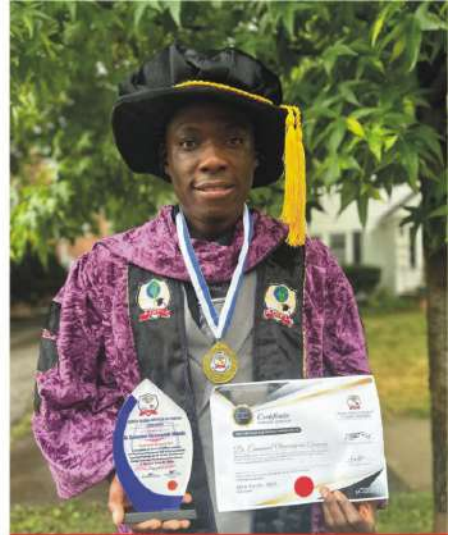




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# RAYLF 2024:

## The 51st Ooni of Ife Honors 100 Young Africans Across 40 Countries

### ...Unveils 1 Billion Naira Fund for Women Entrepreneurs with SMEDAN

His Imperial Majesty, the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, has once again demonstrated his commitment to Africa's youth by announcing the winners of the prestigious Royal African Young Leadership Forum (RAYLF) Awards.

The annual awards ceremony, now in its fourth year, celebrated exceptional young Africans who are making significant contributions to their communities and the continent at large. This year's honorees, a distinguished group of 100 young leaders from 40 African countries, were recognized for their outstanding achievements across various fields, including entrepreneurship, politics, advocacy, technology, healthcare, and social impact. The awards ceremony, themed "Africa of the Future: Better Together," took place on July 12th and 13th, 2024. As a testament to their commitment to experiencing the pinnacle of African ingenuity, the RAYLF 2024 awardees embarked on a special tour of the Dangote Refinery in Lagos State, Nigeria. This state-of-the-art refinery, the largest single-train refinery in the world, has been hailed as a game-changer for Africa's energy landscape. The awardees were met by the Director of Construction and the Vice President of the Dangote Group, who provided insights into the refinery's groundbreaking technology and its potential to transform Nigeria's economy. The tour was a powerful reminder of Africa's potential and the transformative impact of visionary leadership. The young leaders were visibly impressed by the scale and complexity of the refinery, underscoring the continent's growing capacity to undertake and complete mega-projects. The RAYLF Awards and the Dangote Refinery tour stand as powerful symbols of Africa's progress and the bright future that lies ahead for the continent.

Next on the tour was a visit to Abeokuta, the capital city of Ogun State where awardees held a town hall meeting with former president of

Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. At the meeting, the former president, in his element, welcomed the young awardees who were visiting from other African countries and implored them to push themselves into leadership positions so they could influence policies in their different countries. The awardees were also paid a visit by the amiable governor of Ogun State, Governor Dapo Abiodun. The governor pledged his support to the group and donated 200 original copies of the bestselling Jonathan Paul IV's 'Built'. The group continued the tour by making their way from Abeokuta to Ile-Ife where they were hosted at a welcome dinner by the Founder and Host of the Royal African Young Leadership Forum (RAYLF), the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Babatunde Ogunwusi, Ojaja II. Also at the dinner was the Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of the Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM) Abubakar Abba Bello. Abubakar Abba Bello has over 30 years of experience in banking, where he has held senior management positions in corporate banking, regional and commercial banking, and public sector banking for more than a decade. The awardees were very happy to listen as he shared his wealth of experience. At the dinner, he wholeheartedly announced that the bank would provide funding and export consultancy to one of the Awardees who is currently growing cassava to extract starch from it. This was greeted with a loud cheer from everyone present. The day of the award proper began with a recitation of the national anthem, the IFE anthem, and the OAU anthem before the honorary guests were announced. On the guest list and seated with the Ooni of Ife as a special guest was the Minister of State for Youth Development Ayodele Olawande, the Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Jamila Bio Ibrahim, Director General of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), Charles Odii who were both inducted into the Royal African Young Leadership

Forum. Also present was the Managing Director of Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM) Abubakar Abba Bello and other distinguished guests.

The event opened properly with a speech by the President of the Royal African Young Leadership Foundation Dr. Shola Owonikoko. Who extolled the vision of His Royal Majesty, the Ooni of Ife, and how far the RAYLF had gone to inspire young people of African descent around the world. His Imperial Majesty, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi, the Ooni of Ife, finally taking the podium announced the founding of the Royal African Chamber of Commerce which he said would birth 'African Leopards' who he said through partnerships and networking would create businesses and endeavors that will define the rest of the century.

The event also saw the launch of a N1 billion fund called Women Owned Micro Businesses (W.O.M.B) by the Ooni of Ife, and SMEDAN, the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency. The Director-General, Charles Odii, announced this. Odii said "The project is an initiative envisioned by His Royal Majesty, the Ooni of Ife, to train, fund, mentor, and support female

entrepreneurs across Nigeria with access to local, regional, and global markets. SMEDAN is committed to providing the N1 billion fund to support the WOMB project." The event ended after the awardees were fully inducted into the RAYLF and handed their signed certificates.





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## Gov Umaru Bago Fetes Niger Corps Members With N200,000 Bonuses

Niger state governor, Mohammed Umaru Bago, on Tuesday, July 2, showered N200,000 largess on each of the Batch B, Stream 1 National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members posted to the state to serve. He said the largess was to encourage the 1,600 corps members to remain and serve in the state. The announcement of the bonus was greeted with loud cheers and applause by the corps members. The governor, who stated this during the NYSC Batch B, Stream 1 orientation ceremony held at the temporary camp in Paikoro, said that any corps member who ventures into agriculture can earn N500,000 monthly and announced N5 billion for the start-up of the new NYSC camp. He said: "I was told that there are 1,600 Corp members for this batch. I am crediting each of your accounts with N200,000. This will enable you to be comfortable to stay in Niger State. This is to show you that there is prosperity in Niger State. I will do my best to ensure that Corpers enjoy serving in Niger state."

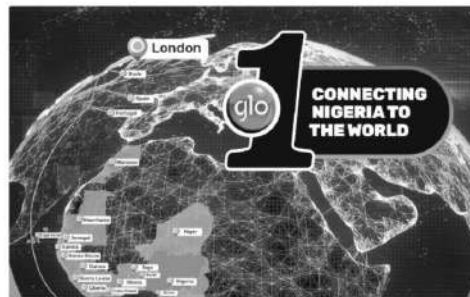
"I have given orders to build more toilets and drill five boreholes in this temporary camp. I will 20 cows and one trailer load of rice for the welfare of the Corpers in camp." The governor also announced automatic employment for corps members who are in the medical and health field urging others to join in improving the agricultural sector in the state. Bago stated that the state government invested a lot of money in mechanization adding that all is being done to drive the passion of the youths towards agriculture. The Minister of Youth Development, Dr Jamila Bio Ibrahim disclosed that the federal government intend to empower 5,000 NYSC members with up to N10 million each for entrepreneurial ventures upon completion of their service adding that the federal government is also launching the National Youth Skills Program (NYSP) to train over one million young Nigerians across diverse fields such as technology, agriculture, and other sectors. "Your service to our nation is invaluable, and it is my sincere hope that you will use this year to lay a strong foundation for your



future and to develop a well-rounded skill set. Approach this experience with enthusiasm, dedication, and a commitment to excellence. "These initiatives offer a remarkable opportunity to enhance your employability and prepare for a successful career, aligning your aspirations with the evolving demands of the job market. As you navigate through your service year, we encourage you to seize these opportunities with both hands. The world around us is evolving fast, and the skills you acquire now will enhance your employability and position you to be leaders and innovators in our society", she stated. The Director General of the National Youth Service Corps applauded the largess given by the state governor to the Corp members saying that it would encourage them to put in their best in serving the state. He called on other Governors to emulate the step taken by the Niger state Governor while assuring the Corp members of their safety and security as they serve across the state.

## Glo 1 boosts capacity for enhanced service delivery

Glo 1, the international submarine cable owned exclusively by telecommunications giant, Globacom, has boosted its capacity for service delivery as it celebrates the eighth year of uninterrupted connectivity.



The submarine cable has not suffered any disruption in its operations, thereby ensuring uninterrupted connectivity for individual and corporate customers who derive their internet requirements from the network.

In a press statement issued in Lagos, Globacom noted that the upgrade of the Glo1 submarine fiber cable infrastructure was done to ensure maximum utilization and enhanced service delivery.

Globacom exclusively financed the entire end-to-end architecture of Glo 1, including access systems, the national fiber-optic backbone, the international cable systems, International gateways and data centre services. Globacom's presence in several countries and its fibre optic networks entail that it can offer last mile and domestic long haul services to Glo 1 customers. When most submarine cables in Nigeria and West

Africa experienced fibre cuts which caused widespread internet downtime in March this year, Glo 1 was unaffected and was about the only source of succour for internet users in the country.

Glo 1 submarine cable stoutly powered financial institutions, internet service providers, and data consumers throughout the period the outage on other cables lasted. Industry watchers opined that Glo 1 international submarine Cable's resilient architecture and durability made it Impregnable to disruption.

The submarine cable connects directly to London with lowest latency (which

refers to the length of time it takes for data to travel from one point to another across a network) guaranteeing ultra-fast and reliable internet connectivity.

Its capacity boost effectively compliments the ongoing technical expansions and upgrades of Glo

network infrastructure to ensure unique calling and browsing experience on the Glo network.

The telecommunications company said further that the Glo 1 facility offers customers the most guaranteed solutions to their business needs and has customized services to address the requirements of a wide segment of clients including Oil and Gas companies, Manufacturers, government, education and medical institutions, adding, "The cable facilitates teleconferencing, distance learning, disaster recovery and telemedicine, among several other benefits for the African people", the operator added.

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## UNILAG Launches UNDP's Artificial Intelligence Unipod

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) has launched an Artificial Intelligence-themed University Innovation Pods (UniPODs) as part of a network of 13 UniPODs being set up across Africa by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The initiative is to create a link between research and product innovation, while empowering the continent's youth to spearhead its industrial progress. Vice Chancellor Prof. Folashade Ogunsola stated this during the UNDP public lecture and AI UniPOD ground-breaking at the Senate Building yesterday. UniPODs are an initiative of the UNDP's pan-African initiative, timbuktoo. It aims to encourage students to engage in innovation and design thinking that are multi-pronged. They focus on supporting and growing innovative, scalable, and impactful entrepreneurship by



African young people, while relying on a springboard of partners who together contribute meaningfully to building an African youth innovation and start-up ecosystem. Other thematic areas of UniPODs across the continent include Agritech, HealthTech, GreenTech, TradeTech, TourismTech, EdTech, Creatives and Smart Cities. Prof. Ogunsola said: "UniPOD aims to encourage students in universities to engage in innovation and design thinking. The project is multi-pronged and focuses on supporting and growing innovative, scalable, and impactful entrepreneurship by African young people, while relying on a springboard of partners who together will contribute meaningfully to building an African youth innovation and start-up ecosystem."

## 33 Nigerian students bag \$2.92m scholarships from US varsities

No fewer than 33 Nigerian students have received full scholarships totaling \$2.92m to attend American universities and colleges for the 2024/2025 academic session. The scholarships were received through the Opportunity Funds Programme of the United States Consulate General in Lagos. The programme is designed to increase access to US higher institutions for highly qualified international students who have limited resources to cover the upfront costs of attending a university in the United States. "The 33 departing students 10 undergraduate and 23 graduate students will be studying a variety of subjects including biomedical engineering; computer science; mechanical engineering; earth and planetary sciences; organic and medicinal chemistry; civil, construction, and environmental engineering; among others. "Following a competitive selection process, the successful students received financial aid that covered expenses involved in the college application process such as standardized tests, application fees, U.S. visa and SEVIS fees as well as air travel to the United States. EducationUSA advisers worked closely with the students through

regularly scheduled meetings, seminars, and bootcamps, to assist them throughout the application process," the Consulate announced in a statement on Wednesday. Speaking at a reception in Lagos in honour of the US-bound students, Consul General Will Stevens urged them to take advantage of the opportunities American universities have to offer and become actively involved in the many organizations and clubs that will enrich their experience as international students. "This Fall, you will join the over 17,000 Nigerian students studying in the United States. You have successfully navigated the daunting U.S. college and university admissions process and we are so excited for your future. You have excelled in Nigeria, and I have no doubt that you will continue that path of academic excellence," Stevens told the departing students. One of the 2023 Opportunity Fund Programme scholars, Chigozie Odo, received full funding for a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of South Carolina. His doctoral research will focus on immuno-therapy to contribute to lasting solutions to the treatment of cancer. Odo, who lost his father and sole breadwinner for his family during his second year at university, expressed appreciation to the US government for covering the upfront costs of applying to U.S. universities through the Opportunity Funds Program. "My dream of studying in the United States which seemed impossible is now a reality," he added



The launch of the 5th edition Wema Bank-ALAT flagship youth and startup-focused tech competition, Hackaholics 5.0.

## Trump Pledges Automatic Green Cards For Foreign Graduates

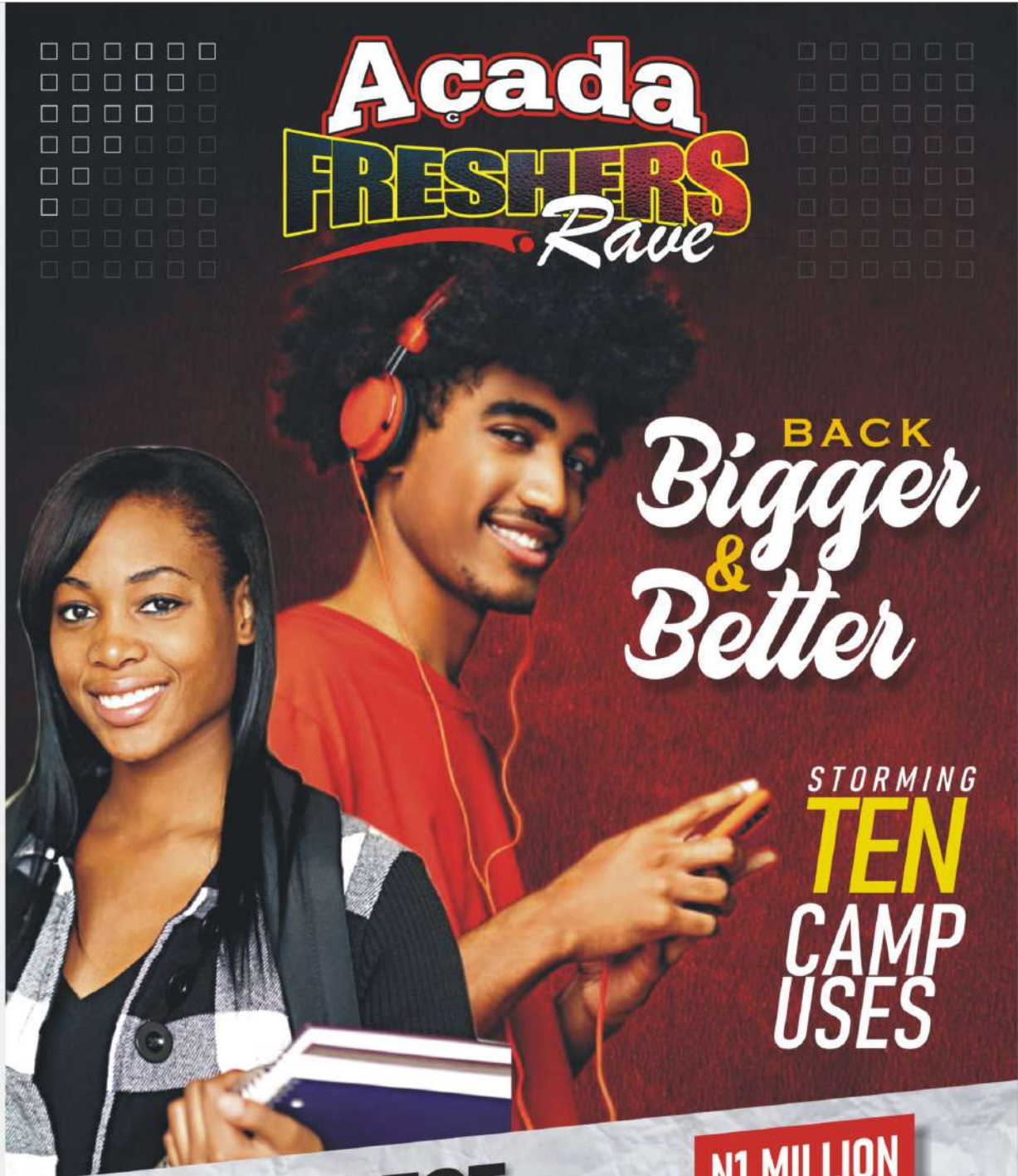
Former President of the United States, Donald Trump has promised that he would automatically grant green cards to foreign graduates of US colleges if re-elected as President. This is an unexpected turn from the Republican known for his tough rhetoric on immigration, as reported by Aljazeera. Trump made these remarks days after President Joe Biden announced a Green Card pathway for immigrants married to US nationals, counterbalancing his recent crackdown on illegal border crossings. A green card gives individuals the right to live and work permanently in the US and offers a pathway to citizenship. During a podcast interview with Silicon Valley tech investors on Thursday, Trump promised to make it easier to bring talents to the US, and said anyone who graduates from a US college should be able to stay in the country. "It's so sad when we lose people from Harvard, MIT, the greatest schools, and lesser schools that are phenomenal schools also. "What I want to do and what I will do is, you graduate from a college, I think you should get automatically as part of your diploma a green card to be able to stay in this country," Trump told the All-In podcast. The former president said this should include "anybody who graduates from a college," including those who complete two-year programmes, known as junior colleges, and doctoral graduates.

When asked if he would help import the "best and the brightest around the world to America," Trump replied, "I do promise." "I know of stories where people graduated from a top college, or from a college, and they desperately want to stay here... and they can't. "They go back to India, they go back to China. They do the same basic company in those places and they become multi-billionaires employing thousands and thousands of people," Trump said. He also mentioned that US companies need "smart people," adding, "They can't even make a deal with a company because they don't think they're going to be able to stay in the country." "That is going to end on day one," he pledged. Trump's proposal, which would create potentially hundreds of thousands of new citizenship applicants each year, marks a sharp departure from his hardline positions on immigration that propelled his rise within the Republican Party. Trump, who once claimed migrants were "poisoning the blood of our country", has pledged to undertake the largest deportation of undocumented migrants in US history if reelected in November and has repeatedly attacked his Democratic rival, President Joe Biden, as being soft on immigration. During Trump's 2017-2021 presidency, he ordered the construction of a wall on the US-Mexico border and implemented a travel ban on people from mostly Muslim countries. His comments came after Democrat opponent Biden on Tuesday relaxed visa rules for around half a million spouses of US nationals, making it easier for them to obtain citizenship.

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# Celebrating PROF. WOLE SOYINKA A Literary Icon at 90

**P**rofessor Oluwole Babatunde Soyinka was born into a Yoruba family in Abeokuta, Nigeria. A descendant of the rulers of *Isara*, Soyinka was born the second of his parents' seven children, in the city of Abeokuta, Nigeria. His siblings were Atinuke "Tinu" Aina Soyinka, Femi Soyinka, Yeside Soyinka, Omofolabo "Folabo" Ajayi-Soyinka and Kayode Soyinka. His father, **Samuel Ayodele Soyinka** (whom he called S.A. or "Essay"), was an Anglican minister and the headmaster of St. Peter's School in Abeokuta. Soyinka's mother, **Grace Eniola Soyinka** (née Jenkins-Harrison) (whom he dubbed the "Wild Christian"), owned a shop in the nearby market. She was a political activist within the women's movement in the local community.

His mother was one of the most prominent members of the influential **Ransome-Kuti family**: she was the granddaughter of **Rev. Canon J. J. Ransome-Kuti** as the only daughter of his first daughter **Anne Lape Iyabode Ransome-Kuti**, and was therefore a niece to **Olusegun Azariah Ransome-Kuti**, **Oludotun Ransome-Kuti** and niece-in-law to **Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti**. Among Soyinka's first cousins once removed were the musician **Fela Kuti**, the human rights activist **Beko Ransome-Kuti**, politician **Olikoye Ransome-Kuti** and activist **Yemisi Ransome-Kuti**. His second cousins include musicians **Femi Kuti** and **Seun Kuti**, and dancer **Yeni Kuti**. His younger brother **Femi Soyinka** became a medical doctor and a university professor.

In 1940, after attending **St. Peter's Primary School** in Abeokuta, Soyinka went to **Abeokuta Grammar School**, where he won several prizes for literary composition. In 1946 he was accepted by **Government College in Ibadan**, at that time one of Nigeria's elite secondary schools. After finishing his course at Government College in 1952, he began studies at **University College Ibadan** (1952-54), affiliated with the **University of London**. He studied **English literature, Greek, and Western History**. Among his lecturers was Molly Mahood, a British literary scholar. In the year 1953-54, his second and last at University College, Soyinka began work on

*Keffi's Birthday Treat*, a short radio play for **Nigerian Broadcasting Service** that was broadcast in July 1954. While at university, Soyinka and six others founded the **Pirates Confraternity**, an anti-corruption and justice-seeking student organisation, the first confraternity in Nigeria.

After studying in Nigeria and the UK, he worked with the **Royal Court Theatre in London**. He went on to write plays that were produced in both countries, in theatres and on radio. He took an active role in Nigeria's political history and its campaign for independence from British colonial rule. In 1965, he seized the Western Nigeria Broadcasting Service studio and broadcast a demand for the cancellation of the Western Nigeria Regional Elections. In 1967, during the Nigerian Civil War, he was arrested by the federal government of General Yakubu Gowon and put in solitary confinement for two years, for volunteering to be a non-government mediating actor.

Soyinka has been a strong critic of successive Nigerian (and African at large) governments, especially the country's many military dictators, as well as other political tyrannies, including the Mugabe regime in Zimbabwe. During the regime of General Sani Abacha (1993-98), Soyinka escaped from Nigeria on a motorcycle via the Benin border. Abacha later proclaimed a death sentence against him "in absentia". With civilian rule restored to Nigeria in 1999, Soyinka returned. From 1975 to 1999, Soyinka had been *Professor of Comparative literature* (1975-1999) at **Obafemi Awolowo University**, then called the University of Ifè, and in 1999, he was made *professor emeritus*. While in the United States, he taught at **Cornell University** as *Goldwin Smith professor for African Studies and Theatre Arts* from 1988 to 1991 and then at **Emory University**, where in 1996 he was appointed *Robert W. Woodruff Professor of the Arts*. He has been a *Professor of Creative Writing* at the **University of Nevada, Las Vegas**, and has served as *scholar-in-residence* at **New York University's Institute of African American Affairs** and at **Loyola Marymount University** in Los Angeles, California. He has also taught at the **Universities of Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard**

and Yale, and was a *Distinguished Scholar in Residence* at **Duke University** in 2008. The playwright, novelist, poet, and essayist in the English language was awarded the **1986 Nobel Prize in Literature** for his "wide cultural perspective and... poetic overtones fashioning the drama of existence", the first sub-Saharan African to win the Prize in literature.

In December 2017, Soyinka received the **Europe Theatre Prize** in the "Special Prize" category, awarded to someone who has "contributed to the realization of cultural events that promote understanding and the exchange of knowledge between peoples". In July 2024, **President Bola Tinubu** renamed the **National Arts Theatre** in Iganmu, Lagos, after Soyinka. Tinubu announced this in a tribute he wrote to celebrate Soyinka in commemoration of his 90th birthday.

## WORKS

### Plays

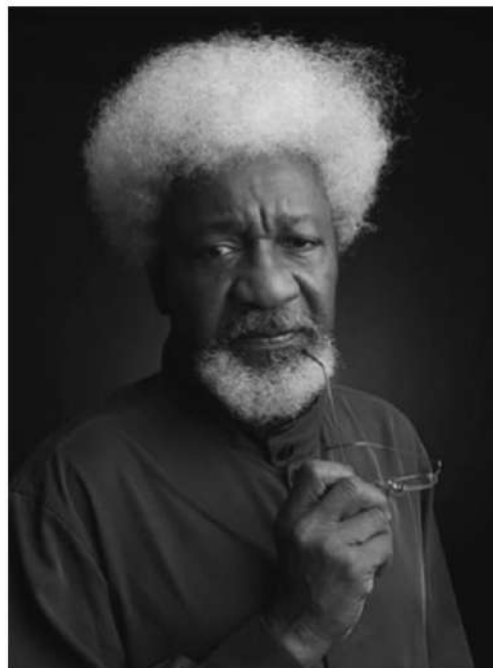
*Keffi's Birthday Treat* (1954), *The Invention* (1957), *The Swamp Dwellers* (1958), *A Quality of Violence* (1959), *The Lion and the Jewel* (1959), *The Trials of Brother Jero* (1960), *A Dance of the Forests* (1960), *My Father's Burden* (1960), *The Strong Breed* (1964). Before the *Blackout* (1964), *Kongi's Harvest* (1964), *The Road* (1965), *Madmen and Specialists* (1970), *The Bacchae of Euripides* (1973), *Camwood on the Leaves* (1973), *Jero's Metamorphosis* (1973), *Death and the King's Horseman* (1975), *Opera Wonyosi* (1977), *Requiem for a Futurologist* (1983), *A Play of Giants* (1984), *Childe Internationale* (1987), *From Zia with Love* (1992), *The Detainee* (radio play), *A Scourge of Hyacinths* (radio play), *The Beatification of the Area Boy* (1996), *Document of Identity* (radio play, 1999), *King Baabu* (2001), *Etiki Revu Wetin Alapata Apata* (2011), "Thus Spake Orunmila" (in *Sixty-Six Books* (2011))

### Novels

*The Interpreters* (1965), *Season of Anomy* (1973), *Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth* (Bookcraft, Nigeria; Bloomsbury, UK; Pantheon, US, 2021), *Harmattan Haze on an African Spring*

### Short stories

*A Tale of Two* (1958), *Egbe's Sworn*



*Enemy* (1960), *Madame Etienne's Establishment* (1960)

### Memoirs

*The Man Died: Prison Notes* (1972), *Aké: The Years of Childhood* (1981), *Ibadan: The Penkelemes Years: a memoir 1945-1965* (1989), *Ìsarà: A Voyage around Essay* (1989), *You Must Set Forth at Dawn* (2006), *Climate of Fear* (Literature) (2005)

### Poetry collections

*Telephone Conversation* (1963) (appeared in *Modern Poetry in Africa*), *Idanre* and other poems (1967), *A Big Airplane Crashed into The Earth* (original title *Poems from Prison*) (1969), *A Shuttle in the Crypt* (1971), *Ogun Abibiman* (1976), *Mandela's Earth* and other poems (1988), *Early Poems* (1997), *Samarkand and Other Markets I Have Known* (2002)

### Essays

"Towards a True Theater" (1962), *Culture in Transition* (1963), *Neo-Tarzanism: The Poetics of Pseudo-Transition, A Voice That Would Not Be Silenced, Art, Dialogue, and Outrage: Essays on Literature and Culture* (1988), *From Drama and the African World View* (1976), *Myth, Literature, and the African World* (1976), *The Blackman and the Veil* (1990), *The Credo of Being and Nothingness* (1991), *The Burden of Memory: The Muse of Forgiveness* (1999), *A Climate of Fear* (the BBC Reith Lectures 2004, audio and transcripts), *New Imperialism* (2009), *Of Africa* (2012), *Beyond Aesthetics: Use, Abuse, and Dissonance in African Art Traditions* (2019)

### Films

*Kongi's Harvest, Culture in Transition, Blues for a Prodigal Translations, The Forest of a Thousand Demons: A Hunter's Saga* (1968; a translation of D. O. Fagunwa's *Ògbójú Ode nínú Igbó Irúnmalé*), *In the Forest of Oludumare* (2010; a translation of D. O. Fagunwa's *Igbo Oludumare*)



# Emmanuel Oluwasayomi Ahmadu

## Nigerian Graduate Who Failed WAEC 17 Times Shines In USA

Sometime in November 2019 Emmanuel Oluwasayomi Ahmadu, a graduate of Mass Communications University of Benin was carrying out his One-year National Youth Service Corps assignment in Kwara state, granted audience to the state Correspondent, Demola Akinyemi, in Vanguard office Ilorin on how he sat for WAEC/GCE examinations for seventeen times all because he didn't want to cut corners, before he secured admission into the University of Benin, in Edo state. It was widely published in our Online back then, precisely on December 1, 2019. Emmanuel's story is a testament to resilience and determination, akin to Dr. Ben Carson's. He first gained international attention in 2018 when

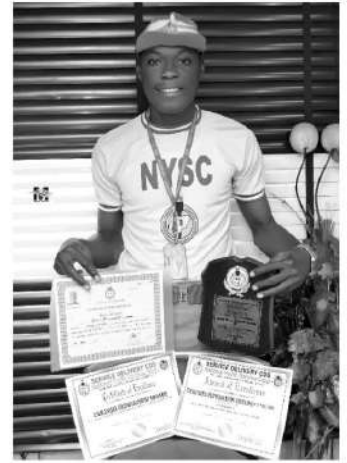
he won the International Award for Student Brand of the Year in West Africa while an undergraduate at the University of Benin (UNIBEN). Emmanuel who graduated in Mass Communication from the University of Benin in 2018, received recognition from the Vice-Chancellor as an extraordinary student whose achievements were archived in the university's main library to inspire hope in others. He was also recognized as the Most Innovative Student in Nigeria, Media Personality of the Year, and received several other prestigious awards for his impactful initiatives and media influence. Shortly after his service year, fortune smiled on Emmanuel as his family raised funds for him from Church,

Cooperatives and loans from banks with which he proceeded to study in USA. The Global Changemaker, Emmanuel popularly known as 'Mr. Voiceover,' in a chat with Vanguard Correspondent, he said he was admitted into



Cleveland State University in the USA in 2021 for graduate studies in School Counseling, even though he still work with the professors there. "But I needed to transfer to Cuyahoga Community College to get the basic background into Human Services and get closer access to community resources and programs about the field I'm equipping myself for," he added.

He also said that on June 4, 2024 he was honored with an academic honorary Doctorate Degree in International Affairs (DIA) from Global Seminary University, New York, USA stressing that, "This recognition, in collaboration with GEPEA University, Portugal, acknowledges my distinguished contributions to the promotion of peace and sustainable mental wellness and hope globally. "Additionally, I have been honored as a Professional Doctoral Fellow by The Across Global Institute of Foreign Languages (AGIFL) for my impactful use of English as a foreign language to create positive changes across the world. My remarkable journey from overcoming significant educational and personal challenges to making significant global impacts in mental health advocacy and suicide prevention has earned me these prestigious honors," he said. His contributions to mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and curbing social misconduct among adolescents and youths across nations have been profound. Emmanuel's innovative approaches and advocacy efforts according to him, have reached over 10 million young people globally through various school mental awareness programs, media engagements, and interviews with prominent media outlets such as Vanguard Newspapers, BBC News (Pidgin), ITV, Galax TV, and Arise TV News, among others. In the USA, Emmanuel has made



significant strides. As a Student Government President and Vice President of the Joint Student Council Board across five campuses of Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, his administration brought hope and connected students to essential resources, including mental health support. He stated that his impact earned him numerous awards, including "Distinguished Student Leader with a Big Heart" from the College and "Outstanding Mental Health Advocate of the Year" by the Active Minds Organization. Currently, Emmanuel said he serves the Federal Government as a Peer Reviewer and Judge with the United States Federal Department of Education for the School-Based Mental Health Services (SBMH) and Mental Health Services Professional Demonstration (MHSP) grant programs. His role highlights his expertise and commitment to advancing mental health services across all educational institutions to impacts young people in America.

## Glo Deploys AI Services For Customers To Earn Millions While Learning

Digital solutions services provider, Globacom, has unveiled three innovative AI-focused services that aim to improve customer satisfaction and provide users the chance to profit from AI and win rewards on the network at the same time. In addition to offering users the possibility to win thrilling rewards through lottery draws, Globacom disclosed in a press statement that the services would offer priceless insights into utilizing AI for everyday requirements. One of the services, called "Glo Awoof Win EverWage," is a gaming platform that gives users the chance to either win a lifetime wage or take part in a monthly draw that offers a N12 million prize.

Subscribers will also get regular payments from this service, thus having a steady source of income free from the limitations of a

conventional job. Globacom stated that Glo EverWage "promises peace of mind in today's dynamic economic environment, whether you seek supplementary income or financial stability." Subscribers can participate in the drawings for EverWage by calling \*20791# and following the instructions to be eligible for a chance to win N12 million per month and daily cash prizes.

In a similar vein, "Glo Awoof Win SMS-to-AI" uses artificial intelligence (AI) to give users rapid, precise information on any subject without requiring an internet connection. The "Ask AI by Glo" service is an SMS-based platform that provides users with access to a variety of informational resources, including news, sports scores, weather predictions, traffic updates, educational advice, and celebrity information. By dialing \*20791# on their handsets,



subscribers can also take part in the network's jackpot draws for a chance to win thrilling prizes.

Subscribers can also use Glo SMS-to-AI to ask queries even in the absence of internet access, by texting their inquiries to 20791 and the AI platform will respond to them right away. Regular questioners will be informed through their Glo lines and have a chance to win interesting rewards.

The third one, "Glo Awoof Win AI Fortune", is an educational service designed to empower users by teaching them how to leverage AI

for generating income and improving business processes. "From foundational AI concepts to advanced business strategies, our comprehensive curriculum equips you with the skills to harness AI for income generation and business enhancement. Subscribers can engage in interactive learning modules, earn certifications, and showcase their expertise in monthly competitions", the company disclosed.

Subscribers to AI Fortune can obtain study packets to read and enter to win prizes by dialling \*20791# and following the instructions. According to Globacom, users who want to take advantage of the three AI-powered services should dial \*20791# on their mobile devices in order to choose among the available options. Daily one-time or auto subscriptions to the services cost N100, weekly one-time or auto subscriptions cost N200, and monthly one-time or auto subscriptions cost N500.



## COMPUTED-GENERATED WOMAN Kenza Layli WINS FIRST MISS AI PAGEANT

After unveiling 10 finalists last month, the competition has crowned its inaugural winner: Miss Morocco, Kenza Layli. Layli is entirely computer-generated and isn't your typical beauty queen. She is a virtual influencer with 194,000 Instagram followers and 45,000 on TikTok. Layli's creator, Myriam Bessa of the Phoenix AI agency, takes home a \$5,000 prize, Fanvue support, and a publicist to boost Layli's profile. Runners-up are Lalina Valina (France) and Olivia C (Portugal). "This is an opportunity to represent Morocco with pride, to highlight Moroccan, Arab, African and

Muslim women in the field of technology" Bessa, CEO of Phoenix AI, told The Post. The inaugural Miss AI competition, launched this spring, attracted over 1,500 entries from AI programmers worldwide, according to Fanvue, the organizer. This platform empowers both AI and their human creators. The organisers emphasised judging criteria was creators' use of AI technology and the contestants' social media influence. Just like traditional pageants, AI pageant contestants answer questions like, "If you could dream of one way to make the world a



better place, what would it be?" "Winning Miss AI is a huge motivator," Layli said in her pre-recorded acceptance speech. "AI is more than just a tool; it's a force for change. It can disrupt industries, challenge the status quo, and open doors to new possibilities." She continued, "As AI evolves, I'm committed to fostering diversity and inclusivity in the field, ensuring everyone has a voice in this technological revolution."

## WEARABLE FASHION TECH GADGETS



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Shoe Fashion Tech Gadget



Bose True Wireless QuietComfort Earbuds



Vuzix Smart Eyeglasses



Guidi Smart Watch

# 6 TIPS TO KEEP THE EYES HEALTHY DESPITE PROLONGED SCREEN TIME

In the era of digital technology, frequent eye issues include dry eyes, eye strain, and increased power in spectacles in children less than 10 years old as a result of prolonged usage of computers or mobile screens. Encouraging eye health in the face of prolonged screen usage is essential to reducing these problems.

## Tips to keep eyes healthy in digital age:

### Follow the 20-20-20 rule

Giving your eyes regular breaks from digital devices is one of the best ways to preserve eye health. The 20-20-20 rule states that you should stare at something 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds for every 20 minutes that you spend on a device. The eye muscles can relax and eye strain can be lessened with this easy exercise.

### Sleep for longer

For people who spend a lot of time on screens, getting enough sleep is crucial for maintaining good eye health in general. For well-rested and less prone to straining eyes, aim for 7-8 hours of sleep per night. Sleeping well promotes natural lubrication of the eyes and shields them from dryness.

### Decrease font size

According to Dr. Dheeraj Gupta, Senior Consultant - Ophthalmology, Marengo Asia Hospital, Gurugram, "When interacting with digital content, decrease the font size to prevent packing too much information into the screen. This might result in needless staring and squinting, which makes eye strain worse. Instead, to make reading and

viewing more pleasant, enlarge the font and change the screen's settings."

### Use larger display

Change to larger displays whenever you can. For instance, using a laptop rather than a tablet for

academics and watching videos on a tablet instead of a phone can both greatly lessen eye strain. Larger screens result in larger text and visuals, which lessens the need for extended close-up viewing and intense focus.

### Stay hydrated

Drinking enough water is just another crucial component of eye health. Dehydration may be a factor in eye dryness and discomfort. To keep your body and eyes hydrated throughout the day, sip on lots of water.

### Lubricating eye drops

Those who suffer from chronic dry

eyes may find that lubricating drops help. Use them as directed by a qualified eye care specialist to maintain pleasant and moist eyes. You can prioritize and maintain eye health in the digital era by putting these ideas into practice: taking regular breaks, making sure you get enough sleep, avoiding small font sizes, using larger displays, staying hydrated, and using lubricating eye drops. These techniques not only aid in short-term discomfort relief but also support long-term eye health, ensuring that your eyesight stays appealing and clear even after prolonged screen use.



## Want Thicker Brows? Try This 3-Step Routine

Your eyebrows define your face. And while your go-to styling practices (shaping, tinting, product application) can help to enhance, a holistic brow care routine—treating the hair and skin with the same intentional attention you do the rest of your head—is a must for full and healthy brows. As with all hair, brow care comes down to attending to and nourishing the entire area, the better to foster luster and growth. Everyone could benefit from bumping up their brow care routine, but the choice is particularly necessary for those struggling with damage from treatments like lamination, chronic overplucking, or standard product build-up. "Brow hair is a game of connecting the dots—it's not like hair on your head where it grows all together," explains brow artist Azi Sacks. "For those who've overdone their brows in any way, it really can take nine months to two years to see the maximum revival fullness and width." Proper brow care can help expedite this process and allow you to pump up your existing brows in the meantime. "I think of brow care as a three-step thing," says Chanel brow artist Jimena Garcia. She simplifies the endeavor to exfoliation, stimulation, and conditioning, and encourages a thoughtful revision of your existing brow routine. Hormone health and skin conditions like eczema can affect brows, too, which makes a honed brow routine the first step in

identifying your eyebrow need—or simply helping them to look as naturally bold as possible. Read on to learn how to best turn your commitment to hair and skin care toward your eyebrows.

### Cleanse and Exfoliate

"You want to exfoliate the skin beneath your brow hair to open up the follicles and help brow growth," says Garcia. "When you exfoliate the area, you're able to receive nutrients from whatever products opt to apply to the brow." Start with a quick and brow-concentrated cleanse, the better to remove any excess oil or product. (Though you can use any preferred facial cleanser for this step, Gracia recommends Cap Beauty cleanser for its soothing blend of aloe, coconut, and rose.) Next comes exfoliation, which can be carried off with the help of a tool or a bespoke blend. Sacks relies on the MAC Cosmetics 204 Lash Brush to slough off dry skin trapped beneath the brow, while Garcia reaches for Buly's Hard Bristle Toothbrush. If a homemade exfoliator is more your speed, try mixing finely ground Himalayan pink sea salt with your preferred facial oil. Exfoliate in circular motions from end to end before rinsing with warm water.

### Massage for Circulation

Next comes a relaxing (and skin-sculpting) massage. "Massaging the brow stimulates circulation, bringing blood to the area and encouraging



PRIYANKA CHOPRA

clients use 1 to 2 times daily for hydration and growth. "It's a water-based formulation that's more like a milk than a greasy oil, and when you unscrew the cap it has a really firm spoolie." Garcia prefers conditioning with Shiva Rose Luster Brow and Lash Serum or Chanel Sublimage La Crème Yeux. Easy remedies like rice water and almond oil are also worth considering. And finally, pure Bulgarian rosewater acts as something of an eyebrow toner. "It addresses the hair and the skin underneath," says Sacks. "It hydrates the skin and plumps and softens the hair, which can be very coarse and unruly. It also makes the brow really shiny, so you're able to style in a beautiful way."

growth," says Garcia. "Not only that but because the face has so many muscles, you're giving yourself a brow lift and it really works. It immediately opens up the eye." Use a gua sha tool or your fingers to massage, drain, and depuff the area. "I'm a big believer in energy, so when you apply the heat and the energy from your fingers, it's kind of like having a green thumb with a plant," says Garcia. "You're tending to the area and you're loving that area—you're giving it importance."

### Condition and Nourish

"Just like you condition your hair and moisturize your skin and face, eyebrows require the same moisture," says Sacks. Her go-to product is Typology Eyelash and Eyebrow Serum, which many of her

### Bonus Step: Revise Your Existing Routine

Both Sacks and Garcia cite eyebrow tinting as the best way to upgrade color, definition, and texture sans damage, saving your brows from the daily disruption that comes with product application and removal. In cases of more serious hair loss, microblading can help, too. If you prefer product, gel options like Kosas Air Brow, Make Beauty Sculpting Brow Gel, Rose Inc Brow Renew, and Merit's Brow Pomade boast formulas that are gentle without sacrificing in efficacy. But my favorite pro tip? "You can fluff up your brow with Aquaphor or rosebud salve, both of which offer a gel effect while conditioning the skin underneath," says Sacks. "Two birds!" - VOGUE

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FASHION FUSION

# The Thrills and Frills of Fashion Fusion Season 14

The hottest summer fashion concert, **Fashion Fusion Season 14**, convened by **Omolola Owogbile Shonowo**, the chief executive officer of **Lolar Shon Empire** has come and gone but its memory will linger in the minds of the guests for a long time to come. The swanky annual fashion event which was the 14th edition showcased loads of exciting activities.

The event was held at the at the prestigious **Oriental Hotel** and the theme for this year's event is "**A Legacy of Elegance & Impact.**"

Guests were thrilled to a fashion show, music, comedy, karaoke and raffle draws. 5 talented fashion designers also showcased their exotic designs.

Guests at the event also witnessed the unveiling of the latest edition of the **Lolar Shon lifestyle magazine**, which features captivating contents, exclusive interviews, and insights into the ever-evolving world of fashion and lifestyle.

The night was headlined by the electrifying **Blackadudu**, with comedy acts from **Bash King Kong Comedy** and other celebrated comedians.

Adding to the glamour, **Fashion Fusion Season 14** had in attendance, industry luminaries such as **Denrele, Gbenga Adeyinka D 1st, Dede Mabiaku, Mandy** and a host of other top celebrities.

It was indeed an unforgettable night of glamour and fun.



# OJUDE OBA 2024

## THE GLAM. THE COLOURS. THE STEEZE

**Ojude Oba** (The King's Court), the annual traditional and cultural festival known for its vibrant colours, fashion and style, horse parades is fast gaining the attention of global audience. The festival showcases the rich cultural heritage of the Igbu people.

Usually, staged on the third day after the Salik celebration at the front yard of the king in Igbu Oba, it affords the people to come together and pay homage to the Anigwe, the paramount ruler of Igbaland.

This year's edition gained much buzz on the social media space as the **Reposhenge Age Groups** and guests who were in attendance displayed latest fashion trends, spectacular colours of Aso Oke fabrics and accessories. Everyone brought their **STEEZE** to the fore!



PHOTO CREDITS: NINI FAGBEMI, FOLASTAG, HOLARMILEKANSHOTZ, FOTONUGET, HAFEEZ AKANNI, HAMMED BELLO, DEWUNMI LAGOS, AROWOLO FATAI



# GLO SHINES AT THE 2024 OJUDE OBA FESTIVAL



# What's Trending

INTERNET HWY  
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## Nancy Isime Faces Backlash For Wearing Hijab On Set Of Upcoming Film

Nollywood actor Nancy Isime has come under heavy criticism after she posted behind-the-scenes images from the set of a yet-to-be-announced film, with the working title, *Three Working Days*. In the photos she posted earlier this week on Instagram, the actress is wearing a sleeveless shirt and trousers while holding a gun with her head covered with a hijab. Her critics say that the look is offensive to Islam, where women have the option of wearing a hijab.

"The Hijab is an outfit deeply attributed to Muslim women that symbolises respect, modesty, and religious devotion. And, I believe it should not be used as a mere



costume in a movie, especially when the scenes it portrays are clearly associated with negative moral vices," Bashir Ahmad, who served as the Digital Communications Assistant to President Muhammadu

Buhari, posted on X. "The producers of this movie should have considered alternative costumes, such as balaclavas or masks, for such scenes. For us, the Hijab (Niqab) is not worn by our women to hide their identity to commit crimes but to respect, follow, and abide by the teachings of our religion," he added. In the photo, Isime is with other cast members in what looks like the scene of a robbery. In another image, she posted herself fully covered with a burka while holding another gun. Relics from religions being used in cinema, music videos and art have long been an issue of contentions between artists and members of the religion. Just this year, Asake was criticised for dressing like an orthodox priest in the video of his song *Only Me*. Isime has not yet responded to the backlash.



## BBNaija Season 9 begins in Grand Style

The excitement is back on TV as the ninth edition of the popular reality TV show, *Big Brother Naija* (BBNaija) hit the screens on Sunday, July 28, 2024.

According to the organisers, the 2024 BBNaija promises to be even bigger and better than ever before with several exciting twists and turns. The ninth season of *Big Brother Naija* is coming with exciting twists. From the season centering on dynamic pairings to the introduction of a new Fave Lock-In system that allows viewers to win millions by correctly predicting winners in different aspects of the show, BBNaija season 9 might just be the best season yet.

The Executive Head of Marketing, West Africa, MultiChoice, Tope Oshunkeye, stated that this year, viewers stood the chance to win N1m each for making correct predictions in the Fave Lock-In aspect of the game.

The show again will see housemates, over 15, bracing up for the challenge to remain in the house for 72 days.

The grand prize remains N100 million, and it includes a cash prize and an SUV.

This season features new twists to the Head of House (HoH) challenge, starting with the Custodian Challenge at 9 pm on Sunday and the



HoH Ballot at 10 am on Monday, July 29, 2024. This will be followed by the Custodian Lock-In, the Immunity Challenge, and nominations. The show will run for 10 weeks, concluding with the finale on Sunday, October 6, 2024.



## Nigerian Dr Fola David breaks Guinness World Record for largest painting

Nigerian doctor and visual artist, Fola David, has made history by surpassing the existing Guinness World Record (GWR) for the world's largest painting by an individual. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that his massive artwork, spanning an impressive 850 square meters, has surpassed the previous record of 629.98 square meters held by Ravi Soni from India.

David's ambition doesn't stop here, as he aims to expand his artwork to a staggering 1,000 square meters, further solidifying his position in the record books.

The drawing, "Unity in Diversity", showcases the diverse ethnic groups of Nigeria through their unique attire, languages, culture, and artistic expressions.

In an Instagram video, David, known for his exceptional skill and passion for art, said, "Hi guys, I am so happy to say that we have broken the current record and all we have to do now is set a new one."

David's remarkable achievement has garnered widespread acclaim from fans and well-wishers, who congratulated him on this outstanding feat.

"Huge congratulations to Dr Fola David on this incredible achievement! Your talent and dedication are truly inspiring," says Jane Doe.

"This is amazing. Dr David, you're a true Nigerian hero and a role model for young artists everywhere," she said.

Kenny Abayomi said, "Congratulations, Dr David. Your artwork is not only massive but also mesmerising. You deserve every bit of this recognition."

"Dr David, you're a shining example of what it means to chase your dreams and never give up. We're all proud of you," said Abayomi. In the course of his attempt, celebrities and dignitaries have visited David at the Onikan Stadium venue to offer their support and witness his artistic feat firsthand.

Among them is the renowned Nigerian chef and GWR holder, Hilda Baci, who reportedly brought not only her good wishes but also food and supplies to fuel Dr David's artistic marathon.

Adding to the encouragement, former presidential candidate, Peter Obi, also paid a visit to the stadium, taking time to personally commend Dr David's efforts.

David's work has been widely recognised, and he continues to push boundaries, inspiring others with his creativity and perseverance.

## Gentleman Mike Ejeagha's 'Gwo Gwo Gwo Ngwo' is the 14th most searched song globally

90-year-old musician Gentleman Mike Ejeagha is currently trending on social media platforms after his 1983 record 'Ka Esi Le Onye Isi Oche' was used by comedian and skit maker Brain Jotter in a viral video. Gentleman Mike Ejeagha's viral song 'Ka Esi Le Onye Isi Oche' used by Brain Jotter in the video posted on his Instagram account on July 5, 2024, has generated millions of views across social media platforms with users recreating the viral dance moves.

In another milestone for Gentleman Mike Ejeagha's viral record, the song has reached a new peak of NO. 14 on the global Shazam search making it the 14th most searched song in the world.

This feat places the song in the ranks of the most trending songs globally on a top 20 section of the chart that has Kendrick Lamar's 'Not Like Us', Shaboozey's 'A Bar Song', Sabrina Carpenter's 'Espresso', and Megan Thee Stallion's 'Mamushi'. The recent popularity of 'Ka Esi Le Onye Isi Oche' has led to an interest in the life and career of Gentleman Mike Ejeagha who is described as a



pioneering figure of Igbo folk music. The viral song released in 1983 is one of his popular releases which tells the folklore of the cunningness of the Tortoise who tricked the Elephant in an effort to marry the princess of the Animal Kingdom.

The NO. 14 peak position of 'Ka Esi Le Onye Isi Oche' reflects the song's global popularity which has been aided by its virality on TikTok where the song has been used in over 250,000 reels.





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## I'm Honored To Have Performed At 2024 Paris Olympics, Says Celine Dion

Grammy-winning Canadian singer, Celine Dion, has expressed gratitude and joy after her highly anticipated comeback performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics opening ceremony on Friday. After a four-year hiatus due to her battle with stiff-person syndrome, Dion delivered a heartfelt rendition of Édith Piaf's "Hymne à l'amour" from the base of the Eiffel Tower. She said: "I'm honoured to have performed tonight, for the Paris

2024 Opening Ceremony, and so full of joy to be back in one of my very favourite cities!" Dion also praised the athletes for their dedication and hard work. She wrote: "Most of all, I'm so happy to be celebrating these amazing athletes, with all their stories of sacrifice and determination, pain and perseverance. "All of you have been so focused on your dream, and whether or not you take home a medal, I hope that being here means that it

has come true for you! "You should all be so proud, we know how hard you have worked to be the best of the best. Stay focused, keep going, my heart is with you!" This performance marks Dion's second appearance at the Olympic Games, having previously performed at the Atlanta 1996 Olympics. According to TMZ, Dion was paid for her highly anticipated performance. In an interview with Hoda Kotb on the Today Show, Dion had vowed that she wouldn't let her health battle stop her from performing again.



## Rema performed at India's Wedding of the Year for N4.8 Billion

Afrobeats star Rema reportedly paid \$3m to perform at the wedding of Anant Ambani, son of India's richest man Mukesh Ambani, and Radhika Merchant. Multiple viral videos showed his arrival in India and his performances at the wedding ceremony. As reported by Hindustan Times, Rema was paid a whopping \$3 million to perform his global hit "Calm Down" at the event. Rema joined other A-list artistes who preformed at the wedding. The wedding celebration also features performances by other international superstars. Canadian singer Justin Bieber reportedly received \$10 million for his performance, while pop icon Rihanna also graced the stage for an undisclosed

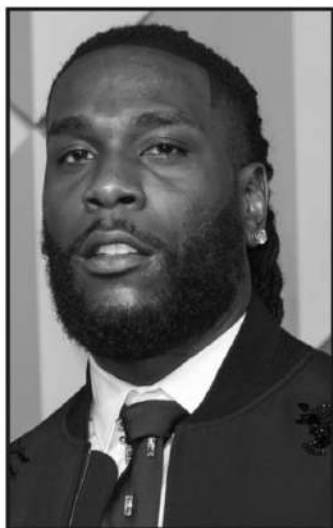
fee. Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant married on July 12 at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC). The four-day wedding extravaganza marks the culmination of a series of lavish celebrations hosted by the families since March. The guest list for the wedding includes a host of high-profile figures such as Kim Kardashian, former UK Prime Ministers Boris Johnson and Tony Blair, former US Secretary of State John Kerry, former Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt, and former Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, among others. Mumbai was abuzz with excitement as the city



plays host to one of the most opulent weddings of the year, drawing attention from around the globe.

## Burna Boy Surprises Fans With New Album Announcement

Grammy-winning Nigerian singer, Damini Ogulu, popularly known as Burna Boy, has surprised his fans with the announcement of his seventh studio album. The singer shocked his fans penultimate Monday morning by announcing that he is releasing a new album at midnight without prior notice. He, however, did not share the album cover or title. "Album dropping 12am," Burna Boy wrote via X. His surprise announcement has generated buzz among fans, who are eagerly anticipating the album.



## Ayra Starr Performs 'Last Heartbreak Song' On The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

Ayra Starr is one of the artists leading the exportation of Afrobeats with her captivating music making her one of the fastest-rising artists in the world. In another milestone, the Grammy-nominated singer made her debut on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon on July 24, 2024, where she performed her hit single 'Last Heartbreak Song' featuring American RnB sensation Giveon. She also performed 'Woman Commando' her exciting collaboration with American singer Coco Jones, and Brazilian star Anitta. The single is one of the tracks of her recently released critically acclaimed sophomore album 'The Year I Turned 21,' which also featured guest appearances from Nigerian hitmakers Asake and Seyi Vibe. With her performance on The Tonight Show, Ayra Starr joins Wizkid, Tems, CKay, Burna Boy, Asake, and Rema as Nigerian artists who have performed on the late-night American TV Show. Since making her debut with the self-titled EP in 2021, Ayra Starr has been a sensational artist whose captivating melodies and versatility have won the hearts of millions of fans and several awards. Her debut album '19 & Dangerous' had the hit song 'Rush' which earned several accolades including a diamond certification in France, the highest viewed music video by



a Nigerian female artist, and a Grammy nomination for Best African Song Performance. Ayra Starr's global rise is marked by her performances in notable festivals including a recent showing at the Glastonbury Festival where she shared the stage with Chris Martin of Coldplay ahead of her landmark collaboration with the British Band. Ayra Starr also recently earned 3 nominations at the 2024 BET Awards including Best New Artist, Best African Act, and Best HER for her single 'Comma'.

# Meta deletes 63,000 accounts in 'Yahoo Boys' crackdown

Meta Platforms Inc., the parent company of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, has removed 63,000 accounts associated with the notorious "Yahoo Boys" scam group, the company announced in its Q1 2024 Adversarial Threat Report on Wednesday. The accounts, deleted over the past few weeks, were used for financial sextortion scams and distributing blackmail scripts. Meta reported that a smaller network of 2,500 accounts, linked to around 20 individuals, primarily targeted adult men in the United States using fake identities. Meta said it identified and disabled these accounts through a combination of advanced technical signals and comprehensive investigations, enhancing its automated detection systems. "Financial sextortion is a borderless crime, fueled in recent years by the increased activity of Yahoo Boys, loosely organised cybercriminals operating largely out of Nigeria that specialize in different types of scams," the social media giant stated. It added, "We've removed around 63,000 accounts in Nigeria attempting to target people with financial sextortion scams, including a

coordinated network of around 2,500 accounts." "We've also removed a set of Facebook accounts, Pages, and groups run by Yahoo Boys banned under our Dangerous Organizations and Individuals policy that were attempting to organize, recruit and train new scammers," the company explained. During the investigation, Meta said it found that most scammers' attempts were unsuccessful, though some had targeted minors. These cases were reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Meta revealed that it also shared information with other tech companies via the Tech Coalition's Lantern program to help curb these scams across platforms. Further, the parent company of Facebook said it removed around 7,200 assets in Nigeria, including 1,300 Facebook accounts, 200 pages, and 5,700 groups that were providing scam-related resources. These assets were found offering scripts and guides for scams and sharing links to collections of photos for creating fake accounts, it expounded. Since this disruption, Meta's systems have been actively blocking attempts

from these groups to return, continually improving their detection capabilities. The company noted that it has also been working closely with law enforcement, supporting investigations and prosecutions by responding to legal requests and alerting authorities to imminent threats. The social media giant stated that its efforts extend beyond account removal. "We also fund and support NCMEC and the International Justice Mission to run Project Boost, a program that trains law enforcement agencies around the world in processing and acting on NCMEC reports. "We've conducted several training sessions so far, including in Nigeria and the Cote d'Ivoire, with our most recent session taking place just last month," the firm revealed. To protect users, especially teens, Meta disclosed that it has implemented stricter messaging settings for users under 16 (under 18



in certain countries) and displays safety notices to encourage cautious behaviour online. Last week, Meta was fined \$220m by Nigeria's Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission for multiple violations of data protection laws linked to WhatsApp. The investigation, initiated in May 2021, found that Meta's privacy policies infringed on users' rights, including unauthorized data sharing and discriminatory practices. Meta plans to appeal the decision, arguing that it disagrees with the findings and the imposed penalty. The FCCPC aims to ensure fair treatment of Nigerian users and compliance with local regulations.

## 90th Birthday: Tinubu Renames National Theatre After Soyinka

President Bola Tinubu has renamed the National Theatre in Lagos after Nobel Laureate Wole Soyinka. Tinubu announced this in a birthday message to the Nobel laureate who turns 90 on July 13. "Today, I join the world to celebrate his profound influence on generations of writers, scholars, and activists who have been inspired by his work. I celebrate him for giving us the spark to fight and confront military dictators in our country. "I am, accordingly, delighted to have the honour to announce the decision of the Federal Government to rename the National Theatre in Iganmu, Surulere, as The Wole Soyinka Centre for Culture and the Creative Arts," Tinubu was quoted to have said in a statement by his media aide, Ajuri Ngelale.

He noted that the President saluted one of Nigeria's living repositories of history, knowledge, and courage, and commends him for his valiant efforts in the trenches for the nation's future both as a pro-democracy champion and as a trenchant voice against corruption and maladministration over several decades. Tinubu described Professor Soyinka as one of the finest minds of his generation; conforming to the highest standards of human enlightenment, but unyielding to injustice, oppression, and base impulses. Speaking further on the Nobel Laureate, Tinubu said, "Our paths crossed during our just struggle for the enthronement of democracy in Nigeria following the annulment of June 12, 1993 presidential election. "When faced with a trial in absentia

and death sentence by the military regime at home, he galvanized opposition in exile through NALICON and NADECO. His global stature made him the face of our struggle to validate June 12 and restore democracy in Nigeria." Professor Soyinka is a globally celebrated playwright, novelist, poet, essayist, actor, singer, composer, and documentarian. He is also a foremost advocate of good governance and of a fair and just society. He won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1986 the first African to win the Prize in that category. The Nobel Prize Laureate is a recipient of many other reputable awards, such as the Benson Medal from the Royal Society of Literature; Academy of Achievement Golden

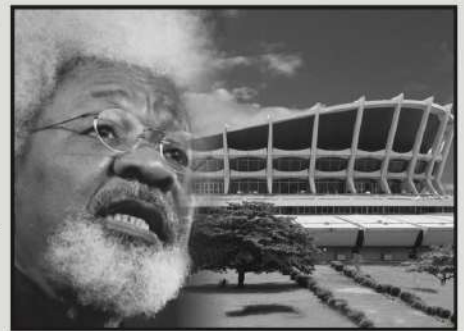


Plate Award; Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, (Lifetime Achievement); and the Europe Theatre Prize (Special Prize). The National Theatre which was started by General Yakubu Gowon's regime, was completed in 1976 by General Olusegun Obasanjo regime in preparation for the Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC) in 1977. It has since become a major centre for the performing arts in Nigeria.

## UNILORIN Remains UTME Candidates' Most Preferred University In Four Years

University of Ilorin (UNILORIN), popularly known as Better By Far University, has remained Nigeria's most applied for higher institution by the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) candidates from 2020 to 2023. Sunday Vanguard gathered that Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) made this known during a policy meeting chaired by Andrew Adejoh, the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education. According to JAMB, the top 10 universities chosen by candidates during the 2023 UTME are

University of Ilorin in the first position, followed by University of Lagos, and in the third position is Lagos State University with 55,964 applications. JAMB noted at the meeting that UNILORIN emerged as the highest first choice applied for institution in the last four years (2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023). The Better by Far university, according to JAMB, also had 103,582 applications in 2020, and was closely followed by Ahmadu Bello University with 82,984 applications. The university also had the lion's share of the total UTME applications



with 78,466 in 2021, and 73,749 in 2023 to lead the pack. University of Lagos remains the closest contender with 59,190 in 2021 to come second. UNILAG was also the second highest applied for institution in 2022 and 2023 with 61,606 applications. It however came third in 2020 behind UNILORIN and ABU. The Federal University, Oye Ekiti

with 53,235 candidates is placed fourth, while the University of Benin 48,026 applicants, and the University of Nigeria, Nsukka with 43,660 candidates are in the fifth and sixth position respectively. Others are the Obafemi Awolowo University with 41,959 candidates in the seventh ranking, Nnamdi Azikwe University with 41,759 placed eighth, while Nigerian Defence Academy with 41,323, and the University of Ibadan in the ninth and tenth positions respectively. Sunday Vanguard gathered that some Nigerians believe that UTME candidates prefer UNILORIN because, for many years, the institution has not had any form of strike, unlike many other public tertiary institutions in the country.

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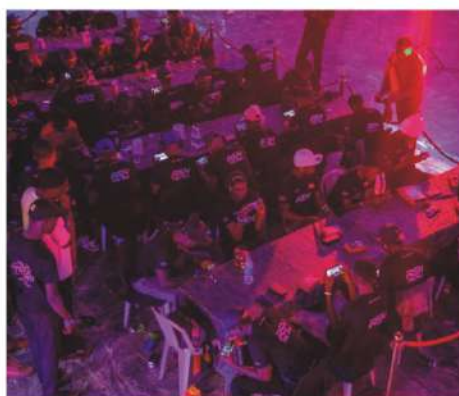


# Gamers had Maximum Fun at the itelRS4 City Tour Grand Finale

itel put together city tours to promote the newly launched itel RS4 gaming smartphone. Gamers had fun in Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Abuja, Kano, Abakaliki, Ikeja and Kaduna. The tour climaxed at the Nebo Hall, Ojuelegba, Lagos on Saturday, June 1,

2004 where the grand finale was held and guests were treated to an amazing time. After all the battles, the FreeFire MVP smiled home with a N1 Million prize money. The new itel RS4 made for gaming is all about breaking the limit to how much fun you

can have on a smartphone. If you can think it, you can so it on the itel RS4! Here are some exciting pictures from the event.





# Delta Poly Engineers Unveil 'fuel-less' Generator To Tackle Energy Crisis

A team of engineers from Delta State Polytechnic, Otefe-Oghara in Ethiopia West Local Government Area of Delta State have developed a 'fuel-less' generator. The Rector of the polytechnic, Professor Emmanuel Ufuophu-Biri, while formally presenting the innovation at the institution on Tuesday stated that "the 2.5KVA fuel-less generator is self-sustaining and does not require solar, fossil fuel or biofuel to run for hours without stoppage."

Professor Ufuophu-Biri said, "The innovation is worth selling to the world."

He averred that "the 'fuel-less' generator would help meet a significant proportion of the polytechnic energy needs."

The Rector maintained that "the polytechnic is committed to fulfilling its mandate of developing and promoting technology for entrepreneurship, solving societal problems and advancing entrepreneurship."

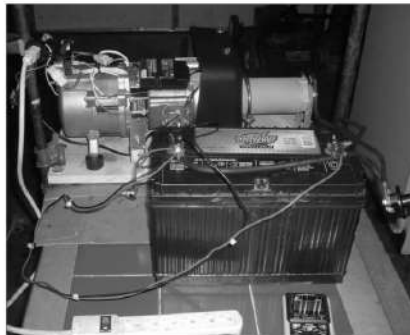
Professor Ufuophu-Biri maintained that the polytechnic is devoted to advancing science, technology, scholarship and advanced research, while the institution has the required high-calibre staff.

He dedicated the innovation to the governor of Delta State, Hon. Sheriff Oborevwori, "for providing the conducive atmosphere for education, advancement of knowledge, intellectualism and functional innovation."

The Rector said, "We will send this innovation to the Honourable Commissioner for Higher Education, the Honourable Commissioner for Science and Technology, the NBTE and other appropriate bodies for wider adoption, acceptability and mass production for market value."

"The essence of research in humanity, science and technology is to proffer solutions to existing problems.

"Therefore, the mass production of the fuel-less generator invention will help solve the



country's energy shortage problem."

Also speaking at the presentation of the fuel-less generator, the Dean of the School of Engineering and project team leader, Engr. Collins Eniyemofe disclosed that "the generator works endlessly without fuel."

He pointed out that "the generator uses a high-tech engineering model and mechanisms that work symbiotically to generate energy."

Engr Eniyemofe said, "It is a unique type of innovation targeted at solving the country's energy problem."

He added that as soon as the Rector commissioned the project team to develop an alternative power source, the committee embarked on cutting-edge research, application and testing, finally producing the prototype fuel-less generator.

Eniyemofe commended the Rector for the initiative and the project team members for working tirelessly and selflessly with him to achieve this feat.

Recall that during the polytechnic's 2022 matriculation ceremony, the Rector disclosed that he would commission a team of experts from the polytechnic to develop a functional renewable energy source.

## Glo subscribers to win cash in new offer, Glo Flex Win

Digital solutions provider, Globacom, has introduced a new customer-oriented offering, *Glo Flex Win*, through which subscribers can have fun and win cash by showcasing their intelligence.

In a statement in Lagos, Globacom said, "subscribers will be presented with trivia questions, covering a wide range of topics from general knowledge to pop culture, and beyond. With each correct answer, they will not only accumulate points, but will also increase their chances of winning big rewards."

Globacom called on them to be prepared to put their knowledge to the test, adding that with *Glo Flex Win*, the excitement is instant.

It explained that the new offer provides opportunity for everyone to test their knowledge and win fantastic prizes, adding that *Glo Flex Win* welcomes players of all levels and is packaged differently from traditional lotteries where luck is the sole determinant.

Globacom said the more a subscriber plays, the greater the odds of winning, adding also that *Glo Flex Win* rewards consistent participation. "We believe that *Glo Flex Win* will not only



foster a sense of camaraderie among our subscribers but also serve as a source of motivation and entertainment. It's a chance for them to unwind, have fun, and even walk away with some fantastic rewards", Globacom added.

To subscribe to the *Glo Flex Win* service, which is available to both prepaid and postpaid customers, interested subscribers should dial \*20138# from their mobile to select 'Flex Win' and pick any pack of their choice.

GLOBAL PROTESTS OVER MISSING CHIBOK GIRLS

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## Glo, AXA Mansard Health offer Health Insurance, N1m lottery to subscribers



Leading telecommunications services provider in Nigeria, Globacom, has announced a collaboration with AXA Mansard Health Insurance to provide affordable healthcare to its subscribers across the country.

The Glo Health Insurance will ride on the Glo mobile network to "ensure simple, easy and affordable micro

health insurance cover to all, irrespective of their location within the country", according to a statement released by the company. The service is accessible to all Glo subscribers via SMS, USSD, and through the web.

Said Glo: "Subscribers will be connected through a tele-consultation with a medical

practitioner and have access to free drugs and treatment at thousands of designated pharmacies across the country."

The statement further added that the service has been designed for all age brackets and cuts across all classes of Nigerians who seek affordable healthcare for themselves, family and friends, adding that "the insurance packages confer a great advantage on subscribers as they do not have to spend money to enjoy basic health consultations and medication. They also get to enjoy free medication up to a stated amount".

In addition to this service, Glo subscribers will also enjoy the opportunity to win up to N1 Million Naira every month as the health insurance lottery will automatically enter every subscriber into a weekly and monthly raffle draw. Glo said, "One Million Naira will be won by any subscriber whose number is picked in the monthly draw. The objective is to reward subscribers irrespective of whether or not they access the health insurance benefits, thereby providing a pay-back benefit to subscribers," the statement explained.

One of the benefits of the package is that Glo subscribers do not have to visit any office to enjoy the health system as Glo Health Insurance can be accessed by all Glo subscribers via SMS, USSD, and through Glo website. Subscribers can easily dial \*3013# from their mobile phones to select any health insurance pack of choice.

Chief Marketing Officer of AXA

Mansard, Adebola Surakat explained at the service launch that the product exemplifies AXA Mansard's commitment to providing affordable and quality healthcare to the Nigerian populace. "AXA Mansard is very delighted to have found the same level of commitment in Globacom and other partners on this project", she enthused.

"The combined purpose of AXA to act for human progress and Glo to power ambitions is at the heart of this product. Ultimately Nigerians win. This is because this partnership will accelerate the noble agenda of universal health coverage. With this product, healthcare can now be accessible to everyone, everywhere in the country," she noted.

In the same vein, Deji Macaulay, the CEO of Truthware Solutions, the technical designer and integrator of the solution stated that, "this innovative service offers protection to customers against a wide range of health risks, providing cover for primary care and hospitalization. The product features easy enrollment, swift claim processing and affordable premiums, making it accessible to millions of Nigerians. This cross-industry integration is set to revolutionize the way consumers safeguard health care for themselves and their families."

Globacom disclosed that subscribers can choose from an array of daily, weekly and monthly subscription at N50/daily, N300/weekly and N750 monthly respectively. Each plan comes with the option for one-time (one-off) or auto-renewal.

## itel Launches itel A50, The Best Entertainment Smartphone for Budget-conscious Youngsters

itel, a leading reliable smart life brand, is excited to unveil A50, its latest smartphone designed specifically for entertainment-loving young consumers. itel A50 offers an array of features that cater to the dynamic lifestyles of young people, all at an incredibly budget-friendly price.

With itel A50, users are empowered to capture life's cherished moments with ease. Its massive 128GB ROM allows you to hold a staggering 40,000 photos directly on your phone, alleviating any storage concerns. Additionally, the innovative



5000mAh battery that keeps you powered through the day. Type-C connectivity ensures safe and efficient charging, while three different power-saving solutions optimize battery usage based on your needs.

Aiming to offer consumer blazing-fast download speeds for network surfing, itel A50 boasts a 300% increase in multi-band 4G support compared

to 3G. Meanwhile, it comes equipped with the latest OS 14.0 system, providing a more intuitive and customizable user experience. Users can personalize home screen and utilize the convenient "Find Phone" function to locate their devices with ease.

Designed with the youthful and energetic aesthetics in mind, the itel A50 is available in a variety of classy



Unlock 40,000 of Memories with 128GB Storage

and fashionable colors, allowing users to express their unique style. Its sleek thin-edge design adds a touch of sophistication and style. Additionally, the integration of side fingerprint and face unlock technology enhances the user-friendly experience to match usage habits.

itel A50 is not just a smartphone, it's a lifestyle companion that combines affordability, functionality, and style. Whether you're capturing memories, streaming content, or staying connected with friends, this device delivers on all fronts. Get ready to elevate your mobile experience with itel A50 the ultimate choice for fun and entertainment at an affordable price!

Run Multiple Apps Effortlessly



4+4GB Extended RAM with memory fusion technology, seamlessly caches up to 11 apps, ensuring smooth multitasking and app switching. Featuring a striking 6.6" HD+ display with an impressive 90% screen-to-body ratio, itel A50 delivers an immersive viewing experience for gaming, video watching, and web browsing. With A50, you'll never get caught with a low battery again, because it boasts a powerful





# 4TH Convergence Of Young African Leaders/Award (COYALA 2024: A Gathering Of Outstanding Achievers Across Africa)

Recently Accra hosted amazing personalities and outstanding achievers across the continent who converged at the 4th Convergence of 'Young African Leaders/ Award 'COYALA 2024'. The theme of this intellectual and culture filled event was - 'Energizing the next Generation of Passionate Leaders in Africa'.

Different speakers delivered lectures on several Global issues. There was also a panel session with Excellent Business and Political leaders who shared intellectual nuggets on how the African continent can achieve its rightful place in the world economy.

During his opening address, Comrade Barry Ndu Nwaihim, convener of COYALA urged African leaders to ensure they fulfill the promises they

made to the people while seeking political office. He added that the happenings in Kenya where young people are asking the Government to freeze the economic pain they are going through could continue in other parts of the continent if the leaders do not wake up. He urged young people to understand that they are no longer leaders of tomorrow, rather they should know that they are now leaders of today and should be prepared to be at the forefront of the Economic and political way forward of this blessed continent.

Hon. Alfred Asiedu Adjei, presiding member Accra Metropolitan Assembly in his speech congratulated the organizers and hoped that more of such events would continue to happen across Africa to awaken the consciousness of young people on the need to be

Nationalistic and ready to serve at all times. He emphasized the benefits of being diligent in any assignment as the experiences gained would always be useful in years to come.

Dr. Griffin Nana Quabena Ikeson, CEO Griffin Homes/Ikeson Herbal told the audience how perseverance, commitment, focus and determination can make a man achieve his desired status. A builder of men, philanthropist and prolific Entrepreneur, Dr. Ikeson pledged to continuously support the organizers in fulfilling their mandate.

Mr. Jonathan Odartey Baddoo urged all the attendees never to keep initiating ideas and projects that would positively project the image of the continent.

Some of the Award recipients include

Dr. Omai Kofi, Founder the Board of Literacy -USA, Mr. Jonathan Baddoo, CEO -Base Pharmacy, Evang. Declan Ohanele, CEO Humblet Ghana Ltd, Hon. Alfred Asiedu Adjei, Presiding member, Accra Metropolitan Assembly, Hon. Linda Ocloo, Member of parliament for Shai Osudoku, Barclay Okari, Founder Impact Industries Kenya, Mogau Seshoene Cook Book Author South Africa, Vanessa Zonmi Venture Emerald Moringa Tea Cameroun, Mr. Richard Odim, CEO Richey Exclusive Ghana Ltd, Ayalogu Benedict Chukwuemeka, CEO Benya Global Ltd, Charles Chika Onuoha, Ghana First Supporters Union (GHAFSU).

The organizers are looking forward to a more exciting event in 2025 hopefully in Kenya or Rwanda.



# NEXT UP

# TYLA

## 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



**S**outh African pop sensation, Tyla's sexy song "Water" has been dripping in success ever since it was released in 2023 with the song climbing to **No. 21 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart**. The single soared into the top ten charts in 16 countries, including the United Kingdom and the United States. Here are **10 Things You Need To Know** about the young pop diva.

Tyla Laura Seethal known as Tyla, 21, is a South African singer and songwriter. Born in Johannesburg to parents **Sharleen and Sherwin Seethal**, and raised in Johannesburg. Her family is Coloured, with Zulu, Indian, Mauritian and Irish descent. She signed with **Epic Records** in 2021 after the domestic success of her 2019 debut single, "Getting Late" featuring **Kooldrink**.

She matriculated from **Edenglen High School** in 2019 and was the school's head of culture in that year. While at school, she had begun posting original songs and covers to her Instagram account, as well as sending them out to a number of figures in the music industry. She was subsequently discovered by her first manager, **Garth von Glehn**, who then organized her first recording sessions.

In late 2019 after finishing high school, Tyla released her debut single, "Getting Late" featuring

production from **Kooldrink**, which achieved national success. Filmed by her own manager intermittently throughout the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns, the accompanying music video was released in January 2021. It amassed several million views on YouTube, and was nominated for **Music Video of the Year** at the 28th **South African Music Awards** in 2022.

She had been studying towards a degree in Mining Engineering, and after much persuasion and "a lot of crying", her parents had agreed to let Tyla take a year off university to attempt to lift her music career off the ground. She then signed a recording contract with **Epic Records** through a joint venture with **Fax Records** in the United States in May 2021. She followed up her debut single with the singles "Overdue" in October 2021, and "To Last" in November 2022.

in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia, among several other countries. It also made Tyla the youngest-ever South African and the first South African soloist in 55 years to enter the **US Billboard Hot 100**, following **Hugh Masekela's "Grazing in the Grass"** in 1968.

She performed the song live on **The Bianca Show** in Sweden and **The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon** in the United States. Its accompanying music video, released on 6 October 2023, accumulated **3 million views on YouTube in three days**. *Water* hit the top five in dozens of countries, and ended **2023 as the most-streamed Afrobeats song on Spotify**. The success has also earned her fourth place on the **BBC's Sound Of 2024 list** - which predicts the artists who'll dominate the next 12 months in music.

She won the inaugural **Grammy Award for Best African Music Performance** in 2024. Her self-titled debut album is scheduled for release on 22 March 2024. Tyla has also earned nominations for a **BRIT Award**, a **Soul Train Music Award**, a **MOBO Award**, and two **South African Music Awards**.

Her type of song is described as **Popiano**, it's essentially a more streamlined, hook-heavy variant of **Amapiano** - the popular South African sound that blends house music with reggae, jazz and trunk-rattling kwaito bass lines. The lyrics of *Water* were inspired by **Aaliyah's Rock The Boat**.

Tyla's biggest musical influences include **Michael Jackson**, **Aaliyah**, **Rihanna**, **Britney Spears**, **Drake**, **Cassie** and **Wizkid**. She has stated that her dream is to become the first global pop star from Africa

She later released the song "Water" in July 2023 as the lead single from her upcoming self-titled debut studio album. After spawning a viral dance challenge on the social media platform TikTok, with thousands of fans using it over their own videos and testing their skills with the **Water Dance Challenge** based on the star's impressive moves in her music video. The song became a top 10 hit



# ALX Set to Redefine Tech Learning with Impactful Sessions

Navigating a tech career can be challenging, but one leading tech educator, ALX Africa, begins the year with an impactful and insightful series of tech-focused sessions aimed at providing participants with valuable insights and strategies to accelerate their professional and personal growth. This programme is tagged ALX 2024 Tech Chat.

The ALX 2024 Tech Chat is a week-long series of online and physical discussions and engagements geared to equip learners and fellows (graduates) within the ALX community with important skills and insights that will aid them in achieving their goals for the year 2024.

The series began with an interactive online session on how to succeed in Cloud Computing, with an industry expert speaking to learners about the day-to-day running of a cloud engineer. Financial expert and Senior Associate Advisory, Money Africa, Temilola Adeyemi, held an intuitive session on financial literacy. Sand Technologies Data Analyst, Ugochukwu Nnadi, spoke to learners on the intricacies and hacks to attaining a successful career in Data. Ife Durosinmi-Etti, Founder, Herconomy, held an enlightening session about the power of vision boarding and the series ended with career expert, Adebola Ajayi, taking participants through how to stand out in the job market.

ALX Country Marketing Manager, Seun BD, expressed her excitement about the Tech Chat seminar series, stating, "At ALX, we aim to empower individuals to thrive in the digital age. This ALX 2024 Tech Chat series is a testament to our commitment to providing valuable insights and practical knowledge that can propel participants towards success in their tech careers."

Seun BD further stated that the engagement only marks the beginning of more impactful experiences to come in 2024. "This year promises to be very impactful for us at ALX. We have such an amazing array of experiences planned for our community of learners and graduates. If there was any better time for you to kickstart your tech journey with us, it would be this year, 2024."

ALX has already begun receiving applications for its Artificial Intelligence Career Essentials (AiCE) which contains professional toolkits, such as soft skills and leadership skills for learners seeking work, as well as a range of tech programmes such as Data Analytics, Cloud Computing and so on, for individuals seeking to upskill. More information about ALX programmes, offerings and how to apply can be found in this link: [bit.ly/alx-tech-chat](https://bit.ly/alx-tech-chat).

With a wide variety of tech programmes and offerings, ALX is committed to empowering the youth with the knowledge and skills needed to thrive and excel in the tech industry.



Country Marketing Manager, ALX, Seun BD and Senior Associate Advisory, Money Africa, Temilola Adeyemi at the ALX 2024 Tech Chat held in Lagos recently.



Data Analyst, Sand Technologies, Ugochukwu Nnadi and Country Marketing Manager, ALX, Seun BD at the ALX 2024 Tech Chat held in Lagos recently.



Founder, Herconomy, Ife Durosinmi Etti handling a session at the ALX 2024 Tech Chat held in Lagos, recently.



ALX Learners with their vision boards.



ALX Learners with their vision boards.



ALX Learners with their vision boards.

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