



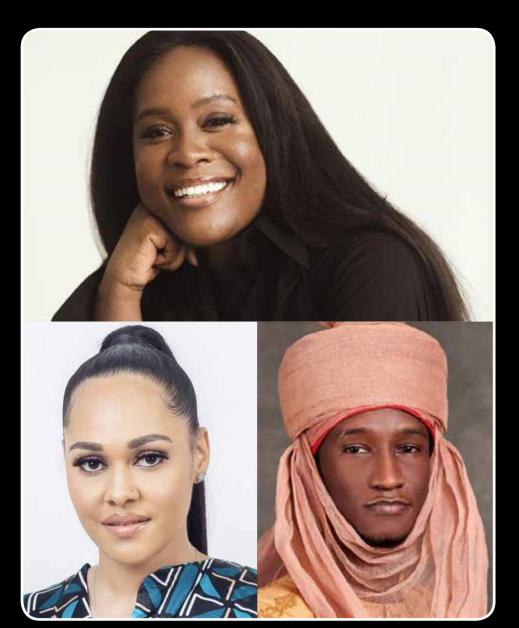
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## COVER

Africa's most anticipated fashion event, ARISE FASHION WEEK, is back on the runway and this time in Dubai.

In collaboration with the Nigerian Pavilion at Expo2020 Dubai and the Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment, the event set for December 3, 2021, would showcase the best of Nigerian fashion designers and music. Grammy-award winning singer, Wizkid and one of the next generation leading pop stars, Rema, would provide musical entertainment. It would be a grand event with top dignitaries from the Nigerian and Dubai government, respectively. Also attending is a long-term partner of ARISE FASHION WEEK, Naomi Campbell, alongside other global celebrities.

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### THISDAY STYLE

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It's that time of the year again where ARISE Fashion Week takes centre stage. This time around, ARISE FASHION WEEK is taking place in Dubai in collaboration with the Nigerian Pavilion Expo 2020 Dubai and the

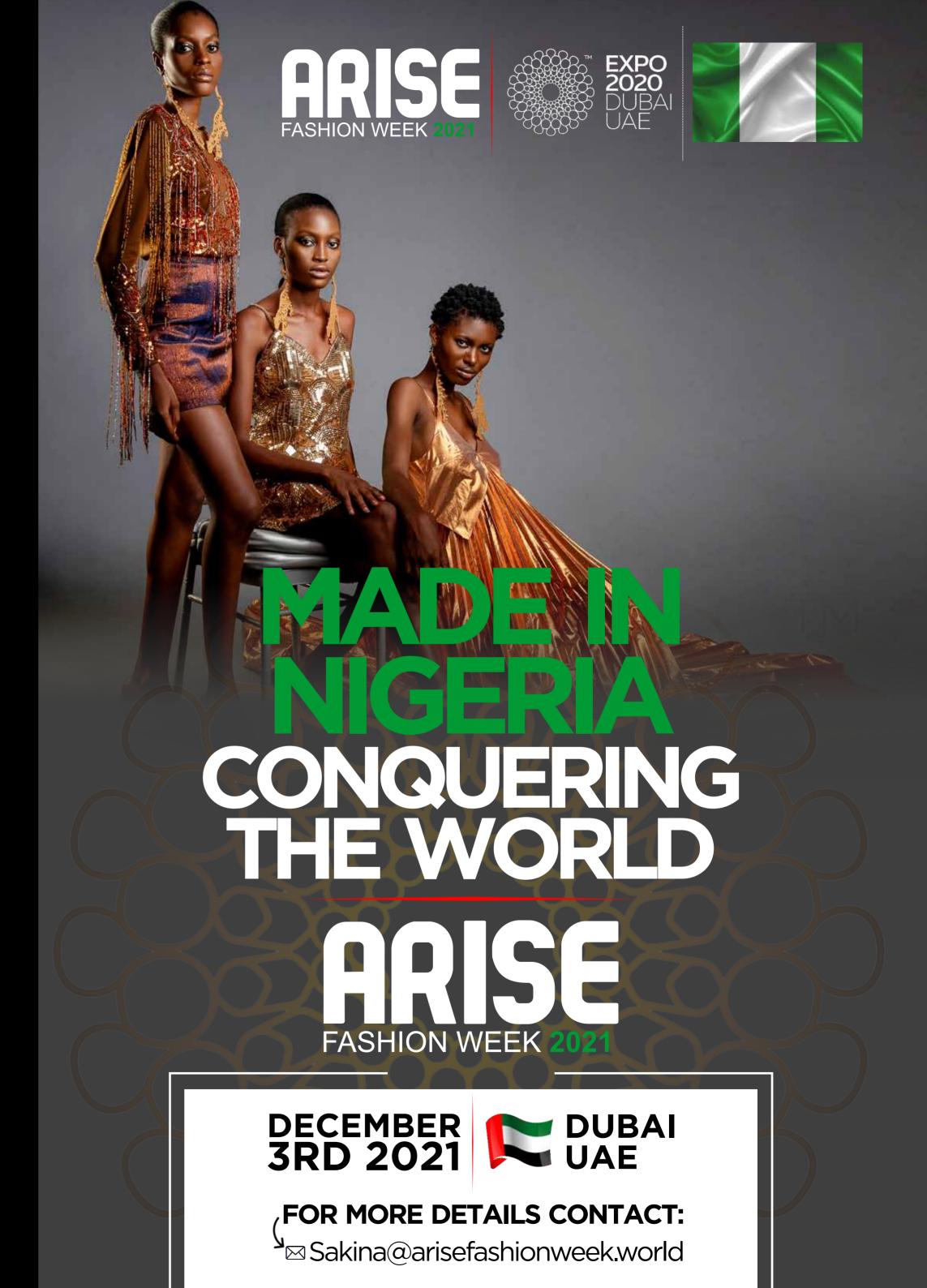
Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment, on the 3rd of Dec 2021 and it promises to be the show of all shows. As expected, frenzied preparations are being put in place to make this one of the most spectacular shows to ever come out of Africa. AFW has always been a major player when it comes to celebrating and showcasing the talents of our designers and it continues to play a leading role in changing the African narrative to the world and not just the continent itself.

Never a time has this been more prominent seeing how high the bar has been raised in the growth of the fashion industry in Nigerian. And the great thing is, it is not just the quality and finish of the designers' products that

have improved, the quality of work from other players involved has also escalated in terms of delivery. The models are world class as are the makeup artistes and stylists. Each sector has proven their worth over the years working with the ARISE team both on stage, backstage and every other aspect of ARISE shows. They remain spectacular and the latest show coming up in Dubai promises to be just as exciting as the others before it.

The selection of designers already shows that there will be many jaw-dropping outfits on display not to mention a vast array of exquisitely executed garments that only the truly talented can pull off! Nigeria designers are conquering the world and they are not afraid to do so! We look forward to the most enthralling event and promise to leave no stone unturned to give you a full report of the event!





# 

## WE ARE ADDING NEW TITLES EVERYDAY





# MAC Hypnotizing Holiday Collection Unvieled

illusion tunnel where the spellbinding experience began. experience area, which doubled as a waiting area before















Dear Reader,

Welcome to WARIF Survivor Stories Series, a monthly feature, where stories of survivors of rape and sexual violence are shared to motivate and encourage survivors to speak their truth without 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 extremely high incidence of rape, sexual violence and human trafficking of young girls and women in our society. WARIF is tackling this issue through a holistic approach which covers initiatives in health, education and community service.

#### This is Halimat's story:

Halimat is my name. I lost my father when I was quite young and the memories, I have of him are faint. I am the third child and the only girl in a family of five. Growing up was uneventful for me and my siblings because my mother had to work several menial jobs coupled with her teaching career to make ends meet. She had to cater to all our needs as a single parent and was the proverbial lamb that kept the family going. My mother sacrificed her dreams to further her education because even though she was very brilliant, she lacked support from my late father's family towards our financial well-being and this hampered our

My ordeal started when my mother fell seriously ill, her employment was terminated on health grounds and she was given her severance benefits. She decided to return to her remote village to stay with her aged parents and also to get help from community members. She called the three of us with heavy heart and told us that we were going to live with our relations so I was sent to Lagos to live with her elder sister who I will refer to as 'Big mummy'. Big mummy was married with four children. According to her, I would have a better opportunity of acquiring quality education up till university and their terms for me was to serve as a maid which my mother reluctantly agreed. My immediate elder brother Kabiru was sent to live with another relative in Jos. My mother was left alone with my oldest brother Abdullahi who had completed his Senior Secondary school and was doing menial jobs to help foot part of my mother's

I arrived Lagos a 15-year-old girl, young and naïve. I was plunged into a new life and family not knowing what fate had in store for me. I was lucky to be accepted by the family members but their family was filled with chaos and animosity because the head of the home 'Big daddy' was adulterous. Rumors had it that he had fathered other children from different women. This made 'Big mummy' very hostile and indirectly encouraged her husband's cheating. Although my mother, had prepared my mind a little, living their house was nothing compared to what she described but I endured the pain. I was made to work as a maid and I had to wake up early and be the last person to go to bed, to me; life indeed was a living hell.

Thankfully, I was enrolled in a Senior Secondary school less than a month of my arrival and that became a consolation for me. I looked forward to going to school and I made sure I focused on my studies and I soon became the darling of my teachers. I was even made the class captain of my class and whenever the teachers needed someone to represent the school for my entire arm, I was always chosen. Of course, members of my new household were never happy for me rather they mocked me that I was going end-up a book worm and be like my father

who dedicated his life to merit and did not leave any inheritances for his family when he passed. Candidly, all they were saying made no sense to me as I believe people are entitled to their opinions.

After my secondary education and based on my mother's agreement with 'Big mummy', I was to continue staying with the family until I was done with my higher education. Although, my mother was getting better, I was not allowed to visit except we all go together as a family and that only happened twice since I joined 'Big mummy's family. Furthermore, I could not bring myself up to tell her any of my ordeals the two times, I saw her. I endured the emotional and physical abuse I was constantly subjected by members of my new household.

You might think that was all the abuse I would be subjected to but alas, I was wrong. Hamidu the second son of 'Big mummy' tried to be nice to me occasionally and I noticed him trying to touch me inappropriately when we were alone so I started avoiding him. The company where he worked provided accommodation and so he would only come home on weekends. Big mummy and the rest of the family had travelled out of town this particular weekend and I wasn't expecting Hamidu because Bia Mummy did not say anything but that Friday he came home, asked for his food and went out clubbing. At midnight, I heard him drive into the compound, I followed the sounds expecting him to go to his bedroom upstairs but it seemed like his footsteps were drawing closer to the servants quarters. I heard a knock on my door so I got up to find out what the problem was or if he needed anything. I opened the door and he asked if he could have a word with me. I replied yes and he started begging and crying, he said he wanted me and he needed me. He said if he didn't have sex with me he would die. I said 'You are drunk, pls don't do this' but he did not listen. He lifted my night gown and raped me. I was angry, bitter and sad. He stood up and told me that in my interest, I should not tell anyone about the incident because 'No one would believe my story.

Big mummy and her family returned and they noticed I was not cheerful as I usually was. I started self-harming and contemplating committing suicide but I was certain that would break my mother so I pushed on. The thoughts from the incident also started affecting my academics, I thought of telling my teacher but I remembered his voice ringing loudly in my ears - 'No one will believe your story'. I tried to forget about the ugly incident and move on but I kept having flashbacks and nightmares. I thought that was the worst that could happen till I started feeling nauseous. I would throw up and be irritated by the smell of things like oil, perfumes and even food. When Hamidu came home, I told him what was going on and so he had me take a test. We found out I was pregnant and he told me to get rid of "that thing" immediately. I started weeping and he reminded me of the threat, 'No one will believe your story' so I left his presence and continued sobbing quietly.

It was a few weeks to JAMB when Hamidu told his parents that his company was organizing special tutorials for students who were writing the exam as a form of CSR. He offered that I stay at his apartment for the duration of the tutorials and Big Mummy even thanked him for the kind gesture, she felt he was finally seeing me as his baby sister. He raped me again on three different occasions while I was at his apartment and eventually took me to a quack for an abortion. I thought I was going to die as the pain was unbearable. In the end, he was given a prescription so he could buy medicine to prevent infections and help with the pain. Hamidu refused to buy the medicine and so I bled till I

had to be rushed to his company's clinic.

They informed him that I just committed an abortion and he screamed and scolded me. He asked why I wanted to put him in trouble since all he was wanted to do was help a poor village girl who just came the village. I realized at this time that truly no one would believe me and so I just prayed to survive. I pulled through, luckily; and I think the incident scared Hamidu as well because he never tried to sexually assault me again and even avoided me totally.

Although, Hamidu the perpetrator didn't return, I never healed emotionally. I was full of anger and bitterness but I found a friend in Mr. Okoroafor, our neighbor who was always looking out for me.He was quite advanced in age so I felt comfortable opening up to him even though, I made up my mind never to share my traumatic rape or near-death abortion experience with anyone. I just always told him I was sad because I miss my mom and couldn't see her. He always encouraged me to look beyond now and focus on my studies, his words were always calming and reassuring and so sometimes even for just a few minutes, I felt everything was going to be okay.

My results came out and I aced amy papers. I also wrote the JAMB exams, made the required cut-off and gained admission to study Accounting. I returned home after my first semester and saw Hamidu. Hatred, bitterness, resentment, anger and revenge rose up in me and I decided to poison him. I decided to share this plan with my trusted

Okoroafor and so I went to him that evening and narrated my entire ordeal. He looked with disbelief and he said 'oh my God, child you have been through so much pain'. He went further and said 'How did you survive this trauma all these years, you must be a special child. He said 'I will take up your case legally and sponsor your education. You have found family in me' He explained to me he was in Lagos for work and took me home to meet with his wife and children living in the East. He also reported my case to the police and to my utter disbelief the perpetrator was

At the police station, I was referred to WARIF CENTRE for medical assessment, treatment and counselling. All my psychosocial needs were attended to and through therapy sessions with the counselor, I have been able to find the courage to share my story. It hasn't been easy, as I am still on my healing journey; so many bottled up emotions to uncover and deal with. I can however say that I have made progress and I am grateful to Mr Okoroafor and family, my mother who stood by me since she found out, the counsellor and all the staff at WARIF CENTRE. I am also super-proud of myself for making it this far. If I can do it,

Dear survivor, please know that 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@warifng.org

\*Real name of survivor changed for confidentiality







Under the First@sports initiative, FirstBank will this year be celebrating the 60th edition of the FirstBank Lagos Amateur Open Golf Championship.

This annual event attracts the best amateur golfers domestically and internationally, having achieved the status of the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) event, administered by the R&A and USGA.

Over the years, FirstBank has consistently demonstrated its commitment to the development of sporting talent in Nigeria, as part of its legacy sports initiatives which includes Golf, Polo and Tennis.

Date: 18 - 21 November 2021

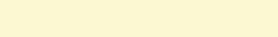
Venue: Ikoyi Club 1938 Golf Section

Look out for more details at www.firstbanknigeria.com/golf

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-You First-



## **CAPSULES**

Wow, what a year, what a journey......gosh, e choke oooo, I tell you....

The times we live in defies logic and sometimes leaves the spirit bleeding.

I have tried to make sense of life and oftentimes had to agree with Ecclesiastes that "it's all meaningless, a chasing after the wind".....

I have churned thoughts around in my mind and it sometimes seems like we are trapped in a maze of unending pain, life is undoubtedly ephemeral and each time we try to trap and track the meaning to the here and now, it dissipates. We ponder on lessons learnt, we mull over experiences garnered, then we trudge on exhausted, an excess luggage of burdens, yet we hope because without hope how does any pilgrim progress on this journey toward eternity, we hold on to hope hugging it tightly, fearful that if we let go, we will combust, mindful of our imploding emotions and unable to understand the daily punches life throws at us while reeling from the pain, people come, people go, the earth continues to eat flesh unrelenting, unapologetic and the world goes on unmindful .....we try real hard to marry what we believe with what is, but alas logic refuses to indulge our unwavering faith, it's just not making sense, where are we getting it wrong, we live in a fallen world, we know this but we are supposed to be different from the throng.

Like lambs we are now resigned to the slaughter, we daily mutter helplessly "it is well", struggling to believe it we resort to chanting, listen let's be crystal, it is NOT well!! These unending bad news is not what we were promised as Christians, "ye are gods" says the good book, we are not supposed to be helpless and accepting, where is the power that resided in the saints of old, we are quick to quote their pain but what about the power they carried...

It's the end times and the days are evil, even so, we cannot allow all of these faith strangling events to continue, it is NOT well.....TO YOUR TENT O ISRAEL.....it is NOT well.....soldiers of the cross..... ARISE and FIGHT......catastrophes left right and centre, we are losing people, life is daily snuffed out and we continue to take it, we are children of the Living God, Joint neirs with His Son, we must RESIST the enemy, it is NOT well at all, Gosh!!!!!!! and then "the world" take to sniggering behind our backs, where is their God, did he take time off, they whisper scornfully....Kindly note, our God is not asleep, he is not inactive, we are serving a living God who loves us and is very active in the affairs of man, I cannot claim knowledge as to why the world has gone south beyond the choices made through our free will, but the collateral damage of a fallen world, many whose choices are "kosher" but still get caught in the crossfire, they are the reason why the children of the kingdom must fight.....

"Stand up, stand up, ye soldiers of the cross, lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss", may all the souls of the departed find rest, "we overcome by the blood of the lamb and the word of our testimony", don't lose heart fellow pilgrims, we are overcomers despite all.

Vol. 22, No. 9691 Sunday, November 21, 2021





with Koko Kalango

## The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren

Today's article is written by my good friend, Nneka Isilebo, on a bestselling book we both love and have studied several times. We would encourage you to study it with your friends or family.

The Purpose Driven Life impacted me in many ways. My major take home is that God has placed eternity in the heart of men, and we try to fill it up with material possessions, money, and fame. However, it is only in a relationship with Jesus Christ that we can find true lasting fulfillment. We will save ourselves a lot of grief when we stop expecting people (spouse, parents, children, friends) to fulfill expectations that only God

The book is divided into six sections with seven chapters each. Suggested reading pattern is to read a chapter per day over a period of 6 weeks.

#### What On Earth Am I Here For?

The first session ponders on man's quest over thousands of years about the true "Purpose of Life". It highlights the difference between being successful and actually fulfilling your life's purpose. We can reach all our personal goals, and still miss our true purpose. We were made by God for God, and we must turn to our Creator to find out what we were created for. We are not an accident, we were created for a purpose by the Almighty God.

It is important to know what drives us. Many people are driven by guilt, resentment, anger, fear, materialism, and the need for approval. The Purpose Driven Life shows us how to live a life of purpose, this gives meaning to our life, simplifies our life, focuses our life, motivates our life, and finally prepares us for

#### Purpose #1: You Were Planned For God's Pleasure

Living to give God pleasure is the primary purpose of our life, this is called worship. Worship goes beyond music; it is not for our benefit but for God. Worship should not just be part of our life; it should be our life. Real worship is falling in love with Jesus.

Making God smile should be the goal of our life. We make God smile when we love him supremely, trust him completely, obey him wholeheartedly, thank him continually and when we use our abilities. God wants to be our best friend. We can become best friend with God through constant conversation and sharing all our life experiences with him. Practicing the presence of God is a skill we can develop. Continual mediation on God's word is another way of establishing friendship with God.

#### Purpose #2: You Were Formed For God's Family

Because God is love, He treasures relationship, His very nature is relational and He identifies Himself in family terms: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When we place our faith in Christ, God becomes our father, we become his children, other believers become our brothers and sisters and the church becomes our

spiritual family. Every human being was created by God but not everyone is a child of God. Once we are spiritually born into God's family, we are given benefits, the family name, the family likeness, family privileges, family intimate access, and the family inheritance.

We are called to belong to a church family, we need to move from church attendee to church member and that involves commitment. It is important to protect our church family and practice real fellowship by experiencing life together. In real fellowship people experience authenticity, mutuality, sympathy, mercy. Cultivating community takes honesty, humility, courtesy. confidentiality, and frequency.

#### Purpose #3: You Were Created To Become Like

God's plan was to make us like His son Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit works in us to produce Christlike character. However, our cooperation is essential as He uses His Word (the Bible), people and circumstances to mold us into the image of Jesus Christ.

Spiritual growth is the process of replacing the lies we live by with the truth that comes from the word of God. Abiding in God's word involves accepting the Bible as the authoritative standard of our life, assimilate its truth by filling our mind with it, and apply its principles in our life. There are several reasons it takes us so long to change, mature and grow; we are slow learners, we have a lot to unlearn, we are afraid to humbly face the truth about ourselves. Growth is often painful and scary, and habits take time to develop. But with intentional obedience and commitment, we will continue growing into Christlikeness.

#### Purpose #4: You Were Shaped For Serving God

We were put on Earth to contribute, we were created, saved, and called to serve God. We have individual roles to play and are equipped for different ministries. This can be explained by the acronym

- Spiritual gifts
- Hearts **Abilities**
- Personality
- Each of us must embrace our unique "SHAPE" in order to fulfill our purpose.

#### Purpose #5: You Were Made For Mission

Our Mission is a continuation of Jesus mission on earth. We are inspired to introduce people to God by telling them about the love of God, explaining about the redeeming death of Jesus Christ which leads to their reconciliation with God.

Nneka Isilebo is a wife and mother. She started her career in IT at SHELL and moved into counselling because of her fascination with the human mind. She has travelled intensively and has lived in Oman, Aberdeen, Brunei, Canada and Singapore.



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## ODIO MIMONET

Odio Mimonet is a couture brand that seeks to fuse the beauty of art on women. The brand's constant focus is to highlight the many elements and motifs that directly reflects the African woman's style choices, culture, heritage and her love for the arts.



Continued next wee

Since its inception, Arise Fashion Week has been promoting and celebrating the next generation of Nigerian and African fashion designers and preparing

FUNKE BABS KUFEJI and KONYE CHELSEA

ARISE

**FASHION WEEK** 

**DESIGNERS READY TO** 

**CONQUER THE WORLD** 

Africa's most anticipated fashion event, Arise Fashion Week, is back on the runway and this time in Dubai.

Expo2020 Dubai and the Federal Ministry of Industry
Trade and Investment, the event set for December 3,
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Wizkid and one of the next generation leading pop
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would be a grand event with top dignitaries from the
Nigerian and Dubai government, respectively. Also attending is a long-term partner of Arise Fashion Week,
Naomi Campbell, alongside other global celebrities.
This is Arise Fashion Week's first live show since the
pandemic. Last year, the event, which was virtual, was
televised and streamed on all ARISE/THISDAY platforms. In a twist from the norm, it was a competition

In collaboration with the Nigerian Pavilion at

that showcased 30 designers under 30

them for global dominance.

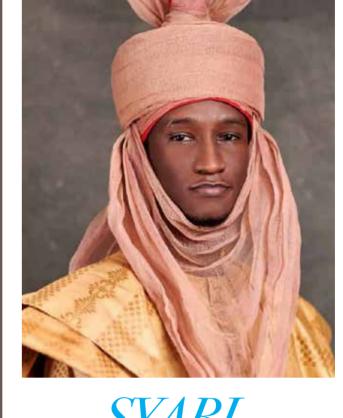
**NWABOGOR** report.

Part 2

COVER







## **SYARI**



# SYFUNKE BABS-KUFEJI

After a year of dressing from the waist up for virtual gatherings and meetings, the neglected belt is making its way back into our everyday wardrobes. This year and month, the formerly de-prioritised accessory is anchoring our reemergence looks. Whether it's a pair of trousers for a chic return to the office, or cut-off shorts for the weekend, adding a vintage leather, or designer belt helps to elevate just about any outfit.

If you're in need of a refresher on how to style a belt right now, here are five ways to wear the subtle outfit maker.

Elevate those neutral outfit by pairing them with matching belt, ist like Folake Whether with a did here. black dress on even the classic J-short and eans, chain belts are easy to match and can transform looks into a level of complete eashionism.

Logo Buckle elts are super ool right now and

you can blame it

on the frenzy that

surrounds the Ducci

belt, seen on fashion

ind celebrities alike.

With something so

imple yet so bold,

pour outfit will set

the right tone without

lovers, influencers,

The Obi belt has ruled the now and not

VERONICA EBIE- ODEKA

accessories scene for a while only does the statement making

belt elevate a variety of Outfits but it also serves

as a sulhouette defining piece.

reeling too flashy or ntentional. SHAROON OJAA



# 

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When it comes to fashion, no one does it quite like Derin. You won't find a lot of people who can get away with her simple yet stand out style, but you know the fashion world needs more of that. Follow her if you love fancy labels and are still trying to figure out how to make oversize clothing and layering look sexy.











You should be following on Instagram

Every fashion lover knows how overwhelming it can get scrolling through your Instagram feed and trying to keep up with every fashion influencer out there and the stuff they have to offer. Don't worry about it; we are here to help you out. You could start your search today by checking out five of our favourite fashion influencers at the moment.

BY KONYE CHELSEA NWABOGOR







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