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AKINOLA**  
WINS 14TH RECIPIENT  
OF 7UP HARVARD  
BUSINESS SCHOOL  
SCHOLARSHIP



**15 BEST  
COUNTRIES  
TO STUDY  
ENGINEERING  
IN THE WORLD**

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A FREE Campus Magazine

**ISSUE 319**  
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AUG:2024  
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## itel takes S24 smartphone to Nigerian campuses with MTN, Imagine Cinemas and Google

In a bid to celebrate creativity and foster a sense of community engagement, itel, in partnership with MTN Nigeria, Google, and Imagine Cinemas, orchestrated the highly anticipated "itel S24 Shoot and Chill" campus activation across two prominent Nigerian institutions, Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) and the University of Uyo (UNIUYO).

Spread over two exhilarating days, the event proved to be a delightful amalgamation of photography finesse and cinematic indulgence.

Day one kicked off with an immersive photography training session, where enthusiasts and students alike were tutored on the nuances of capturing captivating moments with the latest itel S24 smartphone.

From mastering the art of composition to understanding lighting techniques, attendees delved deep into the realm of visual storytelling under the expert guidance provided. Doyin David, former Big Brother Nigeria housemate was a celebrity guest at the event.

Transitioning seamlessly into day two, participants were treated to an unforgettable movie night out, curated to provide an immersive cinematic experience like never before.

Against the backdrop of starlit skies and palpable excitement, attendees reveled in the magic of storytelling through film, fostering lasting memories and forging new connections.

The event, spearheaded by itel Mobile, underscored the brand's commitment to nurturing talent and fostering creative expression amongst Nigerian youth. Partnerships with industry giants such as MTN Nigeria, Google, and Imagine Cinemas further amplified the event's impact, elevating it to a platform where innovation thrived and camaraderie flourished.

In a quick chat, the Marketing Manager for itel Nigeria, Oke Umurhowo, expressed his delight in the creation of Shoot and Chill.

*"The itel S24 Shoot and Chill event is definitely a success, as we were able to merge students' passion for fun and learning seamlessly into one event. People can now see how amazing the itel S24 is with photography, and that was our goal."*

As the curtains drew to a close, attendees were rewarded for their participation and ingenuity, with cash prizes and coveted gifts up for grabs. Notably, students who showcased exceptional prowess in capturing moments with the itel S24 were bestowed with a cash reward of ₦200,000, further fueling their passion for photography and innovation.

The itel S24 Shoot and Chill Campus Tour not only encapsulated the essence of artistic expression but also served as a testament to itel's unwavering commitment to empowering Nigerian youth through immersive and transformative experiences.

As echoes of laughter and camaraderie lingered in the air, it was evident that the event had succeeded in leaving an indelible mark on all who attended, fostering a sense of unity and celebration within the vibrant community.







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**ACADA MAGAZINE**

is published by  
**MAVERICK Multi-media**  
**JOWON PLAZA,**  
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**HOT Features**

**Glo Unveils My-G Data Bundles**

**G**lobacom has introduced My-G data Bundles, a set of lifestyle data offers targeted at the youth population in the country. The new offering gives subscribers the freedom to express themselves and keeps them connected at the most affordable rates. With My-G data Bundles, Glo subscribers can enjoy access to their favourite music and entertainment media applications such as WhatsApp, Tiktok, Snapchat, BoomPlay, Audiomack, Instagram and GloTV. A statement released by Globacom on X revealed that the bundles are denominated in N100, N300, N500 and N1,000. The N100 bundle, which has a 1-

day validity, comes with a data offer of 400MB. The N200 bundle, with a 3-day validity, gives the subscriber 1GB data. For subscribers who opt for the N500 bundle, which has a 7-day validity, they have 1.5GB data. The N1,000 bundle has 30 days' validity with 3.5GB data. On any My-G Bundle, the subscriber gets 1 hour of extra data which can be used on WhatsApp, Tiktok, SnapChat, BoomPlay, Audiomack, Instagram or GloTV. The company statement added that the introduction of My-G bundles was meant to "address the data needs of young people today."



**NDLEA Proposes Mandatory Drug Tests For Varsity Admission**

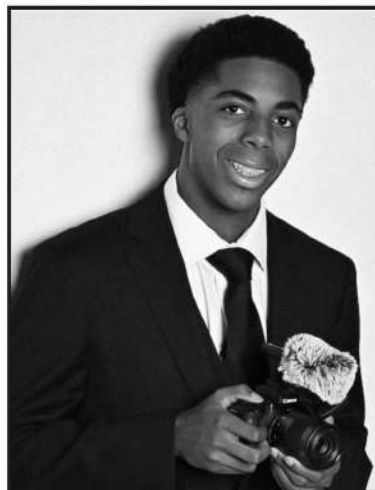
**T**he Commandant of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Kwara State, Hajia Fatima Abiola-Popoola, has proposed that universities should require newly admitted students to undergo mandatory drug tests as part of their admission process. She explained that this would "Serve as a preventive measure while offering early intervention and counselling for

those already using drugs to prevent them from becoming problematic users". Hajia Abiola-Popoola disclosed this during a radio programme in Ilorin monitored by our correspondent. The NDLEA boss further expressed concern over the rising number of drug users in the country, particularly among females. She warned that this trend poses serious risks to families and

society at large. She said "A 2018 survey shows that 14.3 million people were using drugs in Nigeria. One out of 7 persons in Nigeria is a drug user and one out of 4 drug users is a woman. "This shows that the society is in trouble because a woman is the administrator of the home."

**African-American Teenager, Jeremiah Bledsoe Gets Admissions To 40 US Universities For Serving The Elderly**

**J**eremiah Bledsoe, an 18-year-old student from Fort Worth, Texas, has been accepted to over 40 colleges and universities for his service to the elderly. Bledsoe, an African-American teenager, has also received several awards and grants for his meritorious service over the years including Hershey Heartwarming Hero, the Power of Youth Award, and Youth Service of America. According to BlackNews, Jeremiah Bledsoe, for the past 10 years, has been visiting local nursing homes and donating items to aged residents. Speaking about his achievement, he said dedicating his service to the elderly was borne out of the recognition of the United Nations SDGs goals about the global pandemic. "The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals help us to identify global issues. I selected SDG 3: Health because we are living during a global pandemic and we cannot leave our elders behind," he said.



Jr.'s words, 'Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?'" Bledsoe, in elation, said he looks forward to continuing to serve others by using social enterprises as a framework to create new solutions for societal problems. His social enterprise, J8 Creative, provides creative multi-media and content creation solutions, and a percentage of the proceeds of J8 Creative supports elderly residents in senior living facilities. In addition to community service, he enjoys participating in student activities and sports. Bledsoe thanked all the people that have made him achieve. "I want to thank my family, friends, teachers, and coaches for pouring into me. I would not be the person I am today, if I did not have them in my life. Special thanks to each of you," he added.

He also believed that his loving community has made a difference in his life, giving the advice to high school students. He said, "Remember, to help someone else on your journey. I think of Dr. Martin Luther King,

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## NELFUND: Take Advantage Of Scheme, Use It Wisely, UI VC Counsels Students

Vice Chancellor (VC) of University of Ibadan (UI), Prof. Kayode Adebowale, has hailed the Federal Government for establishing Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND). He gave the commendation while delivering opening address during an interactive session between Abuja NELFUND Office and UI students at an event held at the university's Trenchard Hall. Adebowale hailed the Federal Government's efforts to support students in furthering their education with ease. He said the interactive session was part of NELFUND's outreach sensitisation programme to encourage UI students, who might be hesitant to apply due to lack of understanding of the programme. He reiterated the ongoing challenge of funding in federal institutions and acknowledged that the scheme was a significant step toward alleviating students' financial burdens. Adebowale encouraged the students to take advantage of the opportunity and use it wisely. The VC also advised students to be cautious when filling out online forms to protect their data from fraudulent individuals. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Prof. Aderonke

Baiyerolu, thanked NELFUND workers for educating UI students on the scheme. She said many students might not realise that NELFUND was a lifeline provided by the Federal Government to ease the payment of school fees.

The Director of Process and Compliance at NELFUND, Mr. Aliyu Mohammed, said the Fund was established in fulfilment of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's electioneering promises and urged students to key into the project. NELFUND Head of ICT Mr. Olawale Ogunleye assured students that the scheme was genuine and encouraged them to explore the opportunity.

He said the portal for applications, which opened on May 24, would remain open to all Nigerian students.

He said the loan was a revolving scheme, with the repayment starting two years after the completion of NYSC scheme.

Ogunleye, guiding the students on the application process, said the loan fund was established to improve literacy levels in Nigeria. The Registrar, Mr. Ganiyu Saliu, said the university would launch a 'UI Student NELFUND' page for questions and answers, as well as create a wallet for each student to manage the loan funds wisely. The interactive session was hybrid, with NELFUND officials joining virtually. The event also afforded students of the institution the opportunity to ask questions and clear grey areas on the scheme.

## MFM@35: Olukoya Rewards 492 First Class Graduates

General Overseer of MFM Ministries Worldwide, Prof. Daniel Olukoya on Sunday, gave cash awards to over 492 members of the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries (MFM) who graduated with first class honours from their various universities. The award ceremony marked the highlight of activities that brought to a close, the church's 35th year anniversary celebrations and international convention held at the Prayer City, Lagos Ibadan Expressway. Under the auspices of 'Dr D.K. Olukoya's Academic Award of Excellence', this year's award event, attracted highest number of beneficiaries since its inception in 2010. Olukoya, while announcing the numbers, told the congregation that the "Dr. DK Olukoya's Academic Award of Excellence," which is one of his 70-point agenda to reach out to the youth, was focused on presenting car gifts to the

beneficiaries, could not be sustained after two editions as the numbers grew exponentially.

He said at the first edition, there were only 19 recipients, who also got car gifts.

The second edition, according to him, had 15 recipients and were presented with brand new QQ3 and QQ6 cars and certificates of honour. Olukoya told the congregation that by the third edition, the number rose to 77 and because of the number, each recipient was given a cheque of N500,000 and certificates of honour.

Olukoya admonished the youths to take advantage of the awards, adding that, "Of all churches I know of, MFM now produces the largest number of first class graduates every year."

The convention, which opened for real spiritual activities, attracted hundreds of thousands of worshippers to the venue while millions of others are following the activities through the various alternative channels of the church. The convention kicked off on Friday, August 16 with a series of lectures by anointed men of God.



## 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

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# AKTIVATED LIVE!

## CELEBRATING NAIJA TALENTS

On April 27th, 2024, Aktivated TV's 5th anniversary wasn't just marked by another year of showcasing fresh talent it became a vibrant celebration of Nigeria's thriving music scene. AKTIVATED LIVE, held at the Terra Kulture Arena in Lagos, wasn't your typical concert. It was a pulsating fusion of established legends and rising stars, all under the banner of Aktivated TV's commitment to amplifying new and diverse voices.

The event wasn't just about a single genre, but a celebration of Nigeria's rich musical tapestry. From the electrifying beats of hip-hop to the infectious energy of Afrobeat, AKTIVATED LIVE pulsated with a rhythm that resonated with the diverse Lagos audience. Legendary names like Ice Prince, Ill Bliss brought the crowd to a frenzy with their iconic hits, while rising stars like Dandizy, Yarden, SAMXCAS, Raybekah, Kpee, ida Banton, Guchi, Wizard Chan, Kold AF, DSquare and more showcased the future of Nigerian music.

This wasn't just a concert for passive listening; it was an interactive experience that fueled the creative spirit. Battle rappers locked horns on stage, their lyrical prowess tested for a chance to win a staggering prize pool of over 2 million Naira. It was a testament to Aktivated TV's core value of nurturing talent and providing a platform for aspiring artists to shine.

According to the organisers, "Aktivated Live 2024 is the premiere of a series of physical events designed to provide an in-person experience of Aktivated TV. This year's event was also a mark to celebrate Aktivated TV at 5"



## THE RED CARPET





# 2024: Top 10 universities in Nigeria

**T**ertiary institutions in Nigeria are an important component of the nation's educational system, offering advanced learning opportunities beyond secondary schooling.

Over the years, the argument around whose school or even alma mater was the best usually dominate the trends. Everyone's university is the best, inasmuch as it fulfils the essence of its establishment. However, some universities stand out among their peers.

In this article, we utilised the Times Higher Education (THE) rankings for 2024 to come up with a list of the top 10 universities in Nigeria. Important to note that these top 10 universities in no particular order:

## 1. University of Ibadan

The University of Ibadan is a public research university in Ibadan, Nigeria. The university was once a college of the University of London. The college was established in 1948 as University College Ibadan, one of many colleges within the University of London. It is a public university in Nigeria and one of the oldest.

## 2. Covenant University

Covenant University is in Ota, Ogun

state, Nigeria. This university started in 2002. It is a private school with Christian beliefs. Bishop David Oyedepo, who also started the Living Faith Church Worldwide, founded it.

## 3. Obafemi Awolowo University

Obafemi Awolowo University is a federal university in Ile-Ife, Osun State. The university was founded in 1961 and classes commenced in October 1962 as the University of Ife by the regional government of Western Nigeria, led by Samuel Ladoke Akintola.

## 4. Ahmadu Bello University

The Ahmadu Bello University is a public research university located in Zaria, Kaduna State. It was opened in 1962 as the University of Northern Nigeria.

## 5. University of Lagos

The University of Lagos (UNILAG) is a public research university in Lagos. It takes a slot on the list of 10 best universities in Nigeria due to a long-standing status of giving the best in class learning and research. It offers over 110 undergraduate and 129 postgraduate programs. Its top programs include business, engineering, law, and environmental sciences. Furthermore, UNILAG offers health sciences, management sciences, education, and arts programs.

## 6. University of Nigeria,



## 2024: TOP 10 NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES

## Nsukka

The University of Nigeria is in Nsukka, a vibrant town in Nigeria's southeastern part. The University of Nigeria has 15 academic faculties offering undergraduate and graduate courses. You can take a course in agriculture, medicine, and management sciences. Also, the University provides engineering, arts, humanities, and social sciences.

## 7. University of Benin

The University of Benin is known for its commitment to academic excellence. Its most popular alumni are Babatunde Fashola, a lawyer and former Lagos State Governor; and Tom Ilube, a British entrepreneur.

The University of Benin has 15 faculties offering over 80 undergraduate and graduate programs. You can pursue engineering, law, medicine, education, arts, management sciences, or humanities.

## 8. Federal University of Technology, Minna

The Federal University of Technology is a top-tier public institution in the bustling city of Minna. FUT stands among the top 10 universities in Nigeria for offering highly-marketable technology courses.

The University has over 48 undergraduate and 119 postgraduate programs. Its top programs include agriculture, engineering, innovative technology, and information and communication technology.

## 9. University of Ilorin

University of Ilorin, also known as UNILORIN, is a federal government-owned school in Kwara state, North Central Nigeria. It's known for its strong programs in business, law, and medicine.

## 10. University of Port Harcourt

The University of Port Harcourt was established in 1975 as University College, Port Harcourt. It's known for its strong programs in petroleum engineering, business, and environmental sciences.

## 142 Nigerians Get EU Postgraduate Erasmus Scholarships Programme

**N**o fewer than 142 young Nigerians have been offered postgraduate scholarships by the European Union (EU) for the 2024-25 academic session. The gesture is under the EU flagship educational programme, Erasmus+.

Nigeria retains its number one spot among beneficiaries of the EU postgraduate scholarships in Africa for the 6th year as well as a place among the top five recipient countries globally.

142 Nigerian awardees are among the initial batch of beneficiaries, announced by the organisers of the programme in Brussels.

The number is likely to increase. Most of the awardees will start their Erasmus+ journey in September 2024.

The pre-departure orientation aimed to provide the recipients with hands-on tips on how to make the best of the immense opportunities inherent in the prestigious scholarship.

The programmes will run for 12-24 months, with each beneficiary studying in at least three different

universities in as many countries within and outside the EU during the period.

According to a statement by the EU embassy in Abuja: "The Nigerian awardees have been admitted into some of the most in-demand cutting-edge programmes including Renewables-based Power Systems, Chemical Innovation and Regulation, Public Health in Disasters, Biorefinery, European MSc in Marine Environment 2030, Soils science, Systems for Sustainable Engineering, Sustainable Mineral and Metal Processing Engineering, Sustainable Ship and Shipping and several more.

"On the successful completion of the programme, an EMJMD scholar will receive a master's degree to be jointly awarded by a consortium of universities, in the framework of the EMJMD programme a key component of Erasmus+." At a pre-departure orientation organised for the scholarship awardees in Abuja on Thursday, the EU Ambassador to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ms Samuela Isopi,

underlined the significance of the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD) programme, now in its 20th year, with its highly transformative impact on individuals, higher education institutions, and countries both within and outside of the EU. Over the last two decades, Erasmus Mundus has brought together top universities from all over the EU and beyond to jointly organise excellent Master's courses, merging the best parts of each national programme to form a new, integrated, and unique international study programme.

The programme offers a unique appeal to prospective students, with its high academic standards, unparalleled mobility paths, and attractive financial support. The EU has been ramping up support to Nigeria's higher education sector through its key funding programmes Erasmus+ in the higher education sector, and Horizon Europe for research and innovation. Erasmus+ offers many opportunities apart from its flagship

scholarship programmes: it supports mobility and short stays in Europe for researchers, students, and staff, capacity-building of universities and TVET institutions through joint projects with sister European institutions, etc. Horizon Europe offers opportunities for Nigeria-based researchers and research institutions, in particular through the "Africa Initiative II", which is addressed to African scientists.

The EU's support for education in Nigeria aligns with national objectives and focuses on equitable access to quality education and teacher training. In its education sector support, the EU works with the governments of Kano, Sokoto, Jigawa, Adamawa, Bayelsa, Oyo, Katsina, Enugu, and Plateau states. The projects aim at strengthening the education system, increasing the use of digital technology for teaching, learning, and system management, and mainstreaming green skills and knowledge by investing EUR 45.4 million, in total during, 2021-2027 in the education projects.





# 15 Best Countries to Study Engineering in the World

**Overview of the Global Engineering Services Industry**  
According to a report by Mordor Intelligence, the global engineering services industry has remained resilient over the years, with a market size worth \$1.67 trillion as of 2024. It is expected to grow its market size to \$2.04 trillion by 2029 at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.20% between 2024 and 2029. Although the largest market for the engineering services industry is centered in the Asia Pacific region, the Middle East and Africa are showing the fastest market growth globally. One of the primary drivers of growth in the engineering services industry is the rising demand for infrastructure and the need for specialized skills across infrastructure projects. Since infrastructure projects are complicated and strenuous, the demand for innovative engineering services continues to grow. In fact, data from the US Census Bureau shows that the value of infrastructure building in the US rose from \$1.80 trillion to \$1.84 trillion between October 2022 and February 2023. The surge in the use of digital technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, cloud computing, and IoT is also a primary force driving the market.

## 15. Taiwan

**Top University for Engineering:** National Taiwan University (NTU)  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 73  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 15  
Taiwan ranks 15th on our list of the 15 best countries to study engineering in the world, with 15 of its universities ranking among the top 1,000 QS universities in 2024. National Taiwan University (NTU) is the best engineering institute in the country, and ranks 73rd on the QS ranking 2024 for engineering and technology.

## 14. Malaysia

**Top University for Engineering:** Universiti Malaya (UM)  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 62  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 19  
19 Malaysian universities rank among the top 1,000 QS universities in 2024, with Universiti Malaya (UM) being the best engineering institute in the country. Universiti Malaya is a public institute in Kuala Lumpur, and was founded in 1949.

## 13. France

**Top University for Engineering:** Institut Polytechnique de Paris  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 34  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 25  
Institut Polytechnique de Paris is the best engineering university in France, taking the 34th spot on the QS ranking for engineering and technology 2024. The institute is located in Palaiseau and has six engineering grandes écoles: ENSTA Paris, École Polytechnique,

Télécom Paris, ENSAE Paris, École des Ponts ParisTech, and Télécom SudParis.

## 12. Russia

**Top University for Engineering:** Lomonosov Moscow State University  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 58  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 26  
Russia's Lomonosov Moscow State University grants it the 12th spot on our list of the 15 best countries to study engineering in the world. The institute is located in Moscow and ranks 58th on the QS World University ranking for Engineering and Technology 2024. Founded in 1755, the institute has over 47,000 students and more than 1,000 on-campus buildings.

## 11. Spain

**Top University for Engineering:** Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM)  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 73  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 28  
Spain's Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) lends it the 11th spot on our list of the best countries to study engineering in the world. The university holds the 73rd spot on the QS ranking 2024 in engineering and technology, and is the first Spanish technical university. It was founded in 1971 by combining several Technical Schools of Engineering and Architecture formed in the 18th century.

## 10. Canada

**Top University for Engineering:** University of Toronto  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 17  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey**

## Global Education Index: 28

According to the Insider Monkey Global Education Index, Canada has 28 universities in the top 1,000 QS universities 2024 list. The University of Toronto ranks as the country's best university for student engineering, standing in the 17th spot on the QS ranking 2024 for engineering and technology. This public Canadian university is located in the area surrounding Queen's Park and was founded in 19827 by royal charter under the name King's College as the first higher learning institute in Upper Canada.

## 9. India

**Top University for Engineering:** Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 45  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 31  
India ranks ninth on our list of the 15 best countries to study engineering in the world, with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) taking the spot as the best engineering university in the country. IITB was founded in 1958, and ranks 45th on the QS ranking for engineering and technology 2024.

## 8. South Korea

**Top University for Engineering:** Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 20  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 31  
Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, more commonly known as KAIST, is one of the top universities in the country and the best institute to study engineering. Located in Daejeok Innopolis, Daejeon, KAIST was founded in 1971 by the Korean government as the country's first public, research-oriented science and engineering institute.

## 7. Japan

**Top University for Engineering:** The University of Tokyo  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 18  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 32  
Japan takes seventh place on our list of the 15 best countries to study engineering in the world. The University of Tokyo is the best institute in the country to study engineering, standing in 18th place in the QS world universities ranking 2024 for engineering and technology. According to the Insider Monkey Global Education Index, Japan has 32 universities in the top 1,000 QS universities.

## 6. Australia

**Top University for Engineering:** The University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney)  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 31  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 36  
Located in Kensington, Australia, the University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney) ranks second in the country for graduate employability. The institute has a total enrollment of over 62,000 as of 2018 and ranks in 31st place on the QS World University Ranking 2024 for engineering and technology. UNSW Sydney was founded in 1949.

## 5. Italy

**Top University for Engineering:** Politecnico di Milano  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 23  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider**

**Monkey Global Education Index:** 36  
Politecnico di Milano is Italy's largest public technical university and Milan's oldest university. With around 42,000 students, the institute specializes in engineering, architecture, and design. The institute was founded in 1863, and ranks Italy in the fifth spot on our list.

## 4. Germany

**Top University for Engineering:** Technical University of Munich  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 19  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 45  
Germany's Technical University of Munich lends it the fourth spot on our list with a QS 2024 ranking of 19 in engineering and technology. Located in Munich, the public institute specializes in engineering, technology, and medicine and has a total enrollment of around 50,000 as of 2022. The Technical University of Munich was founded in 1868.

## 3. China

**Top University for Engineering:** Tsinghua University  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 11  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 57  
China ranks third on our list of the top countries to study engineering in the world, with Tsinghua University taking the spot as the best engineering institute in the country. Tsinghua University is a public institute located in Beijing, and ranks 11th on the QS ranking 2024 for engineering and technology. As of 2020, the institute has a total enrollment of over 53,000 students.

## 2. United Kingdom

**Top University for Engineering:** University of Oxford  
**QS Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 3  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 81  
The University of Oxford ranks among the most prestigious institutes globally, and takes the second spot on our list. Located in Oxford, England, the institute is the oldest university in the English-speaking world and the second oldest university in continuous operation worldwide. It was founded in 1096, and usually accepts around 3,300 undergraduates and 5,500 graduates yearly.

## 1. USA

**Top University for Engineering:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)  
**QS World University Ranking 2024 for Engineering and Technology:** 1  
**Number of Universities in the Top 1,000 QS Universities as per Insider Monkey Global Education Index:** 142  
The United States of America ranks first on our list of the 15 best countries to study engineering in the world. The country is famous for its prestigious education system, and has the highest number of universities ranked among the top 1,000 QS universities. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, commonly known as MIT, is one of the top institutes across the globe, and the best university to study engineering in the world. MIT takes the first spot on the QS World University Ranking 2024 list for engineering and technology. With a 4% acceptance rate and a 96% graduation rate, MIT is a private research university located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and has been around since 1861. Research undertaken at the institute has played a significant role in advancing science and technology. The institute has an undergraduate enrollment of 4,638 as of the academic year 2021-2022.





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# AFROBEATS

## Leading Divas

**F** From Lagos, New York, Jo'Burg, London, Lisbon, Dubai to even Delhi, Afrobeats is one sound that is spreading across the globe like a wildfire. Its acceptance across the world have been nothing but phenomenal! When people talk about the success of the genre, attention is mostly given to male superstars like Burna Boy, Wizkid, Davido, Olamide, Asake, Rema among many others. There have always been

complaints that Nigerian female artistes don't get enough props and due recognitions like their male counterparts. But times are changing and we are now experiencing an influx of many talented female acts in the music industry, especially in the Afropop genre globally now known as **AFROBEATS!** The year 2024 is already witnessing amazing record releases by many of these talented singers and performers. Like their male counterparts, these divas are doing great numbers across both the audio

and video streaming platforms. They are blessed with great vocal range and their sonorous voices can be likened to that of a nightingale. They are rocking big stages across the world and they are blessed with great shapes and pretty looks. They are sexy and have great sense of fashion which is typical of music divas. In this special feature, ACADA Magazine will be throwing spotlights on 5 leading female Afrobeats stars that are rocking both the local and international music scenes.

## TIWA SAVAGE

**S**he's arguably the current biggest female artiste in Nigeria. First, she boasts a degree in professional music from the **Berklee College of Music**, and in 2006, she featured on the UK platform for **X-Factor** where she placed third in runner-up. A vocalist per excellence, Tiwa has lent her sonorous voice to international music legends **Mary J Blige, Chaka Khan, George Michael, Whitney Houston** and **Andrea Bocelli** just to mention a few. Her powerful vocals add a whole different charm that makes her different from all the other artists. Savage sings in English and Yoruba; her music is a blend of Afrobeats, R&B, Afropop, Pop and Hip-hop. Tiwa has collaborated with many young artistes which gives her ample exposure and which is surely one of her staying powers. Savage signed a publishing deal with **Sony/ATV Music Publishing** in 2009. Inspired by the growth of the Nigerian music industry, Savage moved back to Nigeria and signed with **Mavin Records** in 2012. She made an appearance on the label's 2012 compilation album *Solar Plexus*. Her debut studio album *Once Upon a Time* was released on 3 July 2013. Savage's second studio album, titled *R.E.D.*, was released on 19 December 2015. In June 2016, Savage signed a management and publishing deal with **Roc Nation**. In September 2017, she released her debut EP *Sugarcane*. In May 2019, she announced her record deal with **Universal Music Group** and exit from **Mavin Records**. Savage's third studio album

*Celia*, was released in August 2020. Her second extended play *Water & Garri*, which blends Afrobeats with soulful R&B, was released on 20 August 2021. In March 2022, Savage announced the **Water & Garri North American Tour** in support of the EP. In July 2022, she received an honorary degree from the **University of Kent** during a graduation ceremony at **Canterbury Cathedral**. She became the first woman to win the **Best African Act** category in the **2018 MTV Europe Music Awards** and has won several more after that. In mid-2017, as Savage was preparing to release *Sugarcane*, she began to be called the **Queen of Afrobeats** by the media and the moniker has stuck till date. She was invited to perform at the coronation of **King Charles III** at **Windsor Castle in England** in 2023. Tiwa Savage has multiple endorsement deals with top brands like **Pepsi, Tecno, Pampers, Profectiv MegaGrowth, MAC** and **Twisco**. She recently Executive Produced and featured in her own movie, **Water and Gaari** which is currently showing on **Amazon Prime**. **NOTABLE HITS:** *Kele Kele Love, Love Me (3x), Eminado, Without my Heart* and *Koroba*.







## YEMI ALADE

which she eventually won and she signed to **Effyzzie Music Group**. Her music is a mixture of Afropop, Highlife, Dancehall, Pop and R&B, and has been of influence in several countries across Africa. She sings in English, Igbo, Pidgin, Yoruba, French, Swahili and Portuguese. It took her five years to release her debut album, *King of Queens* which was a huge success. The album had the hit song, *Johnny*, which is still played in clubs to this day. **Yemi** toured several African countries including South Africa, Kenya, and Ghana, then released a deluxe version of her album with French renditions of some of the hit songs on the album. Two years later, **Yemi** released her second album called *Mama Africa*. She featured artists from all over Africa and tackled heavy issues, especially focusing on African women. She has released three more albums titled *Black Magic*, *Woman of Steel*, and *Empress*. In 2016, she debuted on **Billboard as No 4 on "Next Big Sound" Chart**. She won the **MTV African Music Awards for Best Female** in 2015 and 2016 consecutively and was nominated for **Artiste of the Year** in 2015, making her the first female to win the **MAMAs for Best Female** consecutively twice and nominated for **Artiste of the Year**. In 2015, **Yemi** was the **first African female to be nominated for the MTV Europe Music Awards (EMAs)** and she was nominated for the **BET Awards** for

**Best International Act: Africa** in 2015 and 2016.

**Yemi** is also the second Nigerian and Afrobeats artist and the first female to hit **100 million views for a single video on YouTube** after **David**. On 9 May 2017, she was announced as a coach in the second edition of **The Voice Nigeria** to replace **2baba** who was a former coach on the live show. She coached on **The Voice Nigeria (Season 2)** alongside other Nigerian artists like **Waje**, **Timi Dakolo** and **Patoranking**. In 2022, **Yemi Alade** bagged a **Grammy nomination** for her song *Dignity* with **Angelique Kidjo**. She alongside **Kidjo** were nominated for the category of **Best Song for Social Change Social Merit Award**. She likewise has a **Grammy certificate** for her collaboration with the Beninese music icon on her *Mother Nature* album. She is also the first Afrobeats artiste to get a **Latin Grammy nomination** for the song *Cónexion Total* with **Bomba Estéreo**, both the song and (*Deja*) the album it featured in was nominated for the awards. In 2022, **The Scoove Africa** ranked **Yemi Alade "The Best Stage Performer in Nigeria"** for the year 2022. **Yemi** has signed several local and international endorsement deals with notable brands such as **Shell**, **Globacom**, **Maybelline**, **Luc Belaire**, **Bacardi Breezer**, and an International cosmetic company, **NP Gandour** amongst others. **Yemi Alade** is one of the most influential female Nigerian artists, and an extraordinary performer. **NOTABLE HITS:** *Johnny*, *Bamboo*, *Temperature*, *Knack Am* and *Akwaba*.

**Yemi Eberechi Alade** rose from total obscurity to national prominence when she blew people's minds with her majestic poise and her sweet ringing soprano at the debut edition of **Peak's Talent Hunt Show** in 2009

## TEMS

**Temilade Openiyi** with the stage name **Tems** blessed us with her sonorous voice on one of the biggest Afrobeats Summer records, 2020 **Wizkid's Essence** which peaked at number 8 on the **Billboard Hot 100 chart** following the release of the remix version with **Justin Bieber**. The song earned her a Grammy Award nomination. That same year, she was featured on the song *Fountains* by Canadian rapper **Drake**. **Tems** caught the attention of the music industry when she released her second single, *Try Me*, in 2019. One year later, she continued her strong start by releasing an EP titled *For Broken Ears*. One song, *Damages*, topped the **Apple Music streaming charts for Nigeria**. In 2020, she released her debut extended play, *For Broken Ears*. Her second Extended Play, *If Orange Was a Place* (2021), was released after she signed a record deal with **RCA Records**. In 2022, Tems' vocals from her song *Higher* were sampled by **Future** on his single, *Wait for U*, which led to her being credited as a featured artist alongside **Drake** on the song. It debuted atop the **Billboard Hot 100**, making her the first African artist to debut at number one and the second Nigerian artist to top the chart. The song earned her the **Grammy Award for Best Melodic Rap Performance**.

**Tems** covered **Bob Marley's No Woman, No Cry** for the **Black Panther: Wakanda Forever** soundtrack album in July 2022 and in the same month, her song *Free Mind* from her debut EP debuted on the **Billboard Hot 100**, peaking at number 46 and breaking the female record for longest charting number one song on **R&B/Hip-Hop Airplay chart**. She also co-wrote the song *Lift Me Up* by **Rihanna**, which earned her nominations for the **Academy Award for Best Original Song**, the **Golden Globe Award for Best Original Song** and the **Grammy Award for Best Song Written for Visual Media**. In 2024, **Tems** released her debut studio album *Born in the Wild* and further announced a supporting tour. She has received many accolades, including a **Grammy Award**, a **Billboard Women in Music Award**, four **NAACP Image Awards**, four **BET Awards** and three **Soul Train Music Awards**. She attended **Downen College** in Lekki and graduated in **Economics** from **Monash University, Johannesburg**. She's also into collaborations with the iconic fashion brand, **Tommy Hilfiger** and also global whiskey brand, **Jameson Black**. **NOTABLE HITS:** *Try Me*, *Damages*, *Try Me*, *Free Mind* and *Me & U*.







## SIMI

**S**ensational songstress and vocal powerhouse **Simisola Bolatito Kosoko (nee Ogunleye)**, popularly known as **Simi** is another leading lady of Afrobeats whose style of storytelling endears her to music numerous music lovers who loves depth and messages. She started her career as a gospel singer, releasing her debut studio album in 2008, titled *Ogaju*. She also played as one of the top judges in season 7 of the **Nigerian Idol TV show** in 2022. She gained public recognition in 2014 after releasing *Tiff*, a song that was nominated for **Best Alternative Song at The Headies 2015**. **Simi** signed a record deal with **Steve Bababeko's X3M Music** in 2014, but left the label in May 2019 following the expiration of her contract.

She released her second studio album **Simisola** on September 8,

2017. Her third studio album *Omo Charlie Champagne, Vol. 1* was released to coincide with her thirty-first birthday on April 19, 2019. She launched her record label **Studio Brat** in June 2019.

In 2020, **Simi** released another EP titled *Restless II* which is part two of the initial *Restless* EP released in 2014.

Aside been a songwriter, singer and a performer, **Simi** is also a producer. **Simi** is married to another top Afrobeats artiste, **Adekunle Kosoko** popularly known as **Adekunle Gold** and they both have a beautiful daughter, **Adejare**. She made her acting debut in **Kunle Afolayan's** directorial *Mokalik*. She was **Etisalat** (now **9mobile**) brand ambassador but later ported to **Globacom**. She also had **Opera Mini** endorsement in the past.

**NOTABLE HITS:** *Tiff, Jamb Question, Joromi, Owanbe, Duduke and Story Story.*

## AYRA STARR

**O**yinkansola Sarah **Aderibigbe** popularly known as **Ayra Starr**, signed to the biggest music label in Nigerian, **Mavin Records** is surely popping right now. Starting out as a model, **Starr** was signed to **Quove Models**, an agency in Lagos. A year later, she began posting song covers by artists like **2Baba** and **Andra Day**, and then modeled in campaigns and music videos for other artists before becoming a musician. She uploaded a few videos of herself covering songs by other artists before deciding to pen and post her own original song *Beggie Beggie* in December 2019. It garnered thousands of views prior to reaching **Mavin Records** founder and producer **Don Jazzy**, who would eventually sign her to his label.

In early 2021, **Starr** achieved mainstream recognition with her eponymous debut extended play and its hit track *Away*, which spent two consecutive weeks at number four on **Nigeria's TurnTable Top 50 chart**; the song also peaked at number 17 on the **Billboard Top Triller Global chart**, paving the way for the release of her first full-length album, *19 & Dangerous* (2021).

The lead single *Bloody Samaritan* peaked atop the **Top 50 chart**, becoming the first solo song by a female artist to reach the number-one position. **Starr** debuted on **Pandora**

**Predictions** chart and on 28 August 2021, was ranked number three on **Billboard's Next Big Sound**. **Starr** would later achieve mainstream international recognition in 2022, with the release of her song *Rush*. The song charted in several territories, including Switzerland, Ireland and the United Kingdom, where it peaked at number 24. It earned **Starr** her first nomination at the **66th Annual Grammy Awards for Best African Music Performance**.

With the song, **Starr** became **the youngest African female artist to surpass 100 Million views on a single video on YouTube**, and also the first to do so within 5 months.

On 4 March 2023, **Starr** took to social media to announce her music was used as soundtrack for blockbuster American action movie, **Creed III**. On 13 July 2023, **Starr** announced that she would headlining her first world tour titled **21: The World Tour**. The tour included 40 stops across North America, Africa, Europe and Australia. On 27 October 2023, **David Guetta** featured **Ayra Starr** and **Lil Durk** on a house-influenced Afrobeats song titled **Big FU**.

On 5 March 2024, American R&B artist **Chris Brown** announced that **Starr** would be one of the opening acts for his 2024 arena tour in North America.

On 8 April 2024, Jamaican record producer **Rvssian** released the single *Santa* in collaboration with **Starr** and reggaeton artist **Rauw Alejandro**. The song helped **Starr** become the first

female Nigerian artist to reach a peak of 20 million monthly listeners on **Spotify**. During a **Fenty** event in London that month, **Starr** met with **Rihanna** to discuss the possibility of a musical collaboration.

Her album *The Year I Turned 21* made her the first Nigerian female artist on the **Billboard 200 chart**; the album debuted at number 195 on June 10, 2024. Talking about brand endorsements, **Ayra Starr** used to pitch her tent with **Pepsi** but she's now a **Coke** brand ambassador. She's also **Darling Hair Extension** brand ambassador. She's also the Africa spoke person for beauty brand, **Maybelline**.

**NOTABLE HITS:** *Away, Bloody Samaritan and Rush.*







# 2024 MOREMI HALL WEEK UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS

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It was all fun and glitz at the 2024 Moremi Hall Week and the students had an incredible time. From pageantry to sports competitions and more, every moment was a blast!



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was launched April, 2023 and since ever since it has gained a whole lot of momentum. The app which was designed for users to buy cheap airtime, data, pay electricity bills and cable TV bills with ease is one of its kinds in Nigeria and its founder is optimistic that in coming years, the app will generate more profits.

Linus Williams Ifejika, the Executive Chairman and Founder of B-Lord Group of Company, is a young and fast-rising Nigerian Bitcoin Entrepreneur. Born March 14th 1998, he has distinguished himself amongst his contemporaries as a strong-willed, tenacious and passionate young man. Also known as B-Lord, Linus Ifejika hails from the capital city of the Light of the Nation Umuji Ebenebe, Awka North Local Government, Awka, Anambra state. He is the first son in a family of seven.

He further explained that the introduction of the BillPoint mobile app is the rejuvenation of modernity. The BillPoint app is here to make transactions easy for Nigerians said Mr. Linus.

It is an unarguable fact that no one walks down to vendors to sort their bills any longer when they can do so online that is one of the more reasons this App will succeed and I am optimistic about the future of the app and it's acceptability.

He concluded by saying that the Billpoint App has generated a whole lot just within days of its launch and this has shown you how valuable this product is and it's going to solve problems for many users in the coming years Linus Williams insisted.

## Meet Nigeria's tech guru **LINUS WILLIAMS**

**Nigeria's tech guru Linus Williams rejected \$10m from foreign investor over BillPoint app which he invented.**

**L**ike they used to say, necessity is the mother of inventions. The recently cash crunch witnessed in Nigeria due to the Central Bank's currency

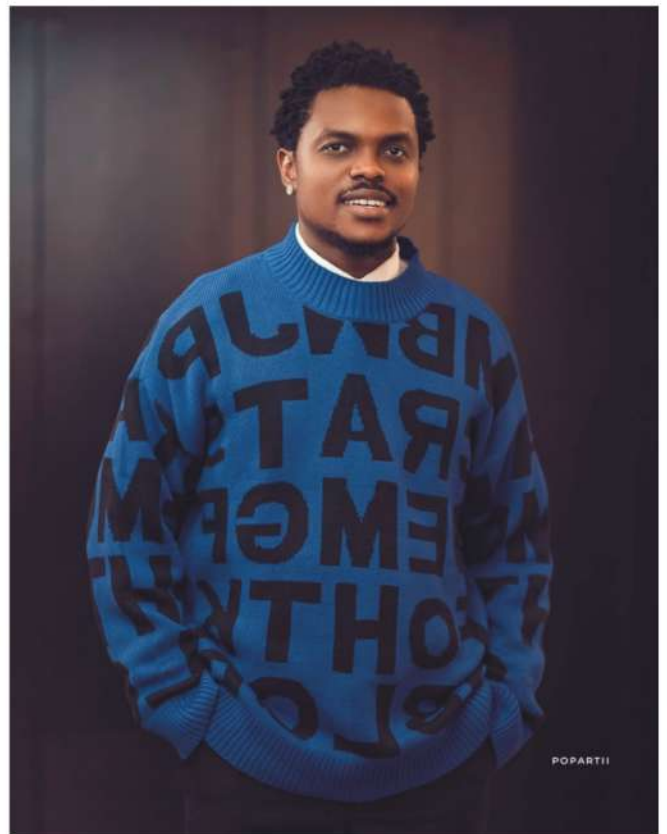
change which makes banks to experienced heavy traffic on their E-channels and mobile platforms gave birth to BILLPOINT developed by Linus Williams Ifejika with his UK partners for a whopping cost of 120,000 pounds.

The Mobile App which was

developed to run independent of the banks recorded close to 250,000 users within a month of launch. These success attracted foreign investors who wanted to buy the app at a mega \$10 million which the developer turned down.

In his statement with newsmen, the BLord group founder emphasized that the offer was turned down because his team believes the app would generate much more profit than the amount offered in a few years.

Recall that the BillPoint app

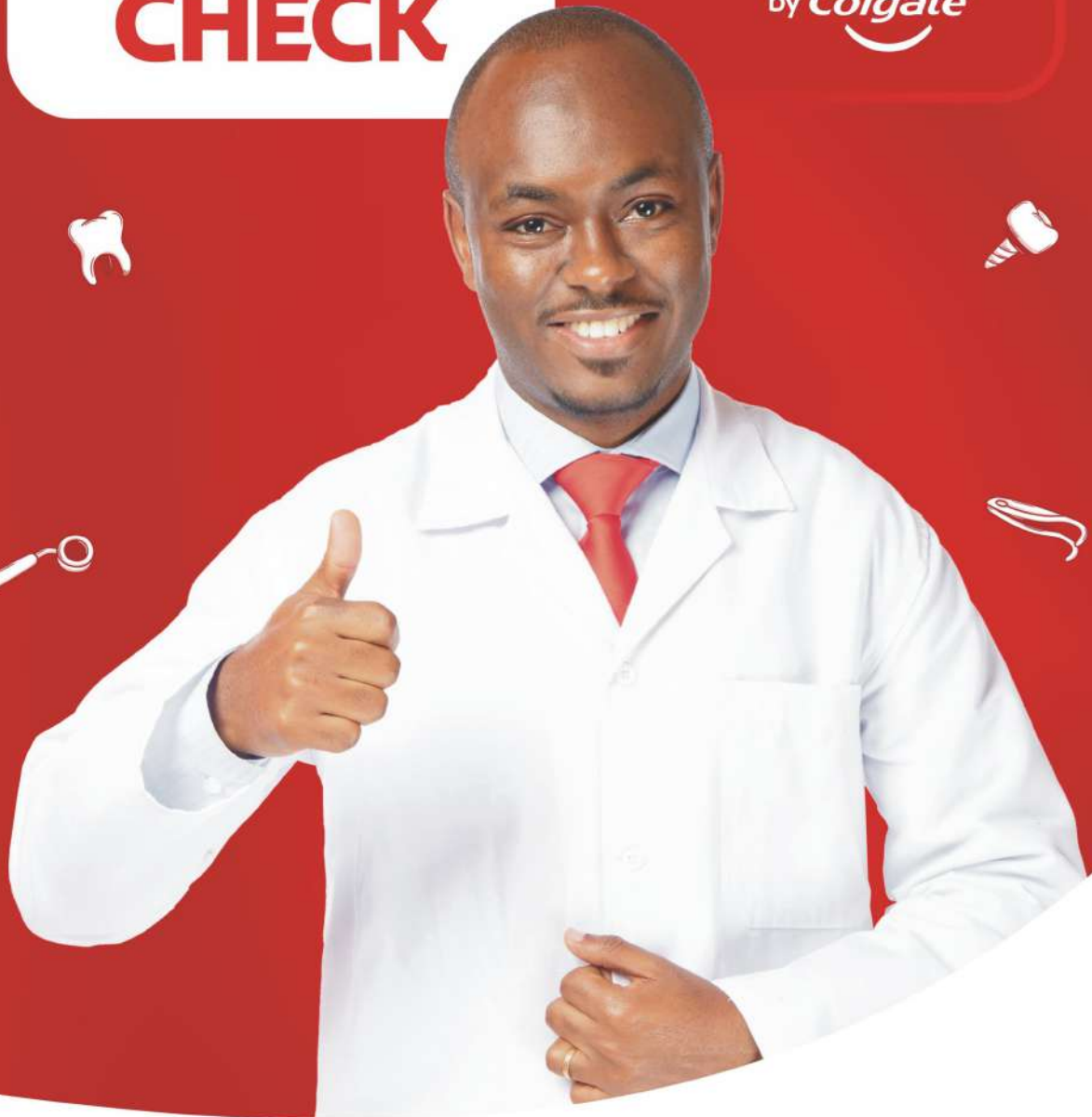




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# LASU, UNILAG, Pan-Atlantic Sign STEM Pact with U.S. Varsity

In a groundbreaking move to advance women's education and bolster Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education, Lagos State University (LASU), University of Lagos (UNILAG), and Pan-Atlantic University (PAU) have signed an educational cooperative partnership agreement with Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

The partnership aims to establish a robust framework for collaboration among the four universities, focusing on creative industries, faculty and student exchange programs, and mutually beneficial educational initiatives. The event, held at UNILAG, was attended by U.S. Consul-General in Nigeria, Richard Mills Jr., members of the U.S. Presidential Advisory Committee, leaders from other universities in and around Lagos, as well as staff and students from the partnering institutions.

This partnership, aptly titled "Developing Partnerships between U.S. and Nigerian Institutions of Higher Education," marks a significant milestone in educational cooperation and is set to pave the way for numerous academic and cultural exchanges, enriching the educational landscape in Nigeria and beyond.

The signing ceremony was graced by prominent academic figures, including UNILAG Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Folasade Oguniola; LASU Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, represented by LASU Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Adenike Boyo; Dean of the School of Management and Social Science at PAU, Prof. Sola Oni; and Dr. Helene Gayle of Spelman College.

Prof. Oguniola, the chief host, highlighted the importance of this partnership, expressing hope that it will strengthen ties with the diaspora community and advance STEM education in the country.

"We hope to forge stronger ties with the diaspora community to foster a developmental drive that will engender the growth of STEM education in Nigeria.

"This will help to promote capacity building for faculties, improve collaborations, foster exchange opportunities, facilitate co-creation of curricula, and encourage multi-disciplinary research engagements," she said.

Highlighting UNILAG's commitment to the initiative, Prof. Oguniola further emphasised the university's proactive approach to fostering interdisciplinary collaborations and innovations.

"I assure our commitment to leverage partnerships to build capacities in sports, artificial intelligence, robotics, fintech, entrepreneurship, and other key areas to meet contemporary needs and resolve global issues," she said.

This pledge, she added, reflects UNILAG's strategic focus on integrating advanced technologies and entrepreneurial skills into its academic programs, ensuring that students are well-equipped to tackle modern challenges.

Prof. Olatunji-Bello expressed LASU's enthusiasm about the partnership, particularly in enhancing its Africa Centre of Excellence for Innovative and Transformative STEM Education.

She also highlighted the recent establishment of the School of Tourism, Films, Performing Arts and Cultural Studies, and Disabilities Support Office at LASU.

Dr. Helene Gayle congratulated the Lagos-based universities on this forward-thinking initiative.

She lauded the commitment of the Lagos institutions to advancing faculty growth and national development.

"This collaboration was conceived following a decision by the U.S. Presidential Advisory Committee to promote educational exchange programs between Africa and the diaspora. It is our hope that our students from Africa can change the world by better understanding the world through the kind of exposure that this partnership offers," she noted.

# 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 Oguniola 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. Oguniola 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."

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## Ibom Innovation Network plans big for Akwa Ibom Tech Week 2024

...Recounts gain of previous edition

Nelson NseAbasi

Ibom Innovation Network, organizers of the Akwa Ibom Tech Week recently unveiled the theme and activities for the 2024 edition at The Bunker in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

The team unveiled the theme, "Building a Resilient Innovation Ecosystem" to journalists at a well attended press briefing where they stated the objective of Akwa Ibom Tech Week 2024, which is to build a resilient innovation ecosystem in the state, to inspire innovations that will address real life issues.

The Chairman of the planning committee, Amanda Etuk in her

remark disclosed that the event would be a melting point for tech enthusiasts in Nigeria and others from around the world. "The event is scheduled to take place from October 28 to November 2, 2024 with a week-long event which will feature a range of activities, including; Hackathon, Cultural Night, Conference, Career Fair and Creative Showcase, Google Developers Fest and a tour of tech hubs in the state."

Ibom Innovation Network, a community of innovators and innovation support organizations in Akwa Ibom State led by Mr Hanson Johnson recounts Google scholarships for hundreds of



youths, several remote job placements and strategic partnerships as benefits of the previous edition of the tech week.

Speaking further on the gains from last year's event, the Publicist of Ibom Innovation Network, Mr Idongesit Essien (D'Instructor) highlighted the mentorship and capacity building of young people who volunteer to work for the

project as one of the achievement recorded. He said the Leadership Trainings and Soft Skills Development for volunteers has helped develop the capacity of 150 cohorts in

the last 10 months.

Understanding that the days in the tech week have different focus, Mr Francis Onuk of The RootHub hinted that the Career Fair would be one of the most exciting for young ones, as it promises to immerse guests into an unforgettable experience of creative technology.

## Bloomberg donates \$600m to historically black US medical schools

America's four medical schools belonging to historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have been gifted \$600m (£473m; €550m) by Michael Bloomberg, the former New York mayor and billionaire founder of the financial technology and media company Bloomberg LP. Bloomberg's donation follows his \$1bn gift last month to his alma mater, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, which allowed its medical school to offer free tuition to most of its students.<sup>1</sup>

In 2020 he gave \$100m to pay off the student debt of enrolled students at the HBCU medical schools. Last week their presidents were

invited to a meeting with Bloomberg Philanthropies in New York, which they thought was an event to commemorate that gift. Instead, they were presented with \$600m more.

Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, DC; Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia; and Meharry Medical College, in Nashville, Tennessee, will each receive \$175m. These are the largest three donations ever made to HBCUs and will roughly double the existing endowments of all three of those colleges. Charles R Drew University of Medicine and Science, Los Angeles, will receive \$75m.



## Sharp fall in international applicants wanting to study at UK universities

The financial pressures facing universities continue to mount after the latest immigration figures showed a sharp fall in the number of international applicants wanting to study in the UK.

The Home Office's initial figures for July found that about 15% fewer sponsored student visa applications were received last month, continuing the downward trend seen since the start of the year and following the previous government's efforts to restrict the number of visas issued.

Between January and the end of July, the Home Office said that overall student applications were down by 16% compared with the same period in 2023.

After universities received bumper enrolments from international students in 2022 and 2023, admissions are likely to remain higher than before the Covid pandemic. But the surge in inflation in recent years has eroded



the sector's revenue from UK students, making it more reliant on the higher tuition fees received from overseas students and more vulnerable to fluctuations. Some institutions say they are braced for a 50% fall in new international enrolments this year, especially in one-year postgraduate courses.

Since January, new regulations have barred most undergraduate and taught postgraduate students from bringing dependent family

members to the UK with them. The latest Home Office figures confirm a steep drop, with 13,100 applications from dependents of students between January and July 2024 81% fewer than in January to July 2023.

August is the highest month for visa applications, and the

Home Office has cautioned that it "will be necessary to see this peak in student applications in the autumn before we can assess the full extent of any changes this year" But an earlier poll of 75 institutions by the British Universities' International Liaison Association found that nine out of 10 had received fewer international applications for this autumn compared with 2023. New data published by the Higher

Education Statistics Agency revealed that the proportion of first-class degrees awarded to undergraduates continued to fall last year, as universities in England responded to ministerial allegations of grade inflation.

The 2022-23 figures showed that 29% of undergraduate degrees were graded as first-class honours, down from 32% in 2021-22 and 36% in 2020-21, and only slightly higher than the 28% awarded in 2018-19 before the Covid pandemic brought more generous marking for affected students.

Nick Hillman, director of the Higher Education Policy Institute, said: "The change makes the top grade a little more meaningful for employers once again, even though close to one-third still get a first. "But we'll have to wait to see if this is a long-term trend or a shorter-term blip. It may be that the new government is less concerned by university grades and more concerned by other things, which could encourage people to take their eye off the ball."

Meanwhile, the proportion of lower second-class degrees, or 2:2s, rose to 20%, after falling to a low of 15% in 2020-21.





## 6 great oud perfumes for your wardrobe

**W**hile taken very seriously in the Middle East, oud has only caught on in a big way in the Nigeria in last few years. It is derived from the tropical agar tree, which is thought to originate in Assam in India. When the tree is infected by a mould known as *Phialophora parasitica* it reacts by producing a dense, dark and fragrant resin to protect itself. It is the resin-embedded heartwood of the tree that is the source of oud.

The trees are grown throughout South-East Asia, India and Bangladesh and agarwood is said to be the most expensive timber in the world – indeed, one of the most expensive of all natural raw ingredients. Part of the reason for the cost is that the agar tree is now registered by CITES as a potentially threatened species – not surprisingly when the global agarwood market is thought to be worth over £5 billion annually.

The scent itself varies considerably depending on the wood used, where the tree was grown and whether the tree itself was cultivated or naturally infected. The fragrance is – unsurprisingly – described as warm, woody with a slight hint of damp rot, while some varieties are smoky and sweet. It can be very potent so not one for the faint-hearted.

Here's a selection of the very best oud fragrances for men available right now.



Versace Pour Homme Oud Noir Versace



Christian Dior Oud Ispahan



Armani/Prive Oud Royal



Royal Oud Creed



Tom Ford Oud Wood



LV Ombre Nomade

## Rihanna Steps Down As CEO of Savage X Fenty

**T**he billionaire beauty mogul appointed Hillary Super, the former CEO of Anthropologie Group, to take her place as CEO. Rihanna has held the position since she founded **Savage X Fenty** in 2018. According to *Vogue*, the “Diamonds” singer will remain in a leadership role as executive chair. In a statement, Rihanna said: “It’s been beautiful to see our vision for Savage X Fenty impact the industry at such an incredible magnitude over the last five years. This is just the

*beginning for us, and we’re going to continue to expand in ways that always connect with the consumer.”* “I’m so grateful and excited to welcome Hillary Super as our new CEO she is a strong leader and is focused on taking the business to an even higher level.” *Meanwhile, Hillary Super previously held leadership positions at Guess, American Eagle, Gap, and Old Navy. “I’m thrilled to join the Savage X Fenty family,” she said. “The*

brand is a major powerhouse in the lingerie and apparel industry, and its unwavering commitment to celebrating inclusivity and fearlessness is inspiring.” Rihanna, whose net worth is estimated to be more than \$1.4bn, has made waves in the fashion industry since she launched Savage X Fenty five years ago. The 35-year-old has been known for her over-the-top fashion shows, the past four of which are available to stream on Amazon Prime Video.





# 11 Benefits Of African Black Soap

The African black soap has redefined plant-based skin care. Why? It is because African black soap benefits the skin in numerous ways and is loaded with antioxidants and skin-nourishing ingredients. The African black soap is usually made of plant-based ingredients. The ingredients often change depending on the soap makers and may provide additional benefits. It has antibacterial and antifungal properties and is extremely gentle on the skin. The traditional African black soap does not contain synthetic ingredients and artificial dyes and fragrances. Therefore, it is safe for all skin types unless you are allergic to any specific ingredient in it.

## Benefits Of African Black Soap

### 1. It Fights Acne

If you have oily and acne-prone skin, African black soap can prove helpful. It balances the natural oil of your skin and does not let excess sebum clog your skin pores. It is also effective in controlling the proliferation of Propionibacterium acnes the acne-causing bacteria.

### 2. It Helps In Soothing Irritated Skin

African black soap can calm down your skin, whether it is excessively dry, eczema-affected or with skin allergies. It helps in clearing and soothing rashes and itching.

### 3. It Has Antibacterial Properties

African black soap contains phytochemicals and oils derived from plants. These components are rich in flavonoids, alkaloids, and bioactive compounds that can fight bacterial infections and prevent further infection.

### 4. It Is Safe For All Skin Types

Synthetic soaps contain a lot of chemicals and artificial fragrances that destroy the acid mantle of your skin. African black soap contains plant products and is fragrance-free. It is extremely gentle and helps in balancing your skin's pH without stripping it of moisture.

### 5. It Is A Great Natural

### Moisturizer For The Skin

As African black soap contains a concoction of oils, along with shea butter, it is incredibly hydrating and beneficial for dry and combination skin types. The butter and oils enrich the skin, lock in moisture, and keep it plump and hydrated.

### 6. It Cleanses And Exfoliates The Skin Thoroughly

African black soap is rich in vitamin E and other emollients. It exfoliates your skin gently, gets rid of dirt and dead skin cells, and prevents signs of aging. Moreover, it is hypoallergenic and does not irritate your skin. This soap has antiseptic properties that can also soothe an itchy scalp.

### 7. It Prevents Razor Bumps

After you have waxed or shaved, your skin needs proper exfoliation to prevent the dead skin cells from clogging the pores and causing razor bumps. Using African black soap can help in preventing the bumps and infections that result from shaving and waxing your skin.

### 8. It Helps In Reducing Hyperpigmentation

Sun damage caused by excessive exposure to UV rays can leave ugly, dark spots on your skin (called hyperpigmentation). African black soap contains shea butter that protects your skin from sun damage and minimizes dark spots and hyperpigmentation.

### 9. It Has Antifungal Properties

African black soap is a strong antifungal agent and very effective against several types of fungi, including Candida albicans (a type of yeast) that

causes athlete's foot, jock itch, and other skin infections.

10. It May Help Reduce Fine Lines  
A survey involving 100 subjects who used African black soap found that about 4% of them used it for fine lines, and all of them were satisfied with the results.

### 11. It Is Good For Overall Skin Care

The survey also found that 70% of the respondents used African black soap for overall skin care, and about 56% of them used it on both the face and the body. They used it to treat acne, dark spots, razor bumps, eczema, and fine lines. Around 51% of the subjects were very satisfied, and 40% of them were somewhat satisfied with the results.

*Unprocessed African black soap has a rough texture, which makes it good for exfoliation. But if you do not know how to use it, it might be abrasive for your skin.*



## Add Flair to your style with a Blanket Scarf

Blanket scarves are exactly what they sound like: scarves that are big enough to use as a blanket. Typically they are an extremely oversized square shape, which makes them different from all the other scarves in your closet. They can be lifesavers during a long, cold winter. But if you're thinking, "what the heck do I do with all that fabric?" we don't blame you. Blanket scarves can be intimidating, but can also be undoubtedly comfy.

### Here are 3 ways to style it:

1. You can wear it like a shawl and throw it over yourself like a blanket, letting it cover your shoulders and arms.
2. You can also transform it into a cardigan. This works best when you belt the oversized scarf over something fitted like a body-con dress or a tight turtleneck. Just be sure to leave space for your arms to fit through comfortably.
3. Thick blanket scarves look chic when wrapped and draped messily. Simply take all that fabric and drape it around your neck however it wants to go, letting the corners fall where they may. This style has a "the messier the better" attitude, so don't try to make it perfect.







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# KICKS

## Lifestyle

### 7 Top Running Shoes in 2024

#### What Are Running Shoes?

Running shoes are comfortable and light footwear designed specifically to help you run in a way that will prevent injury and increase your athletic performance as a runner. They come in all sorts of styles and sizes from minimalist shoes without many extra features to tricked-out types that help you as a runner.

#### How to Choose a Pair of Running Shoes

Finding the right running shoes for your particular

body is essential to good running form. Here are three tips for choosing new shoes for running:

**1. Select ideal cushioning.** Running shoes almost always include cushioning. You can even supplement the extra cushioning with insoles and orthotics (medical devices designed to correct biomechanical foot problems). The stack height of your shoe—the distance your shoes put between your feet and the ground—is determined by the amount of cushioning in your shoe.

**2. Ensure shock absorption.** Runners need to withstand the shock of constant high-impact exercise on their feet and legs, so choosing a pair of shoes with good shock absorption is essential.

**3. Encourage energy return.** The foam in the soles of running shoes doesn't just cushion your feet, it can actively help push and propel you forward as you run. If you're planning on running long distances, this sort of energy return is a must.

Below are selected top brands you can choose from.



#### New Balance SC Pacer v2

New Balance knew it needed to see some improvements, so they worked directly with Emily Sisson to develop the v2, using data from her races to help inform their decisions during the development process. The end result is a shoe with a 100% Pebax midsole, a lightweight carbon fiber plate, and a stack of 32.8 mm stack height (yes, for some reason we're doing tenths of millimeters now). And it still stays plenty light.



#### Salomon S/Lab Spectur

With a top layer of EnergyFoam+ (Salomon's bounciest Pebax-based foam), a bottom layer of EnergySurge, and a carbon-infused EnergyBlade in between the two, the shoe is designed to give a propulsive-yet-stable ride. We've run in this shoe a lot the past month and all agree it's the best Salomon road shoe yet. Something about the winged plate working with the Pebax foam makes it a fast and fun shoe that we keep coming back to.

The upper on the shoe is extremely comfortable as well, providing a great lockdown with plenty of comfort around the ankle.



#### Reebok Floatzig 1

The upper on the shoe is one of those that just fits exactly right, providing a perfectly snug and secure fit. Now, there have been some durability issues with Floatride Energy in the past, but the good news is that if it deadens out on the run, you can always rock it as a casual shoe in its afterlife.



#### Nike Alphafly 3

The continuous ZoomX midsole provides a smooth transition, while the Air Zoom units have more space around them to compress and expand. So yes, the bounce we craved is back in spades. The Atomknit 3.0 upper is secure and ultra-breathable and provides a solid lockdown, while the upgraded Fast Shot rubber beneath the pods gives puncture protection and extra grip.

The best part of all? This is the lightest Alphafly yet.



#### Puma Deviate Nitro Elite 3

Hit turbo speed in the lightweight super shoe made for the fastest athletes and weekend road racers. Redesigned and re-energized to be the ultimate race day shoe, the Deviate Elite 3 weighs 17g less than its predecessor and features a greater stack height with new and improved NITROFOAM™ ELITE. The race day go-to is built on a stiffer carbon fiber PWRPLATE for a more powerfully responsive ride that makes racing fast feel even easier.



#### New Balance Rebel v4

Rebel by name, rebel by nature, the FuelCell Rebel v4 will change the way you look at an everyday trainer. The propulsive feel of FuelCell technology creates a remarkably responsive underfoot that can quickly adapt from long, steady runs to something shorter and more spontaneous. Additional details like a streamlined mesh upper add race-inspired accents to a dynamic upbeat trainer, designed to bring an element of fun back into your run.



#### Asics Metaspeed Edge+

The METASPEED™ EDGE+ racing shoes are designed for cadence-style runners who are looking to start fast and finish faster. Runners wearing these shoes will be able to take longer strides while conserving energy with each step.

Thanks to an energetic midsole foam and a propulsive carbon plate, runners wearing these shoes will be able to conserve more energy while maintaining their pace at the later stages of the race. Jacquard mesh upper improves breathability. FF BLAST™ TURBO cushioning improves compression and creates a responsive feel underfoot. Curved sole design helps runners conserve more energy in each step. Carbon plate guides your foot throughout your step and propels your foot forward. ASICSGRIP™ outsole rubber improves durability and grip.





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## Nigerian star Asake's 'Lungu Boy' album breaks multiple records

**L**ungu Boy is also now the record holder for the biggest opening day global streams for a Nigerian album with 9.2 million streams.

Asake's third album, 'Lungu Boy', has not left him disappointed, as the 15-track album has broken several records across streaming platforms.

Nigerian music star Wizkid, British rappers Central Cee and Stormzy, American superstar Travis Scott, and Brazilian singer Ludmila were some of the acts who jumped on the album. Music charts website Turntable Charts has shared new details of records broken by the 5-day-old album.

**Biggest opening day**

The album had 5.86 million streams on Spotify Nigeria on its opening day. The record beaks the previous one set by Davido's 'Timeless' with 4.91 million streams.

'Lungu Boy' is also now the record holder for the biggest opening day global streams for a Nigerian album with 9.2 million streams.

**Highest-charting Nigerian album**  
The second track of the album 'MMS' featuring Wizkid recorded 870,577 streams on its first day of release on Spotify Nigeria, which sets a new record on the platform after surpassing the previous 626,000 streams set by Wizkid's 'IDK' feat. Zlatan.

Asake's latest is also the highest-charting



Nigerian album on Apple Music US, where it reached the record for the highest-charting Nigerian album on the platform, jointly held by Burna Boy's 'I Told Them' and Davido's 'Timeless'. Asake is the first Nigerian artist to have three albums reach No. 1 on Apple Music UK following his debut album 'Mr. Money With The Vibe' and sophomore album 'Work of Art'.

'Lungu Boy' is now on its way to breaking the record for the biggest opening week for an album on Spotify Nigeria currently held by Davido's 'Timeless', which garnered 14.4 million streams. Lungu, as of Day 4, has 13.52 million streams.

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## Rema, Tems made it into Barack Obama's 2024 Summer Playlist

**F**ormer United States President Barack Obama has listed two Nigerian singers, Rema and Tems on his 2024 summer playlist.

This year's playlist featured 44 songs from various genres. While commenting about the list on X on Monday, Obama said, "With summer winding down, I wanted to share some songs that I've been listening to lately and it wouldn't be my playlist if it didn't include an eclectic mix. I hope you find something new to listen to!"

**See the Full List Below:**

- Shaboozey: "A Bar Song (Tipsy)"
- Charli XCX: "365"
- Billie Eilish: "Chihiro"
- Tems: "Love Me JeJe"
- Artemas: "I Like the Way You Kiss Me"
- Tommy Richman: "Million Dollar Baby"
- Hope Tala: "I Can't Even Cry"
- Blackstreet: "No Diggity" [ft. Dr. Dre and Queen Pen]
- Enny: "Charge It"
- Carminho: "O Quarto (Soundtrack Version)"
- Calimossa: "What's in the Tea?"
- Hubert Sumlin / Keith Richards: "I Love the Life I Live, I Live the Life I Love"
- PJ Morton: "Say So" [ft. JoJo]
- Cleo Sol: "Why Don't You"
- The Miracles: "You've Really Got a Hold on Me"
- H.E.R.: "Process"
- 2Pac: "How Do U Want It" [ft. K-Ci & JoJo]
- Sting: "If You Love Somebody Set Them Free"
- Lucinda Williams: "Unsuffer Me"
- Jill Scott: "Golden"
- The Rolling Stones: "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction"
- Saweezie: "My Best"
- Charles Mingus: "Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting"
- Norah Jones: "Come Away With Me"
- Common: "The People"
- Etta James: "Don't Cry Baby"
- Chris Jedi / Gaby Music / Dei V: "Bad Boy" [ft. Anuel AA and Ozuna]
- Rema: "Yayo"
- Bonny Light Horseman: "Old Dutch"
- Willow: "Symptom of Life"
- Moneybagg Yo: "Whiskey Whiskey" [ft. Morgan Wallen]
- Myles Smith: "Stargazing"
- Glorilla / Megan Thee Stallion: "Wanna Be"
- Tyla / Gunna / Skillibeng: "Jump"
- Bad Bunny / Feid: "Perro Negro"
- Paul Russell: "Lil Boo Thang"
- Digable Planets: "Rebirth of Slick (Cool Like Dat)"
- Bob Marley & the Wailers: "Them Belly Full (But We Hungry)"
- Nick Drake: "One of These Things First"
- Bob Dylan: "Silvio"
- Pharoah Sanders: "Love Is Everywhere"
- The Supremes: "Where Did Our Love Go"
- Beyoncé: "Texas Hold 'Em"
- Samara Joy: "Someone to Watch Over Me" [ft. Pasquale Grasso]

## Chike, 4 other music icons on this weekend's African Voices Changemakers



**F**ive renowned African musicians will be guests on this weekend's edition of

CNN International's African Voices Changemakers, sponsored by digital solutions company, Globacom.

The 30-minute magazine programme will feature Nigerian songwriter, singer and actor, Chike Ezekpeazu Osebuka, popularly known as Chike, Damilola L.A.X Afolabi of Starboy Entertainment, talented singer and rapper, Blessing Akiode of Candy Bleakz fame, as well as Ekeh Chiaka Joseph (Majeeed) and Wendy Shay from Ghana.

Chike, a 31-year-old Glo ambassador, graduated from Covenant University in Nigeria. He gained fame through Project Fame West Africa and acting before pursuing music full-time. He won the 2020 City People Music Award for Album of the Year. L.A.X, is also 31 and he holds a Master's degree from the University of Manchester and started his music career as a rapper.

Candy Bleakz on the other hand began her musical journey in 2013 in a group of three called Flybois and was signed to Chocolate City Music in 2020, while Majeeed, a Mass Communications graduate from Iscom University, Republic of Benin started his music career with two promotional singles. "Gee for Life" and "Rocky Lo".

Also Wendy Shay, a Ghanaian honed her musical skills in Germany before launching her career with her debut single "Uber Driver" in 2018. Aged 28, she is a trained nurse.

The stars will delight viewers with the story of their adventure in the music world on DSTV Channel 401 on Saturday at 8.30 a.m. and the show will be repeated the same day at noon. Other repeats follow on Sunday at 4.30 a.m. and 7.00 p.m., on Monday at 4.00 a.m., and on Saturday next week at 8.30 a.m. and 12 noon. It will also air again on Sunday at 4.30 a.m. and 7.00 p.m. and on Monday at 4.00 a.m.



# Boluwatife Akinola wins 14th recipient of 7Up Harvard Business School scholarship

Nigeria's leading beverage brand 7Up, is proud to announce Boluwatife Akinola as its 14th recipient of the prestigious 7Up Harvard Business School (HBS) scholarship award. Ms Akinola was unveiled at an exclusive ceremony held at SBC's head office in Ijora, Lagos.

The fully funded MBA scholarship at the prestigious Harvard Business School, Boston, Massachusetts, United States, is awarded each year by Seven-Up Bottling Company to a Nigerian resident in Nigeria who must have been admitted to HBS for an MBA programme but unable to fund it.

The recipient screening and selection goes through a thorough and rigorous competitive process upon which a winner is selected based on a set of criteria by the management of Seven Up Bottling Company.

Nkemdirim Agboti, Head of Legal and Corporate Affairs, SBC, in her welcome speech commended the Chairman of SBC, Mr. Faysal El-Khalil for birthing the 7Up Harvard Business School Scholarship initiative while also appreciating the efforts of the Managing Director, Mr. Ziad Maalouf for sustaining and building on the initiative.

The Chief Marketing Officer, SBC,

Norden Thurston, in his comments said that the initiative is one of SBC's proofs to continually inspire and empower young Nigerians by investing in the education of future leaders of the country. "By providing ordinary Nigerians an extraordinary access and exposure to one of the world's leading educational institutions, we are not only equipping young Nigerians with the skills and knowledge needed to make a substantial impact on our society but also inspiring them in driving innovation and change in diverse sectors for a better society. The 7Up Harvard Business School scholarship established in 2010 to commemorate SBC's 50th anniversary has successfully awarded 14 receipts and now grown to become a testament to SBC's commitment to corporate social responsibility and its dedication to giving back to the society where it has been operating since October 1, 1960.

Restating its commitment to this initiative, the Managing Director, Ziad Maalouf, noted that the initiative has been designed to nurture a pool of globally educated Nigerians who will contribute significantly to the nation's development. Mr. Maalouf in a



charge to the recipient inspired her to "Go, spread your wings, learn and develop. However, important to return home to make a difference in Nigeria and SBC will support you in making a difference" By empowering young minds like yourself, we are laying the foundation for a brighter future for all Nigerians."

Since its inception, the scholarship has recognized and supported the following outstanding individuals who have gone on to achieve remarkable successes: Misan Rewane the maiden recipient of the scholarship in 2010 is fully involved in upscaling the employability skills of fresh graduates across West Africa through her organization- West African Vocational Education(WAVE).

Other past recipients who are doing amazing things and adding value to the society are: Olujimi Williams (2012), Mayowa Kuyoro (2013), Oluwasola Olaniyan(2014), Bankole Makanjuola(2015), Chidozie Ibekwe(2016), Ahmed Alimi(2017),

Olunma Izejiobi (2018), Uzoma Anyanwa (2019), Abdul-Rahman Buhari (2020), Desayo Ajisegiri (2021), Dafi Rogers-Halliday(2022) and Oreoluwa Agunbiade(2023). Expressing her gratitude, Boluwatife Akinola, the 2024 recipient, said: "I am deeply honored to receive the 7Up Harvard Business School scholarship. This opportunity is a dream come true, and I am committed to using my education to make a significant impact in Nigeria by returning to contribute my quota in reducing the number of out of school children in Nigeria. I am grateful to SBC for believing in my potential and providing me with this platform to contribute to the betterment of our society."

As a business, Seven Up Bottling Company continues to guarantee a greener future for our beloved Naija by inspiring and enabling young Nigerians through various similar initiatives such as SME Scale Up, Pepsi Football Academy and Pepsi Music Academy amongst others.

## Glo, LASG Unveil M-Agric Initiative to Drive Food Sufficiency, Farmer Empowerment

Digital Solutions Company, Globacom, in partnership with the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture, has launched M-Agric, an innovative agricultural support service aimed at promoting food sufficiency and empowering Nigerian farmers.

This groundbreaking initiative offers practical guidance on managing successful farming businesses across various sectors, including livestock, aquaculture, cash crops, and value-additions.

"M-Agric is a unique lottery service that provides users with daily, weekly, or monthly agricultural tips and trivia questions, enabling them to grow their own food and earn extra income. Users will receive messages on their mobile devices and participate in quizzes to win fantastic cash prizes, farm equipment, and internship opportunities", said Globacom in a press statement in Lagos. The company said the partnership was unveiled to encourage young, savvy, and informed Nigerians to engage in farming thus driving the country towards food



sufficiency and affordability. Globacom explained that subscription options include NGN 50 daily, NGN 200 weekly, and NGN 500 monthly, with a free 24-hour trial for new and existing subscribers, adding that weekly draw to select winners based on their performance in the trivia questions associated with each agricultural package will be conducted at the end of every week. Only 2 top scorers will be eligible for fantastic prizes Those who want to participate are required to dial \_20791\_2# and follow the prompts to win in the lottery service.

## MTN Foundation, Others Battle Drug Abuse Among Youths

MTN Foundation has said it is intensifying efforts to combat substance abuse among youths through its Anti-Substance Abuse Programme of 2019. This initiative, it said, followed alarming statistics showing approximately 40 per cent of Nigerians, aged 18-35, struggle with drug addiction.

According to a statement, ASAP aims to raise awareness about detrimental effects of substance abuse through advocacy walks, educational programmes, and stakeholder conferences in Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt

The foundation noted it has partnered National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to host the annual National Conference on World Drug Day, highlighting importance of early intervention and prevention.

"The urgency of addressing substance abuse cannot be overstated. Beyond its immediate health consequences, substance abuse erodes social cohesion, diminishes educational attainment, and hampers economic progress," the statement said.

MTN ASAP campaign, with its holistic approach and partnerships, represents a source of optimism in this struggle, the foundation said.

By fostering a culture of prevention and support, ASAP is seeking to deter initial experimentation with drugs and offers a lifeline to those grappling with addiction.

Executive Director, Oduwayo Sanya, stressed the collective responsibility in tackling this issue, saying "it is everyone's fight because their high is our low."

Sanya noted that the sentiment resonates deeply as Nigerians unite under ASAP, reaffirming their commitment to safeguarding the well-being and future of youths.

The director said through its advocacy walks and educational initiatives, MTN Foundation and its partners reaffirm their resolve to combat substance abuse and empower a generation resilient to its influence.



MTN

# 12-Year-Old Brilliant Student Emerges MTN Nigeria's One-Day CEO After Becoming Spelling Bee Champion

A 12-year-old brilliant Nigerian boy, **Daniel Nkanu Victor**, a student from Intimacy with Christ Secondary School, Mararaba, Nasarawa State has emerged as **MTN Nigeria's honorary One-Day CEO**.

This recognition follows Daniel's impressive triumph in the **2023 MTN mPulse Spelling Bee** competition.

With a confident stride and a contagious smile, the 12-year-old stepped into the shoes of industry veteran, **Karl Toriola**, at the helm of Africa's largest telecommunications network at 9 am on Wednesday, January 31st.

*"I'm honoured to be here today. Leading Nigeria's largest telecommunications company, even just for today, is a very special experience for me and I want to thank my family, my teachers and everyone who cheered me on while I prepared for this competition. I look forward to learning a lot,"* said **Daniel Nkanu Victor**, **MTN Nigeria One-Day CEO**, addressing MTN executives and media representatives.

Welcoming Daniel during the symbolic handover, **Karl Toriola, CEO of MTN Nigeria** said, *"For a day, Daniel becomes a symbol of what we strive to achieve a future where young Nigerians lead the way in technology, innovation, and social progress."*

*"His presence at the helm is a powerful reminder of the responsibility we carry and the opportunities we can create."*

*"His journey is a message from MTN to every young Nigerian we see your potential, we hear your voices, and we believe that you have the power to shape a better, more inclusive tomorrow. Initiatives like the Spelling Bee and the One-Day CEO are our way of saying, 'We believe in you,' and are committed to providing platforms for you to shine, learn, and become the leaders of tomorrow."*

In his capacity as CEO, Daniel engaged with key members of MTN Nigeria's executive team.

He also met with members of the media, where he confidently discussed key initiatives, including the unveiling of additional mPulse education data bundles.

**Adia Sowho, Chief Marketing Officer, MTN Nigeria** reflected on the significance of the initiative, saying, *"We are delighted to recognise Daniel's hard-earned victory."*

*"His success is a collective triumph for his family, his school, his teachers, and all of us who believe in the power of education."*

Daniel, who out-spelled over 30,000 participants in the **MTN mPulse spelling bee**, attends the same school as last year's winner, showcasing the

school's consistent commitment to nurturing such talent.

In addition to his honorary CEO title, Daniel was awarded a N2.5 million scholarship grant, a laptop, a smartphone, and an MTN goody bag.

His English teacher and school received a N500,000 grant and modern ICT devices, respectively, acknowledging their integral role in his success.

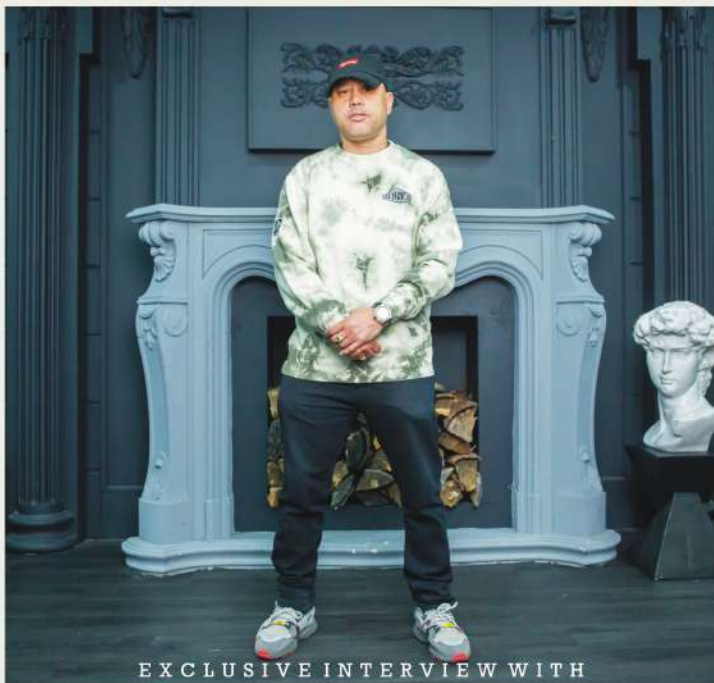
Speaking on the day's events, **Esther Akinnukawe, Chief Human Resources Officer at MTN Nigeria**, said, *"Today has been not only significant but also deeply inspiring. It's heartening to see the impact of our initiatives on students like Daniel and the wider community."*

*"At MTN, we see investing in young people as a strategic investment in our nation's future. By nurturing young minds like Daniel, we are building a generation of leaders who will drive human capital development and socio-economic growth."*

The **MTN mPulse Spelling Bee** is a self-development proposition designed by **MTN Nigeria** to promote digital literacy and academic excellence, and thus contribute to enhancing the nation's educational sector.







EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH

# DJ POWER

**I**n the ever-evolving tapestry of music, few artists possess the audacity to transcend borders and genres with the boldness of **DJ Power**. He is the *Sonic Sorcerer Who Defies Boundaries* and *Electrifies the World!* From Brooklyn to Toronto, DJ Power's Audacious Journey Takes Music to New Heights with Epic Collaborations and Electrifying Beats. Critics Rave, Audiences Crave - His Magnetic Stage Presence Sets the World Ablaze!"

This illustrious award-winning producer and DJ, hailing from the bustling metropolises of Brooklyn and Toronto, have charted a course that leaves a trail of sonic wonder in its wake. It's a journey marked by electrifying beats, groundbreaking collaborations, and a magnetic musical prowess that has firmly established him among the elite of contemporary artists.

With a career that spans continents and cultures, **DJ Power** has had the privilege of working with international music luminaries that read like a who's who of the industry. From the infectious grooves of **SL** to the fiery presence of **Sean Paul**, the lyrical genius of **Vybz Kartel**, the beats of **Walshy Fire** from **Major Lazer**, the Ghanaian dancehall sensation **Stonebwoy**, and the Soca Monarch, **Machel Montano**, **DJ Power** has cultivated a global musical family that mirrors the diverse nature of his work.

**DJ Power's** distinctive productions have not just graced the airwaves; they've been celebrated by critics and audiences alike. Accolades from venerable institutions like **The New York Times**, **Complex**, and **The Fader** bear witness to his ability to break boundaries and create an electrifying fusion of electronic and urban music.

Fresh from the success of "*Special Delivery*," DJ Power has once again proven his prowess by teaming up with Brooklyn's R&B queen, **Alex Mali**, Nigerian hitmaker **Reekado Banks**, and emerging talent **Ajura**. The result is nothing short of a musical revelation that showcases the strength of cross-genre collaboration.

"*Choose to Lie*" is a groundbreaking musical collaboration that exemplifies **DJ Power's** commitment to defying geographical and cultural boundaries. This genre-blending masterpiece seamlessly merges **R&B**, **Afrobeats**, and **Amapiano** into an undeniably catchy and culturally transcendent global phenomenon. **DJ Power**, alongside an exceptional ensemble of artists, has crafted a sonic revelation that unites continents and captures the hearts of music lovers worldwide.

Enjoy this exclusive interview with the prolific **DJ Power**.

*I think it's amazing to see how far Afrobeats has come and wish the genre continued success. I remember my father introducing me to Fela Kuti's music as a kid and then when I started producing at 15 he was one of the first people I sampled.*

**What stands DJ power out from every other DJ putting out records?**

I think the main difference is that I produce my own music and have my own sound and it's original. A lot of DJs have producers make the music for them so the song sounds like whatever producer they use. I've always experimented with fusing different sounds and trying to create new genres like Afro-Trap, Drill-Dancehall, Soca-House etc. "*Choose To Lie*" is also a fusion between Afrobeats and R&B.

**You've worked with a diverse range of artists in your career. What draws you to collaborate with such a variety of musicians, and what do you enjoy most about these partnerships?**

What I enjoy most is first creating the music and getting it to perfection. Then I know when the artist adds their magic to it, it's golden. The best feeling is being in the studio with the artist and hearing what they create on the track. That's where you get the best vibe and I love producing vocals.

**Your recent collaboration, "Choose To Lie," with Alex Mali, Reekado Banks, and Ajura has garnered a lot of attention. Can you share the inspiration behind this track and how the collaboration came to life?**

The inspiration started with a melody my brother Mac-Steph sent me and then I worked on the track for months till I was happy with it. Sometimes it's like that I never rush till I get it right. Then I had a session with my friend Alex Mali and she heard it, loved it and recorded. She killed it! Since the track had an Afro Vibe and she had soulful vocals on it, I wanted to add an African artist to compliment the sound. A few artists sent some references but when I heard Ajura's vocals I loved what he added to it. Then when Reekado Banks did his verse I was like wow! We got one! He killed it.

**What was the most exciting or memorable moment during the creation of "Choose To Lie"?**

When Alex Mali recorded her vocals I knew it was magic, the vibe in the studio was crazy. She's one of the most talented artists I've ever worked with and we have amazing chemistry in the lab. Then when Reekado and Ajura added their vocals, I knew this was going up as they killed it and brought the amazing energy the track needed.

**The song's narrative revolves around themes of love, self-discovery, and transformation. How did these themes resonate with you personally during the creative process?**

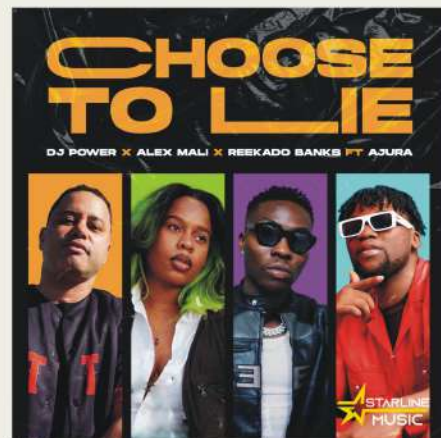
I think a lot of people can relate to the theme, we've all been in relationships and been lied to. Me personally, I know sometimes you like someone and they don't like you the same way or vice versa. Everyone's been in that situation before.

**What unique contributions did each artist bring to "Choose To Lie," and how did their individual styles complement the overall sound of the song?**

I think everyone brought amazing vibes to the track and complement each other. It started with the music and then Alex brought her concept and soulful sound to it. Reekado brings the smooth African element and really brings a big hype to the song. Adding Ajura brings everything together because his vocals are the bridge and his verse is crazy too. The final stage was editing the vocals and arrangement and adding sounds to complement everything like horns etc.

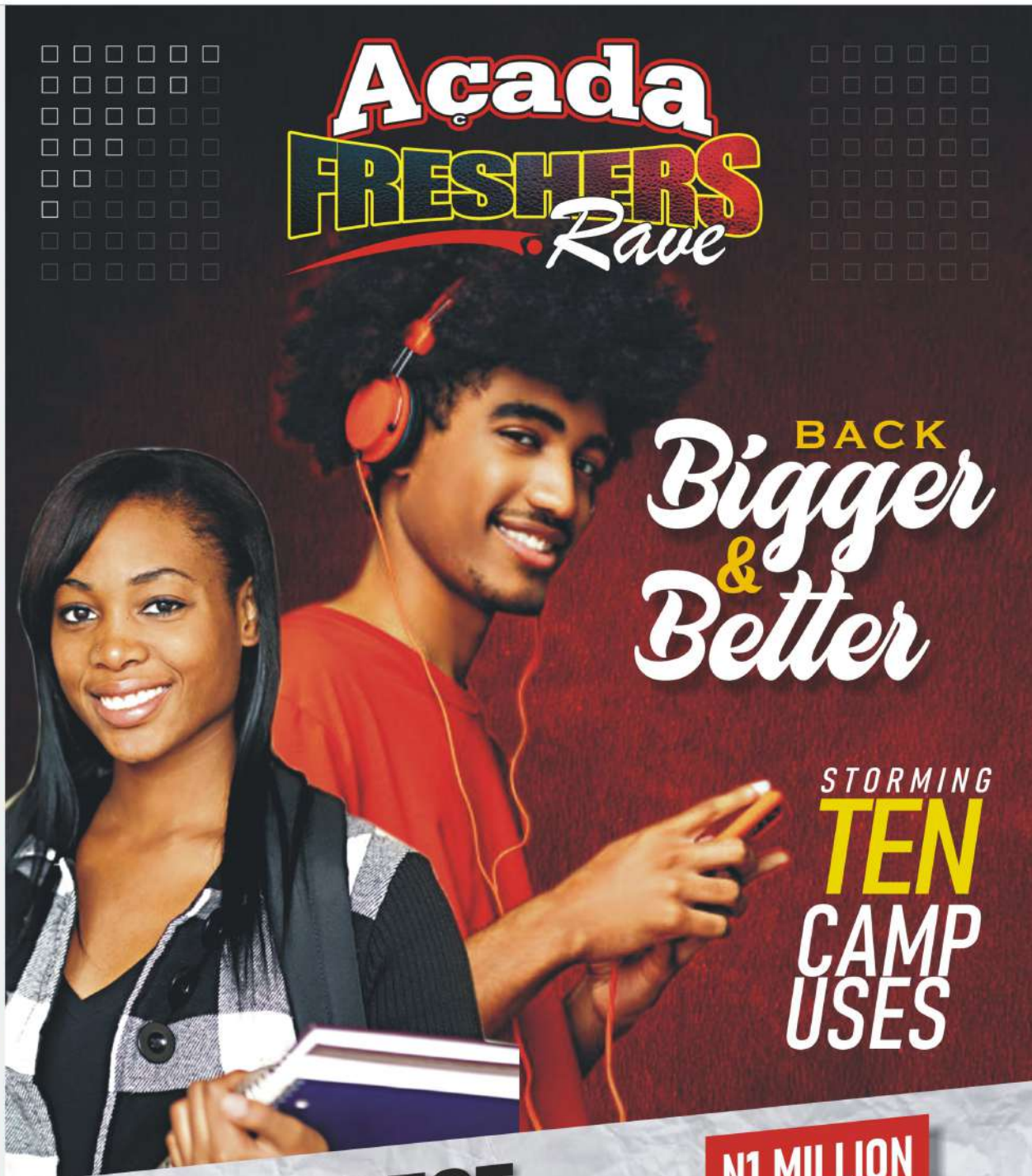
**How do you see "Choose To Lie" fitting into the current music landscape, and what do you hope it will bring to your fans and new listeners?**

I think "*Choose To Lie*" is a unique combo of Afrobeats and R&B so it will stand on its own and that's how I like my songs to be. I don't want it sounding like something else. I hope people will recognize the uniqueness of my collaborations and the work I put in. My last single "*Special Delivery*" had UK drill rapper **SL**, dancehall legend **Vybz Kartel**, Junior Reid, rappers **Nojoke**, **Jigsaw** and **Scrilla** so I enjoy bringing artists together on a different type of track than they're normally used to.





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