traits. He is indeed a very generous and accommodating fellow. I had no hesitation in taking time off work to join his family, other friends and world at large in celebrating with him because he is indeed not the kind of man you meet easily.

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TO TRY STYLE

For those who love to stand out at parties, or just simply like to dress up, attending holiday soirees, having drinks, this is your time to shine. And when it comes to planning a few fabulous holiday party outfits this season, consider this: sequins aren’t the only option! Instead, discover other refreshing evening wear trends, perfect for any occasion on your calendar.

TRENDS

HOW AMINA MUADDI’S HEELS BECAME INSTAGRAM’S IT-SHOE

Though she only launched her brand in 2018, Amina Muaddi has garnered industry attention for her signature flared heels, so much so that this year, she’s earned the title of 2019 Designer of The Year at Footwear News’ Achievement Awards, a title previously held by Tabitha Simmons and Gianvito Rossi. Her eponymous line spans a wide range of silhouettes, but perhaps the most recognizable is her signature flared heel, one that is slender at the top and widens at the bottom - a move that adds comfort, and is distinctive to her line.

Beyond the signature heel, Muaddi has created shoes ranging from flats to platforms in highlighter hues, fabricated in velvet, satin, and even glitter and featuring luxe materials like feathers and crystals. In many ways, they’re the ideal range of party shoes. While you may tend to get dressed with a clothes-first approach, generally leaving footwear as an afterthought, Muaddi’s footwear demands the spotlight.

When asked about the enduring popularity of her signature style, Muaddi notes, “The collection is a body of work and includes many heel heights and flats too, but always with a feminine sensibility. I guess the heels attract more attention and are more noticeable as an object of desire.”

STEAL HER STYLE

Kika Osunde never fails to impress with her sense of style. Her Instagram handle is filled with loads of looks we will love to covet. Whether it’s a day out shopping with friends, a night out on the town or a red carpet event you want to attend and make heads turn, Kika has all the fashion and style inspirations to go to on her Instagram page to keep you looking super stylish. This week we give you details on how to steal Kika’s style.

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR

AND FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO MAKE A STATEMENT WITHOUT METALLICS OR FEATHERS, THERE ARE PLENTY OF PRINT DRESSES TO DO JUST THAT.

DON’T WANT TO SPARKLE BUT STILL WANT TO SHINE? STAND OUT IN METALLICS. A SIMPLE DRESS IN A BRIGHT CHRISTMAS COLOUR IS ONE OF THE MOST EYE-CATCHING OF HOLIDAY PARTY OUTFITS.

WHEN GETTING READY FOR NIGHTS OUT, LEAVE THE CROP TOPS AND SLINKY CAMIS AT HOME - INSTEAD, YOU CAN GIVE A STANDOUT DRESS A TRY.

OPT FOR ONE WITH A CUT-OUT THAT STILL FEELS SEXY AND FUN, BUT ALSO SERVES AS A SOLID SOLUTION FOR PARTY STYLE.
YOU BE THE JUDGE

BY FUNKE BABS-KUFJE

They usually say “All that glitters is not gold”, much as that rings true especially when it comes to jewelry, you cannot but admit that sometimes, the right amount of glitter makes a big impact. In this case, we have women draped in sequinned outfits that would make your jaw drop! They have the figures to make these outfits sizzle. So it comes as no surprise that they are our hot favourites, with their high-octane sex appeal!

LIZ OSWHO

This is not too old for Tacha to rock! I love that it is 7/10. Her makeup, hair, and outfit are perfect. The sequins necklace is also a great touch as it just the right amount of glitter in her favour. Personally, the dress looks stretching and hair is perfect. 7/10

SERIKI YEMISI

When a dress drapes perfectly on you and that's exactly how this dress sits on Tacha. Her hair looks cute and she looks absolutely stunning. 7/10

MARIAM TIMMER

Dabota wore this outfit for a movie premiere, I’m not entirely sure her choice was theme specific. The dress is simple, elegant and works with the dress. The hair pulled back wins the look. 7/10

YEMISI SERIKI

You can only do wrong in my eyes. For her age, she looks so elegant and has no apologies to give. She knows what suits her and sticks to it. Lover the whole look. 9/10

MARIAAM TIMMER

How can one do wrong in my eyes? She looks so beautiful in this blue dress! Love the diamonds, but felt it’s a little too simple of a dress. Though the sequins and blue have an effect on one, love the Defined outline of this dress. 7/10

YEMISI SERIKI

Queen always brings it, really love this style! Everything about this looks sick, and that blue color beautifully complements the dress. She kept her hair and make up simple. She is a pro! 8/10

MARIAAM TIMMER

FIRE RED and suits her just right! The cape effect makes it. The dress looks risqué but is covered in all the right places. The only flaw is her shoes but it still works with the dress. 9/10

YEMISI SERIKI

Bonang is an It girl that keeps it 100% every time she steps out. What’s not to love about this look? Her sandals are a perfect match and the whole look is fire. I can see why she is a pro! 9/10

MARIAAM TIMMER

Bonang is a 10/10 for me! She looks so enchanting as always. Her make up and hair is perfect. I love that she obeyed the dress code, it makes the dress really stand out. I love the whole look! 9/10

YEMISI SERIKI

Esther looks so elegant in this blue dress! Love the供电, but felt it’s a little too simple of a dress. Though the sequins and blue have an effect on one, love the Defined outline of this dress. 7/10

MARIAAM TIMMER

Dabota is the perfect celebant. I love the green!! It is one of my favourite colour clutch would have worked better. 7/10

YEMISI SERIKI

The thigh-high slit is super sexy with the shoes she stepped out to serve it hot! This green sequence is the best I've seen Tacho look. I love that it is 7/10.

MARIAAM TIMMER

Dabota has the body to pull of this dress as it fits her beautifully. The dress is gorgeous, the shoes, a perfect match, and the gold bag and shoe finishes off the look just nicely. 7/10

YEMISI SERIKI

You will always take two whenever you see Dabota wearing a dress. She is great shape and lovely legs. I’m not a fan of the theme specific. The dress is simple, Dabota has a great shape and lovely legs. I'm not entirely sure her choice was theme specific. The dress is simple, Dabota has a 7/10
COCKTAIL PARTY DRESSES

Tis the season to pull out all the major party looks. From velvet to lace and show-stopping metallic, go bold on the party circuit this holiday season with a cocktail dress sure to stand out from the crowd.

Hairstyles TO LOOK OUT FOR IN FASHION SET 2020

Over the course of fashion months, there were plenty of cool haircuts and styles that emerged that will no doubt predict what will be popular in 2020. Just which fashionable hairstyles are worth reporting right now into the New Year? Ahead, we highlight a few that have the It girl stamp of approval.

Blunt Bobs

Haircuts seem to be getting shorter recently, to be getting the fashion insider set. A blunt bob is the trend you've been seeing everywhere, not just above the shoulders. With blunt bobs, it’s all in the frame of your face.

High buns and ponytails

For anyone who would rather pull her hair back (go show or pre-tail) this holiday season, a high bun or ponytail is your go-to. This hairstyle is created with a subtle sweep of the hair behind the ears to create an undone texture. Sweep everything down the middle. It's a low-maintenance look that is all about texture. Sweep your hair behind your ear to frame your face.

Hair Tips

Whatever your case may be, with these tips, you'll go a long way in any outfit. Whether you're looking to create an outfit that will outdo all the glitter options you had lined up as your last-minute backup or even layering a piece in a cool way, the details that will do all the talking. Focus on a few key details that will make your outfit pop, or standout shoes, statement sleeves, accessories, leave just like with your clothing choices. It's all in the extra mile!
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