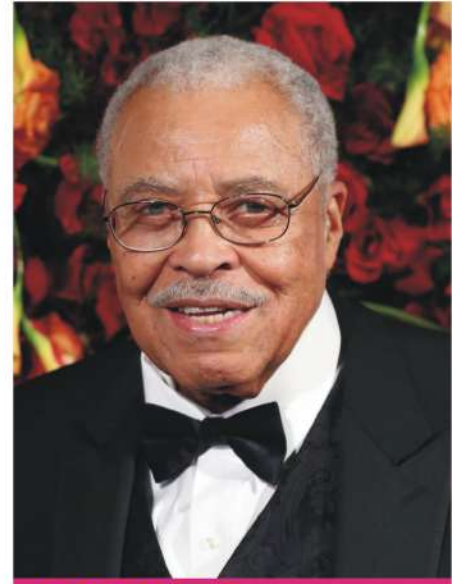




MTN CHAMP
MTN UNVEILS
TOP 20 ATHLETES
INTO THE INAUGURAL
COHORT OF MOC
ATHLETICS ACADEMY



JAMES EARL JONES
VOICE OVER KING AND
ICONIC ACTOR PASSES
AWAY AT 93

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Chike

From AFROBEATS to NOLLYWOOD

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**15 MOST EXPENSIVE
NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES**



MTN Unveils Top 20 Athletes into the Inaugural Cohort of MoC Athletics Academy

...reiterates commitment to grassroots sports development

Leading ICT company, **MTN Nigeria**, has further demonstrated its commitment to grassroots sports development by inducting 20 talented athletes into the **Making of Champions (MoC) Athletics Academy**. The induction took place during a press conference held at **MTN Plaza**, the company's headquarters in Ikoji, Lagos.

Selected from the top performers in **MTN Champs Seasons 1 and 2**, they will become the first cohort of **Team MTN** inducted into the Academy. As part of the company's partnership with **MoC**, they will have access to world-class training facilities, expert coaching, and a comprehensive development programme during their one-year residency at the Academy. It is designed to enhance their skills and prepare them for international competitions such as the **Commonwealth Games** and the **Olympics**.

The **MTN Champs** initiative aims to nurture young athletes who demonstrate outstanding talent and potential across

different categories in athletics, from track and field to shot put and jumping.

While expressing his excitement, the **Chief Executive Officer, Karl Tortola**, said "We are incredibly proud to welcome these 20 remarkable athletes into the MoC Athletics Academy. Their exceptional achievements and unwavering commitment to their sport is truly inspiring. The Academy will provide them with the support they need to reach full potential and make a significant impact in their respective categories."

"At MTN, our goal is to empower them with the resources they need to achieve greatness and inspire the next generation of athletes. Their induction into the Academy is a symbol of our collective journey. It's a reflection of our commitment to supporting our athletes, and a recognition of the hard work and dedication that they put in every day. We look forward to the scores of medals they're sure to win at future Olympic games," he said

MTN's investment in this initiative reflects the company's broader mission to foster athletic excellence and reignite interest in athletics in Nigeria. The programme has made a significant impact, with several athletes achieving notable successes, including representation at the recent **2024 Paris Olympic Games**. **Eight MTN CHAMPS Ambassadors** competed across various events, with **Chukwuebuka Enekwechi** and **Ruth Usoro** reaching the finals in shot put and long jump, respectively. By grooming future Olympians, **MTN** is committed to playing a pivotal role in advancing sports and youth development in the country.

Modelled after Jamaica's successful secondary championships, **MTN CHAMPS** is a national track and field competition designed to identify and nurture Nigeria's future Olympic champions. Since its inception in 2023, **MTN CHAMPS** has unearthed exceptional talent across seven Nigerian cities: **Benin, Uyo, Ibadan, Abuja, Asaba, Jos, and Calabar**, with over **15,000 athletes** from **900 schools** participating in the first two seasons.



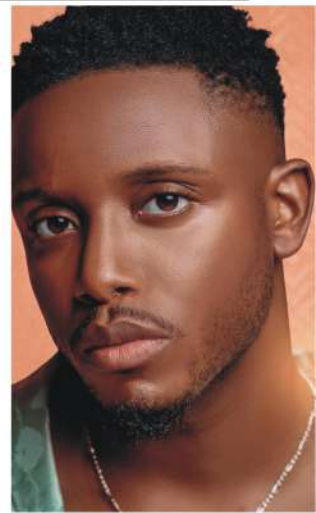


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CHIKE

Love Songs + Nollywood

The hit love track, 'If You No Love' feat **Mayorkun** off the *Boo of the Booless* album turned **Chike** into a national superstar and made him one of the most sought after artists for wedding ceremonies performances. **Chike** soared to fame following the release of his debut album,

Boo of the Booless. Despite receiving little to no attention at the time, the album's number of streams on streaming services began to rise when people sought refuge in their homes amid the **Covid** outbreak, causing the album to peak at number one on the Nigerian album charts for six weeks and inspiring a slew of songs like "Nakupenda."

Chike's early love of singing derives from growing up in a musically interested family. His determination to improve his abilities intensified after he was named the best vocalist in his high school, and also at a later stage of his career when he auditioned in **The Voice of Nigeria** and **Project Fame West Africa** reality shows. After **The Voice Nigeria**, **Chike** was signed to **Universal Republic** along with the other top four contestants on the show. He released his debut single *Fancy U* in December 2016 under **Universal Republic**, with its music video being released in early 2017. **Chike** was also made an ambassador for **Airtel Nigeria** along with the other seven finalists of **The Voice Nigeria**. **Chike** departed from **Universal Republic** in November 2017 to become an independent artist. He released his next single, titled "Beautiful People," in February 2018.

Chike released his 14-track album titled *Boo of the Booless* during his special guest performance on the **2020 Big Brother Lockdown TV show**.

In 2024, **Chike** announced his third studio album, *Son of Chike*, set for release on July 19, 2024. The album includes 12 tracks, such as "Unto You," "Lifetime Love," and "Ego Ojibo." It features collaborations with prominent Nigerian artists like **Olamide**, **Ladipoe**, and **Qing Madi**.

Chike has described the album as a deeply personal project that reflects his cultural heritage and experiences, aiming to connect with listeners on an emotional level.

Chike is a native of Onitsha, Anambra State and is one of four children. **Chike's** decision to pursue a career in music was influenced by his family. He is a graduate of **Covenant University** with a bachelor's degree in **Computer Engineering**. Speaking about his preference for singing love songs, **Chike** stated that, "I feel, for somebody to talk about love in a way that another person can understand, they have to feel love. I've felt love, and even when I speak about pain, I've felt pain too. Maybe that's why I'm able to interpret it in a way that meets the pain points of listeners and also something they can enjoy. So that's pretty much it for me. I can interpret it because I've gone through those painful moments a couple of times at least."

In April 2017, **Chike** had been cast by **Africa Magic** to play the role of **Mayowa Badmus** in a television drama named **Battleground**.

Chike made his feature film debut with **Jade Osiberu's Gangs of Lagos** which was **Amazon Prime's** first Nollywood feature. Speaking in an interview with **Zikoko!** on his big screen debut: "If Jade calls you for a project, you jump on it because you know it'll be good. I'd already worked with her on a project I can't talk about before she asked me to do *Gangs of Lagos*. I guess I delivered on that one, so she decided to give me something more challenging. I remember being impressed by the script and having questions about how we'd pull off such a large scale production, but then I remembered it's *Jade*, and she always puts out the best projects.

"I play *Ify*, a carefree guy who's kind of

naive...I'm trying to tell you what I can without giving away too much. He's surrounded by love from his family and friends in *Isale Eko*, but bad things happen to him as a result of his naivety. He's just a guy trying to navigate life on the streets.

"I got to see different parts of myself as a person. Could my life have gone differently, or could I have ended up as the guy I'm playing if my choices were different? But the most exciting thing about acting is I can do the wildest things and not get judged for it because it's not real life. It's not every job that gives you the freedom to be someone completely different every time," stated **Chike**.

Chike is the definition of a magnificent vocalist and brilliant songwriter who puts listeners in a trance with his impassioned lyrics and flawless vocals. His ability to express wanton desires through exquisite melodies on songs as well as enthralling hooks is what makes him a formidable force in the Nigerian scene.

In September 2023, **Chike** was announced as a brand ambassador for **Glo** telecommunication alongside **Asake**, **Kizz Daniel**.



GLO JOLLY WIN PROMO PRODUCES FIRST MILLIONAIRE



L-R: Aminu Tolulope, Tetragrammaton Ltd; Mojeed Aluko, Head VAS, Globacom; N1m prize winner, Olieh Somtochukwu, his friend, Emmanuel Ogbori; Chidi Nnadozie, CEO, Nitroswitch; Emmanuel Fabeyo, VAS, Globacom, at the presentation of the prize to Somtochukwu in the Glo Jolly Win promo in Lagos on Wednesday.

Olieh Somtochukwu, who works with a real estate company in Anambra State, has emerged the first winner of N1 million in the Glo Jolly Win promo. The promo offers subscribers the chance to win cash prizes and airtime by answering trivia questions or spinning a wheel. It is organized in partnership with NCC-licensed companies, Nitroswitch, an aggregator, and Tetragrammaton, a value-added service provider. Somtochukwu, who played with just N100 in August, emerged after a

promo draw held in line with the National Lottery Regulatory Commission (NLRC) procedure. He was presented with his prize at a ceremony in Lagos. The winner, who travelled to Lagos from Onitsha, Anambra State, to receive his prize, paid glowing tribute to Globacom especially after receiving the credit alert of N1 million on his phone before the event ended. Somtochukwu explained that the money came in at a time that he needed help to take care of his health challenges. "I was very much surprised. Even up to now, I'm still shocked. I am short of words to express how I feel today. I thought it was a scam when I was called, I thought it was one of those random calls you get, but on coming here, I can say I am happy with what has happened here. I've received the

alert for the N1 million," he disclosed. Mojeed Aluko of Globacom's VAS Department explained that "the Glo Jolly Win is a lottery service in which subscribers can answer trivia questions or spin a wheel to win loads of airtime and cash prizes for as low as N100 daily, with no need for downloads or any storage usage on phones. Subscribers can select their preferred services from the options of Jolly Trivia, Wheel, Win & Life to join in the fun and excitement of the lottery with the potential to become millionaires like Somtochukwu". Speaking at the event, Chidi Nnadozie, CEO of Nitroswitch, praised the partnership with Globacom, saying, "We're proud to bring excitement and rewards to Glo subscribers through the lottery." The company is licensed by NCC as a VAS aggregator to integrate and deliver third party content services such as video, animation, gaming, infotainment and lottery services from licensed Content Providers to mobile network operators in Nigeria. Tetragrammaton, the owner of the Jolly Suite lottery services, offers various value-added services including lottery, entertainment, video and gaming services to mobile subscribers through the VAS aggregator. Subscribers can join the lottery by dialing *20152# or, alternatively, send JWD, JWW or JWM to 20152 as applicable.

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Ruth Omole: FUTA Postgraduate Student who Commutes in Style on Campus

In the bustling campus of the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA), a familiar sight catches the eyes of many a young woman gliding through the throngs of students on a bicycle. RUTH ADESEYE OMOLE, a daring PhD student in the Department of Food Science and Technology, in the University's School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology stands out not just for her academic pursuits but also for her unique mode of transportation. For her, riding a bicycle is more than just a means of getting around; it is a symbol of resilience, freedom, and joy. Growing up in a modest household, Ruth always had a fascination with bicycles. As a child, she would watch with longing as other children rode their bicycles, wishing she could join them. However, her family's financial situation made it impossible to afford even the simplest of bicycles. "I remember those days vividly; Ruth recalls with a smile. I would sit back and wonder when I would be able to afford a bicycle. I have always loved bicycles." Despite the financial challenges, Ruth's parents instilled in her a strong sense of determination and the importance of

education. They encouraged her to dream big and work hard; values that would eventually propel her to pursue degrees in sciences, seeing that she had her first and second degrees here in FUTA. She said, "my parents always told me that education is the key to a better future, so, I focused on my studies and made a promise to myself that one day, I would own a bicycle and ride it with pride." That day finally came during her master's degree programme Ruth bought her first bicycle from her savings not the most expensive but a sturdy and befitting one. It was a moment of triumph and joy for her. "When I got my first bicycle, it felt like I had wings, she laughs. It wasn't just about transportation; it was about fulfilling a childhood dream and proving to myself that I could overcome any obstacle."



Riding her bicycle has since become an integral part of Ruth's daily routine. She pedals her way across the campus, from her hostel to the library, and to her research lab. Not only does it save her money, but it also provides her with a sense of freedom and fun. "Cycling is therapeutic for me, Ruth explains. It clears my mind, keeps me fit, saves me arrival time to lectures and meetings, and allows me to enjoy the beauty of the campus." Her choice to ride a bicycle has also inspired many of her peers as they have begun to see that it is okay to embrace simplicity and find joy in little things. Her story is a reminder of how far one can go with determination and a positive attitude. As Ruth nears the completion of her PhD, she reflects on her journey with gratitude and hope. "The bicycle has been more than just a mode of transportation for me, she says thoughtfully. It represents my journey from a humble background to becoming a PhD student. It is a reminder that no matter where you start, with hard work and perseverance, you can achieve your dreams."

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NDLEA Proposes Mandatory Drug Tests For Varsity Admission

The 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."

Five S'East schools get N467m student loan

No fewer than five tertiary institutions in the South-East have benefited from the Federal Government's student loan scheme as of September 6, 2024, data obtained from the Nigeria Education Loan Fund revealed. The revelation comes amidst earlier allegations that NEFFUND was deliberately shunning schools in the South-East in its disbursement process.

Amidst the allegations, NEFFUND said it did not shun any institution, explaining that none of the South-East institutions had completed the requisite verification process. "It's important to clarify that geopolitical zones are not a factor in the disbursement process.

"NEFFUND sent a verification list to every institution eligible for disbursement. Payments are being made to institutions that have responded to this verification. "Unfortunately, we have not yet received any response from the institutions in the South-East. We urge these institutions to complete the verification process so that their students can benefit from the scheme," NEFFUND had said. But checks by our correspondent on Tuesday showed that institutions in the South-East had started benefiting from the Federal Government student loan scheme. According to a list obtained from the

NELFUND, the institutions that have benefited from the loan scheme so far include Alex Ekueme Federal University Ndufu, Ebonyi State, which got N193,377,100; Michael Okpara University, which got N71,016,220; Abia State University, which got N12,469,5003; Federal Polytechnic, Nkede, Imo State, which got N368,400; and Ebonyi State University, which got N78,313,000. Meanwhile, the NEFFUND has continued to intensify sensitisation, particularly in the South-East. Last week, it embarked on a sensitisation programme to the South-East with a visit to Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University in Anambra State and Federal Polytechnic, Nekede in Imo State.

The implementation of the student loan scheme is President Bola Tinubu's flagship project in the education sector. Barely a month after his inauguration as President, Tinubu signed the Access to Higher Education Act, which creates a legal framework for granting loans to indigent or low-income Nigerians to facilitate the payment of their fees in Nigerian tertiary institutions.

The law, reenacted earlier this year, created the NEFFUND, which is saddled with the responsibility of handling all loan requests, grants, disbursement, and recovery. The Fund, according to the Act, is to be funded from multiple streams and will engage in other productive activities.

UNI JOS VC Seeks Alumni Support As Electricity Bill Hits N80m Monthly

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jos, Plateau State, Professor Ishaya Tanko, has expressed concern over the sharp rise in the institution's electricity bill, which has surged from N20 million to N80 million per month. This increase is attributed to higher electricity tariffs for Band A users set

by distribution companies. Speaking during a gathering of the University of Jos Alumni Association (UJAA) Lagos Chapter, Professor Tanko appealed to the alumni to support the university's shift towards solar energy as a more sustainable option for powering the institution. He commended the association for its contributions to the development of the university, including infrastructure and equipment for students. He emphasised the strong relationship between the university and its alumni, describing it as a collaborative effort to uplift the institution's image.



FUTA Agromart Begins Operation

The Vice Chancellor, Federal University of Technology, Akure, FUTA, Professor Adenike Oladiji, has assured that the University through the School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology would sustain and deepen the application of research to the enhancement of agricultural practices and food production for the benefit of its immediate environment and the country. Professor Oladiji gave the assurance on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 while flagging off commencement of business activities at FUTA Agromart, a structured facility for the vending of food produce cultivated, harvested, and refined from the University farms. Other agricultural produce sourced from outside the farm would also be available for sale at the Agromart.

The Vice Chancellor highlighted the significance of the Agromart in advancing FUTA's commitment to agricultural innovation and sustainability whilst noting that FUTA had already distinguished itself in the comity of universities and before major private stakeholders in the Agricultural Sector and explained that staff and students had been making laudable contributions to Agricultural Research works towards sustainable food security in the nation. She said "The Agromart is not just a facility. It is a testament to our dedication to equipping our students with the skills and knowledge they need to excel in the agricultural sector, so today marks a new chapter in our pursuit of excellence in agricultural education." The Vice Chancellor challenged the experts in the school to sustain their extension services to and guidance of farmers in communities close to the University



as their contribution to the drive for food security in the country.

The Dean of the School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, Professor Oluwatooyin Oludahunsi, expressed delight at the opportunities the Agromart presents for students, staff, and the community. She disclosed that the Agromart is a game-changer for the School. She said the Garri on sale at the Agromart are processed at the University Farm from cassava planted by students while the tomato and yam are also sourced from the farm. She also explained that other variety of farm produce harvested from the University farms will also be available for sale at the Agromart.

The Agromart is designed to serve as a hub for practical agricultural education, research, and community engagement and underscores a significant step forward for FUTA's School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology, reinforcing the University's commitment to delivering top-notch agricultural education and research. The Mart also stands as a beacon of FUTA's dedication to driving sustainable agricultural practices in Nigeria and beyond and connection with its contiguous environment through community service for better agricultural practices.

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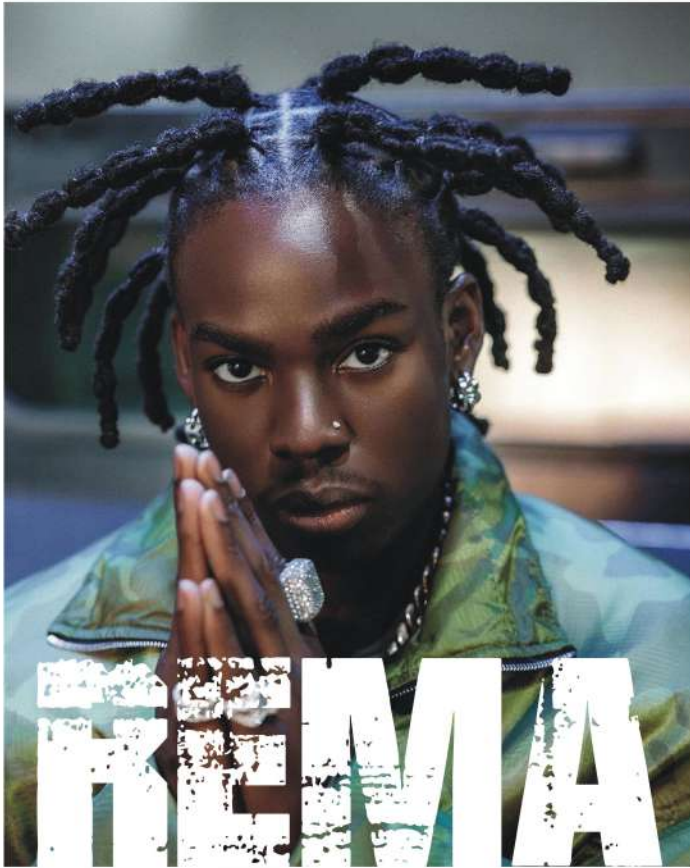
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AFROBEATS GOLDEN CHILD

Nigeria's Afrobeats has taken the world by storm and one of the Next Generation of Stars leading the movement is **Divine Ikubor**

known as **REMA**.

According to **Apple Music**, The Afropop singer is a master of chilled-out, summertime moods.

His critically acclaimed EPs have changed the wave of hip-hop/trap in Nigeria, with the songs "**Iron Man**" and "**Spiderman**" were featured on **Obama's music list in 2019**, while "**Dumebi**" was a global hit.

Describing the talented artiste, **the UK Guardian** wrote: "There is no doubt that the Afrobeats ace is a phenomenal performer but his high-wire artistry, splicing trap and rock'n'roll, proves baffling to his audience.

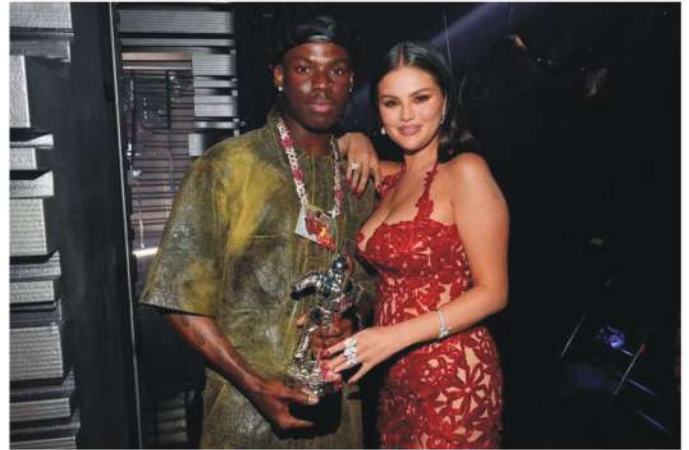
"As the 23-year-old frequently referred to as the "golden child" of Nigeria's music industry, Rema has gone from Benin City to locales as diverse as Curaçao, the Norwegian city of Tonsberg, and three cities in India, where he became the first Nigerian artist to complete a sold-out tour. 2022

*single Calm Down is one of the biggest African hits ever with 1.6bn Spotify streams (across the original and Selena Gomez-starring remix) and his rapid global stardom has placed him as an immediate peer, rather than heir, to long-established countrymen such as **Wizkid**, **Burna Boy** and **Davido**".*

His talent was spotted by **D'Prince**, an artist and younger brother of **Don Jazzy**, founder of **Mavin music label** who brought him to Lagos and invested in him. It was D'Prince, who advised him to release his first hit **Dumebi** which brought the singer into limelight for a lot of music fans in Nigeria.

With the inclusion of his recent triumph at the 2023 **MTV EMA's** held on Sunday, November 5, at the Paris Nord Villepinte, France, where he clinched the **newly-added 'Best Afrobeats'** category, **Rema** is now considered as a top Afrobeats star now on par with **Davido**, **Wizkid** and **Burna Boy** who has successfully carried Afrobeats genre on their backs more than a decade.

Rema's list of achievements in 2023 has been admirable. From securing the title of the **most streamed African album and**



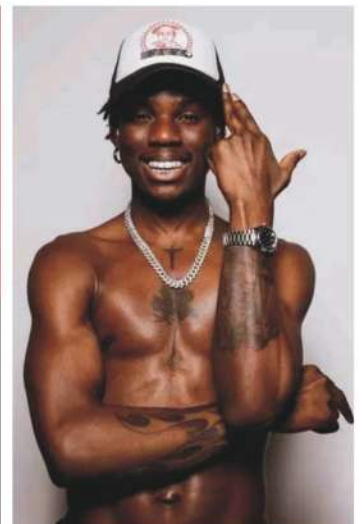
Rema and Selena Gomez

song on Spotify where he surpassed 1 billion streams on the platform to his achievements on the Billboard charts, including being **the first African act to chart on the Billboard Hot 100 for a year**, and being the **highest charting Nigerian song on Billboard Hot 100 at number 3 (Calm Down)**.

Rema raised the bar of his game beyond his chart-topping accolades. His performances at prestigious events such as the **Ballon D'Or** highlight his ability to bridge the gap between music and sports, underscoring his multifaceted appeal even in the world of sports. This feat however has been achieved by **Davido performing at the Fifa World Cup finals in 2022** and **Burna Boys Champions League finals** performance early this year. Rema's music has created a unique impact in unexpected territories, notably in India, a feat unparalleled for a Nigerian artist. Despite recent collaborative efforts between Nollywood and Bollywood in

film production and distribution, the music sphere has remained largely untouched by such cross-cultural support or initiatives. The success of **Rema's track "Calm Down"** shattered this precedent, leading to his unprecedented tour across **India**, marked by sold-out performances in major cities including **Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad**.

Some other notable achievements by Rema in 2023 include Best Male Artist at the 16th **Headies Awards** held in Atlanta, most certified African song, most viewed Nigerian music video on YouTube, first Afrobeats song to reach #1 on US Radio Songs, longest charting African on Billboard US Afrobeats Songs chart, 2023 **MTV VMA "Best Afrobeats"** award winner, the first African act to chart on the **Billboard Hot 100 for a year**. With each milestone he achieves, he not only cements his position as a trailblazer but also paves the way for a new era of African musical excellence.



15

MOST EXPENSIVE NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES

Getting a higher education is every young person's dream. With the current economic reality in Nigeria, getting quality higher education, especially from private institutions comes at a high cost. Below are what some of the top flights private institutions in Nigeria are charging.

Wigwe University, Isiokpo, Rivers State, tops the list with a tuition fee of N12m, including accommodation fees.

Nile University, Abuja, Abuja's most expensive programme, Medicine and Surgery, costs N5.95m, according to the school's website. Fees only cover tuition; accommodation is not included. Tuition for returning students is the same as stipulated in their admission letters.

Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State also known as LCU, is a private university in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. Their MBBS Medicine and Surgery programme, according to the school's website, costs N5.5m per session. Other expensive programmes are their Nursing, Dentistry, and Pharmacy programmes which cost N2.5m each per session.

Afe Babalola University, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State founded by legal luminary, Chief Afe Babalola (SAN), is another expensive university in the country. First-year students of Medicine are to pay N4,567,500 while final-year students will pay a total of N5,586,000. This excludes accommodation which costs N850,000 for the Super Deluxe one-person room, and other fees [Students Association fees, medical screening, ABUAD souvenir (fresh students)] which cost around N70,000.

Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos, charges between N3.9m to N4.4m for its most expensive programme, B.Eng Mechatronics. The fee covers reading materials, and academic facilities, among others. This does not include the non-refundable acceptance fee of N250,000 to be paid on admission.

Igbinedion University, Okada, Edo State, is Nigeria's first private university, known for its commitment to quality education and academic excellence. According to the school's website, final-year medical students can pay as much as N4m as tuition. This excludes other sundry levies.

Bowen University, Iwo, Osun State, a private Baptist Christian Nigerian university located at Iwo in Osun State, Nigeria, is also another university with expensive fees. It is affiliated with the Nigerian Baptist Convention. According to its website, the most expensive programme, the Medicine and Surgery (pre-clinical) programme, costs around N3.8m. Other Fees of N84,000 per session are made up of BBSF N4,000, Entrepreneurship and Soft Skills N20,000, Internet Access and Portal Management N40,000, and Health Care N20,000.

All new and returning students are required to pay N20,000 and N10,000 respectively to Bowen University Parents Association Forum in the first semester and present a receipt of the same for clearance. Also, 70 per cent payment of school fees is expected to be paid at the commencement of the session while the balance of 30 per cent is expected to be paid at the commencement of the second semester.

American University of Nigeria, Adamawa State, founded by former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, in Yola, the capital of his home state of Adamawa, North-East Nigeria, charges N3.511m as its highest fee for its undergraduate engineering students. This excludes accommodation which costs N432,000 for its triple-room apartment, and feeding which costs N813,960 for 21 meals.



Benson Idahosa University, Benin City, Edo State, is a private, Christian university. Previously named Christian Faith University, it was renamed in honour of the late Archbishop Benson Idahosa, a charismatic Pentecostal minister from Benin City, Nigeria, and is said to reflect his evangelical beliefs. Its Medicine and Surgery programme costs between N3.3m and N3.5m per session, according to its website. This is closely followed by its Nursing, Medical Laboratory Science, and Law programmes which cost N1.8m, N1.5m, and N1.2m respectively per session.

Babcock University, Remo, Ogun State, a private Christian co-educational Nigerian university owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nigeria, is located at Ilishan-Remo, Ogun State, Nigeria, equidistant between Ibadan in Oyo State and Lagos. The most expensive programme, which is the LL.B in Law programme, costs N1,539,990, according to the school's website. This excludes feeding which costs N523,600 (two-meal option) or 785,400 (three-meal option).

Redeemer's University is a private university in Ede, Osun State, and prides itself as one of the most cost-effective, top private universities in Nigeria. Their fee structure, according to their website, is flexible and can be paid in three installments. The most expensive programme, which is their undergraduate Law programme, costs N1.447m followed by their Bachelor in Nursing programme which costs

N1.1m per session.

Caleb University, Imota, Lagos, is a private university that is also one of the most expensive in the country. The highest fee, paid by law undergraduates, costs N1.4m, according to the fee tracker available on its website. This

excludes matriculation fees, ICT and global certification, and parents forum which cost N65,000 in total.

Ajayi Crowther University, founded in 2005, is a private faith-based university located in Oyo State, Nigeria. Its Law programme costs N1.7m while its Nursing programme costs N1.4m.

Joseph Ayo Babalola University is a private Nigerian university located in Ikeji-Arakeji, Osun State, Nigeria, established in 2004 by the Christ Apostolic Church Worldwide. The most expensive programmes are the BSc Nursing, Medical Laboratory Technology, and Law programmes which cost between N1.3m and N1.5m each per session.

Covenant University, Otta, Ogun State, affiliated with the Living Faith Church Worldwide, is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities, Association of African Universities, and National Universities Commission, and is one of the most expensive universities in the country. Most of the university's programmes range between N1.1m to N3m, according to the university's website. This includes feeding but excludes accommodation.

Notable mentions include Achievers University, Novena University, Adeleke University, Rhema University, Lagos State University, Obong University, and Oduduwa University.

- PUNCH



9 WAYS To Differentiate Real HUMAN HAIR From A Fake One

To many women, getting human hair is indeed an investment. However, it can be quite depressing when you excitedly spend so much money on some hair bundles only for it to start tangling and matting after a few days.

Just by looking at the hair closely and feeling the texture, one can sometimes tell whether it is real or fake. Some fake ones will, however, look and feel real too. So how do you tell whether your Brazilian/Peruvian etc. is genuine or not?



Burn Test: Simply cut a strand of hair and put it on a burning flame. If it melts slowly into a ball instead of burning, smells like rubber and produces black smoke, it is not human hair. Human hair will immediately catch fire, burn nearly instantly curling into a little ball, and smell like burning hair. Human hair burns, synthetic melts.

Bleaching: When you bleach human hair, it lightens very fast depending on the grade. If it is fake, it will most likely burn.

Referalls: There are unscrupulous businesspeople who mix human and synthetic hair thus you need to be keen when buying. Good reviews from people you trust will also help in getting the right hair.

Texture: Human hair tends to be softer, shinier and more durable than synthetic hair since they are made from actual human hair. Feel the

texture of the hair. Natural hair has each of its strands coated with scales. The hair should thus be smooth if you rub it downward, but resists and feels different if you rub it upward. Synthetic hair is smooth whichever way you rub it.

Colour: If the hair has subtle changes of color and highlights, it is most likely natural. Real hair acquires color through exposure to natural light, which is quite difficult to achieve through artificial means. If a vendor asks you what color of hair you want, then that is a sign it is not real. Human hair comes in the natural color, which is either black or brown. You can always dye it later if you want a different color.

Price: The cost of the hair can also be a huge giveaway. If it is unrealistically cheap, even if they call it a special offer, be wary. If it is real, the seller will try and get the best price

for it. This, however, does not mean that you go for overpriced hair. Shop around and get the average cost.

Wave: Whether you bought it straight or curled, real human hair will always curl up when wet; it turns to its natural state. The hair should also have some motion, a 'bounce' to it and should not be stiff.

Tangle: Real human hair will tangle, but just a little. The longer the hair, the more likely it is to tangle especially at the back of the neck, but this should not worry you much. If the tangling is excessive, be wary.

Shedding: This too, can happen with human hair but if it is excessive, it is not genuine. Shedding should only be a few strands when you comb through. Sealing the wefts of the weave will ensure the hair stays on. Comb the weave with a wide tooth comb from the tips to the roots to reduce shedding.



HOT PERFUMES FOR YOUR WARDROBE



6 DENIM Dilemmas Solved



Once upon a time, picking out a new pair of jeans was as simple as grabbing the right waist size and inseam. But today, with choices like high- or low-rise, skinny or boot-cut, designer or budget brands, shopping for denim can send you into a tailspin. Before you hit the racks, check out these tried-and-true tips for finding the best blues for you.

1. How do I know which wash is the best for me?

"In general, a dark wash with no fading is most slimming," says Sarah Hodge, merchandise manager of MyTrueFit.com, which matches people to jeans based on their measurements. Want to create curves where there are none? Try a pair with faded patches, which accentuate the lighter areas.

2. My jeans get baggy after a few wears. What can I do?

Since jeans that fit you like a glove in the store typically stretch out 1/4" all the way around, buy a pair that's snugger, says Hodge. This may mean going a size down, but don't go too small. "If you can't fit your finger where the waistband

meets the hipbone, or the zipper is pulling, they're too tight," says Mary Alexandre, owner of Denim Bar, a jeans boutique in Washington, DC.

3. I have a tummy. What rise should I be wearing?

Go for a medium- or higher-rise jean, which covers your middle and controls jigglies with no unflattering spillover. Hodge suggests using this handy trick when you're shopping to determine the rise: Place your thumb on the crotch seam and measure up to the top of the waist with your middle finger. A lower rise is 7 1/2" to 8 1/2", a medium rise 8 1/2" to 9 1/2", and a higher rise 9 1/2" and up.

4. What's the best length to wear with heels and flats?

Once you've found a pair you love, buy two and have them hemmed, says Hodge. For bootcut and trouser styles worn with heels, the hem should rest half- to three-quarters of the way down the heel. Wearing flats? Jeans should skim the floor but not drag. Skinnier cuts should hit at or just below the ankle, with both flats and heels.

5. Are a \$15,000 and a \$3,000 pair really that

different?

Yes. Pricier jeans typically have a tighter weave, so they're more durable and less likely to lose shape, says Hodge. "Even if you don't plan to buy expensive jeans, try on a pair," says Clinton Kelly, cohost of TLC's What Not to Wear. "It will help you tell the difference between good-quality inexpensive jeans and those that are just cheap."

6. Are there any high-performance jeans on the market for active types?

Athleta's new durable Dry Dipper Jean (\$10,000; Athleta.com) is made with special technology that wicks moisture from the inside and repels water and stains on the outside. (Take that, ketchup!) Soft and breathable, they also have a drawstring for a custom fit.

How to Treat Dandruff

If you're avoiding all of your dark clothing, and a hat has suddenly become a necessary accessory, it might be time to face the facts: You have dandruff. It's annoying, it's frustrating and it's embarrassing, but the good news is that it's not that hard to treat. Dandruff is not contagious, and it's usually not caused by anything too serious. In fact, the most common cause of

those flakes is dry skin. You might also notice dandruff if you're not washing your hair often enough -- without frequent shampooing, the oil and skin cells can build up on your scalp and eventually flake off. Of course, dandruff can also be an indicator of more serious skin conditions. In many people, seborrheic dermatitis -- a condition marked by oily, irritated skin -- can cause flaky

skin on the scalp and on other areas of the body. Allergies to hair care or scalp care products (also called contact dermatitis) and psoriasis are other contributors to dandruff, as is an excess of a type of fungus called malassezia on the scalp. Because it is such a common problem, there are many options for getting rid of dandruff. In addition to anti-dandruff shampoos, there are

also over-the-counter creams and lotions that can help reduce your dandruff. In extreme cases, your doctor can prescribe medicated shampoos or creams. You can make some small changes to your lifestyle to reduce your dandruff, too. Too much stress can cause dandruff, so keeping your stress level to a minimum or finding an outlet for it can help. Easing up on styling products such as mousse, balm, gel and volumizer can also help reduce flakes. Though it's hard to get rid of those pesky flakes for good,



there are many things you can do to keep them at bay. Read on to the next page for detailed information about some of your options for treating dandruff.

Indulge Yourself

TIME TO UPGRADE YOUR WARDROBE



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15 Entry-Level Tech Jobs That Pay Up To \$120,000+ In 2024

If you're looking to start your career in an industry that is famed for its continuous learning and progression, with extensive career development opportunities, competitive salaries where six figures can easily be achieved, and multiple easy entry routes, look no further than technology.

The tech industry is renowned for being one of the world's largest and fastest growing sectors; it is projected to be worth \$807 billion by 2028, while more than half of Gen Z still aspire and prefer to work at Big Tech and view this accomplishment as one of their ultimate dream career goals.

So it's hardly surprising that the tech industry is so attractive, especially to recent graduates or those seeking to make a career pivot.

Here are 15 entry-level jobs in tech that pay more than the U.S. median salary of \$59,000 enabling you to earn at least \$60,000 or more each year in 2024; some of the average salaries (pulled from ZipRecruiter and Salary.com) go up as far as \$126,000.

1. **Junior software engineer** average salary range between \$74,474 to \$89,526
2. **Junior data scientist** average salary range between



\$70,742 to \$85,493

3. **Junior devops engineer** average salary range between \$83,650 to \$111,851

4. **Entry-level cybersecurity analyst** average salary range between \$104,281 to \$135,851

5. **Entry-level data analyst** average salary range between \$63,501 to \$79,501

6. **Cloud support associate** average salary range between \$92,449 to \$118,706

7. **Junior front-end developer** average salary range between \$61,716 to \$73,092

8. **Junior back-end developer** average salary range between \$66,464 to \$83,083

9. **IT support engineer** \$79,381 to \$98,647

10. **Machine learning engineer** (entry-level) average salary range between \$51,500 to

\$78,500

11. **Junior product manager** average salary range between \$92,583 to \$116,734

12. **Systems administrator** average salary range

between \$101,877 to \$126,686

13. **Junior network engineer** average salary range between \$51,500 to \$77,000

14. **Business intelligence analyst** average salary range between \$98,064 to \$124,989

15. **Junior full stack developer** average salary range between \$55,000 to \$79,000

How To Land A Entry-Level Job In Tech In 2024

You don't necessarily need to have a four-year degree, possess years of experience, or live in Silicon Valley to successfully carve out a lucrative career in tech.

There are many entry routes into the tech industry that do not require years of university study, an idealistic background, or accumulating student debt

before getting started. Some avenues to get your foot in the door include:

- Attending bootcamps.
- Getting an associate degree.
- Completing online training courses and skill-specific certifications that are widely recognized by employers, such as those offered by AWS, Coursera, IBM, Microsoft, and Google.
- Continuously learning through ongoing training and updating your knowledge by attending conferences and events, reading books, watching YouTube tutorials, etc.
- Seeking a mentor within the tech industry who can show you the ropes and help you plan your career steps wisely.
- Actively and strategically networking on LinkedIn with tech recruiters and professionals who work at your target employers.
- Getting the help of a career coach who either works in tech, has a successful track record of coaching tech professionals, or who is a tech career coach by profession, to give you an action plan and relevant advice on how to get started in the tech industry.

Due to the evolving nature of technology, this is an exciting industry in which you are forced to continually better yourself and focus on your professional growth instead of remaining stagnant. So, keep learning, keep networking, and as you actively seek out opportunities, more will come to you.

FORBES

11th FASU Games: UNILAG, LASU ready to host Africa in grand style

The University of Lagos, in collaboration with the Lagos State University, has reiterated its readiness to host the 11th Federation of African University Sports (FASU) Games in grand style, tagged "Lagos 2024".

This assurance was echoed during the media briefing held on Thursday to update the public on the state of preparedness and expectations for the continental Games, which will take place from 20-29 September.

This marks the second time Nigeria will host the FASU Games, 20 years after the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, hosted the event in 2004.

According to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Lagos, Professor Folasade T. Ogunsola, "Nigeria is not just

hosting the Games; it is about to make history. These Games will be jointly hosted by two of Nigeria's leading universities, the University of Lagos and the Lagos State University, a first-time ever co-hosting of the Games since its inception in 1974."

The 10-day event will feature 17 sports, including athletics, football, basketball, volleyball, handball, badminton, tennis, table tennis, swimming, taekwondo, judo, karate, cricket, hockey, chess, scrabble, and boxing (demonstration sport). Over 3,500 athletes and officials from universities across Africa are expected to participate. Mrs Ogunsola emphasised that the FASU Games represent a broader vision of unity, youth empowerment, and academic excellence across the African continent.

"For us at UNILAG, hosting the Games is an opportunity to contribute to the development of sports on our continent while also showcasing the incredible potentials that reside within our students."

The University of Lagos has upgraded its sports facilities to international standards and ensured necessary logistics are in place for a seamless and exciting event.

The UNILAG VC assured participants, officials, and spectators that UNILAG will deliver an unforgettable



experience that reflects the spirit of African unity and excellence. The Vice-Chancellor also extended a call for sponsorship and partnership, stating, "Investing in the FASU Games is not just an investment in sports; it is an investment in the future of our youth, the strengthening of African unity, and the visibility of your companies."

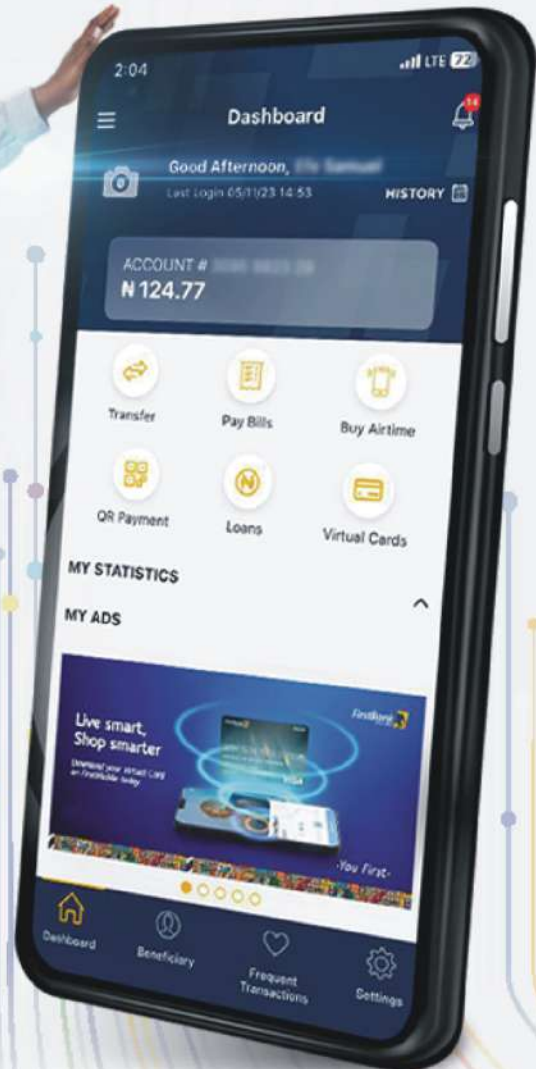


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damson idris

ON **MOVIES, FASHION**
+ JOLLOF RICE

Damson Idris meteoric rise in Hollywood is phenomenal. Since he landed his first major role in John Singleton's (the iconic director of *'Boyz n the Hood'*) crime TV series, *'Snowfall'*, it has been a rollercoaster ride for the British actor. Idris was born in Peckham, SouthEast London to Nigerian parents, and he is of Yoruba Nigerian descent.

He studied Drama at Brunel University London. He received a BA Honours degree in Theatre, Film & Television studies. He then continued his training at Identity School of Acting in London alongside the likes of John Boyega, Letitia Wright, and Malachi Kirby.

At Brunel, Idris met actress Cathy Tyson, who encouraged him to meet Ade Solanke and audition for a part in her play, *'Pandora's Box'*. He got the role, signed with an agent and began performing in more plays. He also trained at the Identity School of Acting, founded by Femi Oguns. After performing at the Royal National Theatre in London, Idris decided to pursue television and film roles. He had several parts on British series including *'Miranda'* (2013), *'Doctors'* (2015) and *'Casualty'* (2015). Idris's breakout role is Franklin Saint, an ambitious 19-year-old drug dealer in Los Angeles, in the FX crime drama *'Snowfall'* from John Singleton, which debuted in July 2017. The first season of *'Snowfall'* set in 1983 as the United States is on the verge of the crack cocaine epidemic weaves together the stories of several characters whose lives will soon collide because of drugs. Idris auditioned through video in London before flying out to Los Angeles, where he spent the day with Singleton, who wanted to ensure Idris had mastery of the accent.

Idris had his first big screen part in 2016 in the British thriller *'City of Tiny Lights'*, starring Riz Ahmed. In 2017, he made his American film debut in *'Megan Leavey'* alongside Kate Mara, who plays the title character in the eponymous war film. Idris also has a part as an FBI agent in

the 2018 film *'The Commuter'* with Liam Neeson; and starred in *'Farming'*, alongside Kate Beckinsale.

Now, starring side by side with OG heartthrob Brad Pitt in the upcoming *'F1'* film *'Apex'*, it's safe to say that Idris has made a name for himself. He was even billed as the 'next Denzel Wahington' by fellow members of the industry.

However, Idris's acting career isn't the only thing taking off, as he's got a foot in the door to the fashion world too, having modelled for *'Savage X Fenty'* by Rihanna and, oh yeah, Prada's 2022 Holiday campaign. Ahead of his Formula 1 movie *'Apex'*, he was announced as Tommy Hilfiger's newest menswear brand ambassador. The announcement was made at the Formula 1 Las Vegas Grand Prix.

Idris describes his fashion philosophy saying, "I have phases where I just want to feel like Steve Jobs and wear some blue jeans and a black T-shirt...And then there's days when I want to put on that tuxedo and feel my best."

And it's not all just about movies and fashion, when it comes to food, the actor doesn't hide his love for Nigeria's most popular food, **Jollof Rice!**

Undoubtedly proud to be part of this British renaissance, Idris has never shied away from claiming his native Nigerian roots. "My mum would always say 'live as the Romans but don't forget where you came from', and I think that's incorporated into my life today. Above all things, no matter where I go and what circle I move in, I scream Nigeria loudly and I like to educate people about Nigeria."

Despite not being born in Nigeria, he was raised in a firmly Nigerian home. He speaks Yoruba fluently, something he accredits to his mum, and all the years he spent as a child following her to the mosque on Old Kent Road. "Everyone is trying to take in the culture now, and I'm so grateful to my mum for keeping me in the loop, dragging me to those hall parties, and playing Fuji music."





Pepsi partners Empire on Music Academy

Pepsi Nigeria, a leading cola carbonated soft drink, is at the forefront of driving contemporary pop culture. In partnership with a prominent independent record label and global music industry giant, **EMPIRE**, have announced the launch of the **Pepsi Music Academy (PMA)** to bolster the development of the music industry in Nigeria.

The announcement was made by the **General Manager, Marketing, Seven-Up Bottling Company, Segun Ogunleye**, at a press conference in Lagos.

According to him, **PMA** is designed to cater for the discovery and incubation of talents across various facets of the music industry and to further support and enable the entire music ecosystem.

Ogunleye explained that the music artistry component of the academy will expose participants to intense industry education from a carefully selected faculty of music business leaders, who have contributed immensely to the global growth of Afrobeats and the Nigerian music ecosystem.

He also disclosed that three finalists from the academy will receive brand new SUVs, a living allowance for two years, an opportunity to be a Pepsi influencer, get their music produced by grammy award winning producers, **Sarz, Masterkraft, Blaisebeatz** and **P.Priime**, a music video production sponsored by the brand and a two-year developmental recording deal with **EMPIRE**.

"Pepsi has been one of the most prominent promoters of Afrobeats, and we are keen to sustain and expand the current success recorded by enabling a structure that would maintain the global dominance of Afrobeats.

"Afrobeats which is now exported globally, has become more unaffordable for the average Nigerian and with PMA, we will be raising the next set of industry talents to grow Afrobeats and continue to make fun moments more accessible to our consumers.

"This is the reason we have partnered with a global music entity, **EMPIRE** to birth the Pepsi Music Academy (PMA). The Pepsi Music Academy will be a game changer for the music industry because it will not just be a platform to discover, nurture and empower music talents, it will also provide a rounded education for young individuals who are interested in other aspects of music such as A&R., legal, public relations and marketing, sound engineering among others.

"Our faculty will include seasoned producers such as Masterkraft, Sarz, Blaisebeatz, P.Priime among other notable industry heads globally recognized for their contributions to the dominance of Afrobeats and music business," Ogunleye added.

EMPIRE's Regional Head of West Africa, Mobolaji Kareem, affirmed that the partnership with Pepsi is a landmark project for the next generation of talents in the music industry who will further expand Afrobeats dominance globally.

To join the PMA, interested participants can scan a bottle of Pepsi to access the PMA website at <https://pepsimusicacademy.ng/> and submit their entries. Participants have eight weeks to submit their entries.





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161 NIGERIAN STUDENTS DENIED ENTRY AFTER FAILING UK BORDER CHECKS

No fewer than 1,425 international students who gained admission to universities in the United Kingdom were denied entry at the country's airports between 2021 and 2023. A total of 161 Nigerians were affected, as they were removed on arrival at airports across the UK.

According to data exclusively obtained from the UK Home Office through the Freedom of Information Act, India topped the list of affected foreign students with 644, representing 45 per cent of the figure, while Nigeria followed with 11.3 per cent. Ghana is third on the list with 92 (6.46 per cent), while Bangladesh is fourth with 90 (6.32 per cent).

However, the released data, covering October 2021 to October 2023, is limited to students denied entry at the airports. It does not include international students deported by the Home Office for violating the terms of their visas, such as working beyond 20 hours weekly and academic malpractice.

The Home Office did not also specify the reasons for the removal of the foreign students.

But Saturday PUNCH gathered that some of the reasons for such decisions included the inability of students to convince the Border Force officers during checks at the airports, presentation of forged documents, and deficiency in English language usage.

An immigration lawyer based in North London, UK, Dele Olawanle, in a post on X in September 2023, decried the maltreatment of students and called on the UK Government to rein in Border Force officers, whom he said had turned themselves to admission officers.

Olawanle lamented that three students contacted him for help within three hours after facing threats of removal at the airports.

He wrote, "UK border officers have turned themselves into university officials at the point of entry by questioning students entering the UK to start their course on some aspects of the course they are going to start. If they do not answer correctly, they have their visas cancelled, and some are removed from the UK. Sad! I have had three instructions on that in the last 24 hours."

"It is not their job because most of these students were interviewed by the university before being offered a place on the course. Most of these Border Force officers have not even been to university and are not qualified to examine these foreign students on their academic knowledge. "I can say this as I have had dealings with them for the last 24 years. Their job is to make sure the students obtain entry clearance genuinely. If you are a student coming to start your course, be prepared for immigration officers turning themselves into university examiners."

A data analyst, Nelly Okechukwu, who claimed he narrowly escaped screening at one of the airports, also shared his experience.

He wrote, "After going through a 16-hour flight, a border officer asked for my transcript, which I presented, and this lady started asking me to tell her about a course I studied in my 200-level in the university. A university I graduated from since 2012."

Student admissions

A total of 679,970 foreign students were admitted to UK universities for the 2021/2022 academic year, according to data from the Higher Education Statistics Agency.

Nigeria had the highest number of foreign students with 44,195 out of the 68,320 African citizens studying in the UK for the 2021/2022 academic year.

HESA data also shows that the number of students from Nigeria rose to 72,355 in the 2022/2023 academic year, with the explanation that the data relates to students enrolled between 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023.

Nigerian students and their dependents in the

UK contributed an estimated £1.9bn to the economy of the country in one year, according to an analysis by SBM Intelligence. The data covered the 2021/2022 academic session.

According to the data, international students contributed £41.9bn to the UK economy in the 2021/22 academic year.

The Universities UK International, which is the umbrella body for universities in the country, said it couldn't comment on the data of student removals.

The organisation, in response to Saturday PUNCH inquiries, however, noted that immigrants on student visas who were removed at the border were far less than those admitted. "We are not a government agency or sponsor. So, we don't hold data on this and therefore can't comment, but we are sharing the points below on background for context:

"Home Office data from 2021-2024 (year ending March) suggests 1,541,837 study visas were granted to main applicants over the period.

Assuming the quoted numbers are correct, then those not admitted to the UK would represent less than 0.01% of all those on study visas. We cannot comment on the reasons for refusal or what happens after that and it will depend on the specifics of the case."

The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission said it did not get any report from students who were removed at UK airports.

A spokesperson for the commission, Abdulrahman Balogun, said, "No student has ever reported being rejected at the port of entry for no just cause."

The Director of a foreign education consulting firm, Story Across Globe, Mr Emmanuel Gbadega, said a foreign student or any other immigrant might be rejected at the port of entry if the individual couldn't explain his or her mission in the country.

Gbadega said anybody who looked suspicious could be rejected and returned to their country by the Border Force.

He said, "They have been doing that for many years. You can be rejected by the Border Force when you look suspicious; probably they find out that you are not coming to study. The students could have been rejected as a result of incompetence; they could have failed an interview."

Gbadega explained that any foreign student who was removed at the port of entry could seek a refund from his university by notifying the institution of their challenge.

Commenting on the matter, an immigration lawyer, Adeola Oyinlade, tasked Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NIDCOM to be concerned on the removal of Nigerian students at foreign airports.

He also enjoined any student who was denied entry to a foreign country to abide by that decision to avoid being banned for 10 years.

Another immigration lawyer, Dr Yemi Opeuti, said the Border Force did not commit any infraction by removing the affected students, adding that the officers reserved the right to approve or disapprove entry into their country. According to Opeuti, having a visa does not guarantee entry into a country, adding that customs or immigration officers have the power to invalidate a visa at the port of entry.

"When you are issued a visa from your country of origin, it's conditional and subject to the approval of customs or immigration agents in your country of destination. A visa can be cancelled based on the response of the migrant to an interview at the entry point.

"They have the right to deny you entry or deport you if you cannot give them convincing answers to their queries," he added.

PUNCH

GLOBAL PROTESTS OVER MISSING CHIBOK GIRLS
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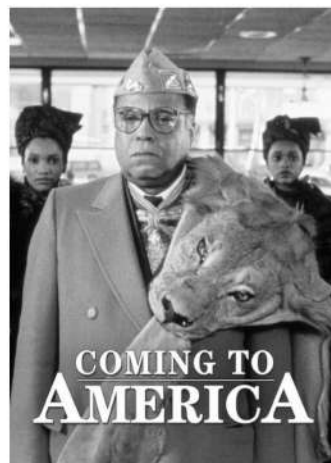


'Coming To America' Actor, James Earl Jones Dies At 93

James Earl Jones, the actor whose rich baritone provided the voice for "Star Wars" villain Darth Vader, has died at age 93, his representatives said Monday. Jones, who also voiced King Mufasa in Disney's animated feature "The Lion King," had a prolific and varied career. Over six decades he worked with some of the greatest figures in

cinema and theater, including Stanley Kubrick in his 1964 Cold War satire "Dr Strangelove." He also had roles in the Arnold Schwarzenegger film "Conan The Barbarian" and the 1989 Kevin Costner movie "Field of Dreams." But it was for his role as one of cinema's most famous villains that he became most widely known.

While Darth Vader's immense physicality was the result of the towering British actor David Prowse, the sinister voice that appeared to emanate from inside the reconstructed man-in-a-mask was Jones. And it was Jones who gave the "Star Wars" franchise some of its most memorable lines, including when he reveals to Luke Skywalker - played by a young Mark Hamill - "I am your father." Hamill took to social media on Monday to share news of Jones' death, writing simply: "#Rip dad" with a broken heart emoji.



Selena Gomez joins elite club of billionaire musicians

...Here are the four others

Selena Gomez has reportedly achieved billionaire status, with an estimated net worth of \$1.3 billion. The singer, actor, producer, and entrepreneur joins a very small group of musicians who have reached this level of wealth, largely thanks to her successful makeup brand, Rare Beauty. According to Bloomberg, Selena is now one of five living musicians who are also billionaires. One of the other notable members of this exclusive club is Jay-Z. As of September 2024, Forbes estimated his net worth to be around \$2.5 billion. Jay-Z's fortune is largely driven by his music and his ownership of Roc-A-Fella Records, which helped launch his career. Beyond music, Jay-Z has expanded into other

businesses, including Roc Nation Sports, a sports agency. He also made significant earnings by selling his stake in the music streaming platform Tidal and owns stakes in luxury brands, such as Armand de Brignac champagne. Taylor Swift is another musician who reached billionaire status. In October 2023, Bloomberg reported that Swift's net worth had crossed the \$1 billion mark, a claim that Forbes confirmed in April 2024. By September 2024, her wealth had increased to approximately \$1.3 billion, largely thanks to her highly successful Eras Tour and related merchandise sales. Unlike many others, Swift's wealth comes solely from her music career, without additional business ventures. Bruce Springsteen is also part of this exclusive group. Variety revealed that Sony purchased his



music catalog for a staggering \$500 million. Springsteen's ongoing tour, which began in February 2023 and is set to continue until mid-2025, has further contributed to his wealth.

As of September 2024, Forbes estimated his net worth at \$1.1 billion.

Rihanna rounds out this elite list of musicians-turned-billionaires. Thanks to her highly successful beauty brand, Fenty Beauty, and her lingerie line, Savage X Fenty, Rihanna's net worth has skyrocketed. Forbes reported her wealth at \$1.4 billion. Though Rihanna hasn't released a new album since Anti in 2016, her business ventures have made her one of the richest musicians in the world. Her collaboration with Puma, where she became the creative director in 2014, also played a major role in boosting her fortune.

With her recent entry into this exclusive group, Selena Gomez now stands alongside these highly successful musicians who have turned their artistry and business acumen into multi-billion-dollar empires.

Again, Tyla Edged Out Burna Boy, Tems and Ayra Starr To win the 2024 MTV VMA Awards

Nigerian trio of Damini Ogulu, known better as Burna Boy; Oyinkansola Aderibigbe, known professionally as Ayra Starr, and Temilade Openiyi, better known as Tems, all missed out on clinching an award at the MTV Video Music Awards on Wednesday night. South African artist Tyla won the male-dominated category of best Afrobeats with her hit Water, edging out both Burna Boy, Ayra Starr, and Tems. "The global impact that Water had on the world just proves that African music can be pop music, too," Tyla said after winning the award in Elmont, New York. She noted that the award was "bittersweet" because "there's a tendency to group all African artists



under Afrobeats ... African music is so diverse. It's more than just Afrobeats." Meanwhile, Taylor Swift dominated the MTV Video Music Awards, becoming the most decorated solo artist at the VMAs of all time after winning seven categories, including the night's top award, video of the year.

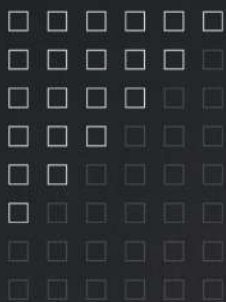
DJ Neptune Returns with New Album "Greatness III" feat. Qing Madi, Joeboy, Ajebo Hustlers & More

DJ Neptune has released "Greatness III," the third instalment of his "Greatness" album series. The 14-track project blends diverse sounds and moods, featuring a lineup of both rising stars and established artists, including Qing Madi, Ice Prince, Joeboy, LAX, Ruger, Olivetheboy, and more. Before the album's release, DJ Neptune teased fans with the single "Honest," featuring Qing Madi.



"Keep your mind open, and feel the great vibe," Neptune tells Apple Music. There's lots of young amazing talent on this project, and I was very intentional with that because I know these guys are the future leaders when it comes to controlling the African sound. If you're looking for proper R&B, 'Wait for You' is on the project. If you want to dance, we've got [the Olivetheboy collab] 'Emmanuella'. We've got 'Body' with L.A.X; we've got 'Too Much' with Ajebo Hustlers if you want to unwind. If you want to be in that dancehall space, I've got 'Tonight' with my brother Joshua Baraka from Uganda-so there's something for everybody."

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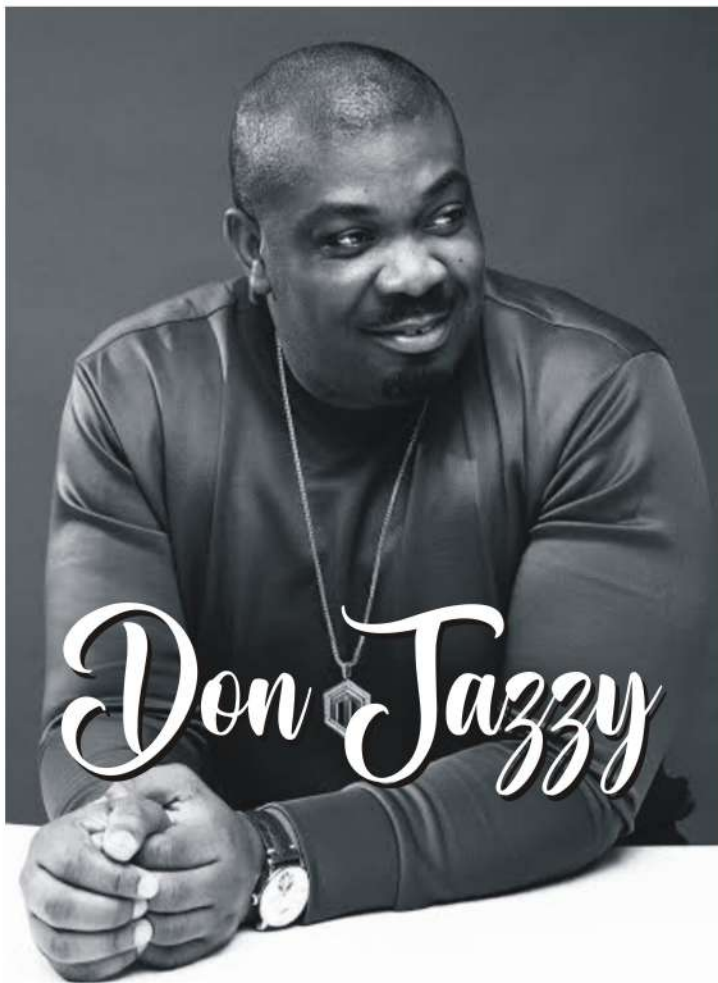
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Lately, Nigerian music and artistes have been gaining international recognition, especially the **Afrobeats** genre. One of the iconic figures who helped in putting Nigerians songs and the new Afrobeats movement on the global map is **Don Jazzy**. The highly talented music producer has produced songs that have become international hits and are enjoying massive airplay across mainstream music platforms all over the world.

Michael Collins Ajereh, known professionally as **Don Jazzy** is a veteran Nigerian music producer that has been around for 15 years in the Nigerian music industry.

Growing up, **Don Jazzy** quickly learnt about music as a kid while playing the bass guitar in his local church. Since then he has moved on to become a multiple award-winning music producer in Nigeria.

In 2000, Jazzy's uncle invited him to play the drums for a local church in London and that was his first visit to London. **Don Jazzy** gained employment at **McDonald's** as a security guard. He continued his interest in music, associating with **Solek**, **JJC Skillz**, **Kas**, **Jesse Jagz**, **The 419 Squad** and **D'Banj**.

In 2004, **Don Jazzy** collaborated with **D'Banj** to form **Mo' Hits Records**. In the next two years, **Don Jazzy** produced the albums *No Long Thing* and *Rundown/Funk You Up*. Around this time, **Don Jazzy** developed a recognisable introduction, **"It's Don Jazzy Again!"**

In 2008, **Don Jazzy** was credited in the production of *The Entertainer* by **D'Banj**. He also contributed to the production of **Wande Coal's** *Mushin 2 MoHits*, an album that was described as one of the best albums to ever come out of Nigeria.

In 2011, **Don Jazzy** was employed by **Kanye West** as a producer at **Very Good Beatz**. **Don Jazzy** worked with **Jay-Z** and **Kanye West** on the production of *Lift Off*, featuring **Beyoncé** on the album *Watch The Throne* which was released on 8 August 2011. In March 2012, **Don Jazzy** and **D'Banj** confirmed their breakup citing artistic differences. He has worked with several Nigerian musicians including **D'Banj**, **Wande Coal**, **Dr Sid**, **Tiwa Savage**, **D'Prince**, **Ikechukwu**, etc. **Don Jazzy** has a long catalogue of music production credit to his name, having produced a ton of hits during his entire. He co-founded **Mo'Hits Records** with **D'Banj** and after the split, he founded **Mavin Records**. In this special feature, we will throw spotlight on 20 of such hit songs.

20 HIT SONGS

PRODUCED BY
DON JAZZY

OLIVER TWIST

While they were still partners **Don Jazzy** produced **D'Banj's** monster hit 'Oliver Twist' in 2011. The song won several awards both in Nigeria and abroad. This is easily called **Don Jazzy's** best work so far. 'Oliver Twist' became the first Afrobeats tune to debut on the UK singles music chart. At the moment it has over 58 million views on YouTube.

MR ENDOWED & MR ENDOWED REMIX

This tune threw **D'Banj** more into the international spotlight. It didn't stop there, American rapper **Snoop Dogg** was featured on the official remix of 'Mr Endowed' and it was even bigger.

FALL IN LOVE

'*Fall In Love*' is still an undisputed wedding party jam anytime any day. **Don Jazzy** produced one of these evergreen songs for **D'Banj** and it is one of his biggest hits produced. The music video Nollywood actress **Genevieve Nnaji** as the video vixen, rumour has it that **Genny** was dating the **Kokomaster** at the time when this song was made.

TONGOLO

Tongolo is and always will be a hit song. *Tongolo* is a track from **D'Banj's** debut album, "No Long Thing". *Tongolo* has all the appropriate vibes and will quickly change your mood from 0 to 100. *Tongolo* is widely regarded as one of **Don Baba J's** greatest works.

MO GBONO FELI FELI

Mo Gbono Feli Feli was a smash back in the day, thanks to the **Don's** backing vocals and production credit. As the name says, it refers to "Hotness," which is the most desired quality in a location.

TABOO

Wande Coal's *Taboo* is another love song from the **Mo'Hits** stable. *Taboo* is a track from *Mushin To Mohits*, a studio album.

ROTATE

Rotate is a song by **Wande Coal**, a serial hitmaker, that was released in 2015 as part of the album *Selection*. The song is a certified club anthem when it first came out.

DOROBUCCI

In 2014 **Don Jazzy** was in his elements and he produced the mega-hit song 'Dorobucci', a **Mavin Records** all-star record. It featured **Tiwa Savage**, **Di'ja**, **Korede Bello**, **Reekado Banks**, **Dr Sid** and **D'Prince**. It was an instant banger and was really the song of the year as people started adding a 'Doro' prefix to their name. The song won Song of the Year at the **MTV Africa Music Awards 2015**.

BUMPER 2 BUMPER

'*Bumper 2 Bumper*' is one of **Wande Coal's** classic tunes produced by the veteran music producer **Don Jazzy**. This and other song helped establish the name **Wande Coal** in the Nigerian music industry.

TAKE BANANA

When *Take Banana* was released in 2014, it was a game-changing tune. This record's hook was repeated at least 72 times, and the production is just outstanding. **D'Prince**, **Don Jazzy's** younger brother and label signee at the time, was compelled to write this mega hit song.

WHINE AM WELL

Ikechukwu, **Don Jazzy**, and **D'Banj**

collaborated on *Whine Am Well*. **World Famous Akademy**, owned by **Ikechukwu**, released it in 2008. **D'Banj** re-released it in 2009 as part of his *Carnival Street Bangers* album.

LOOKU LOOKU

The **Mavin Collective** has released yet another popular single, *Looku Looku*. **Don Jazzy** was the driving force behind this album, which also featured **Tiwa Savage**, **Reekado Banks**, **Korede Bello**, **D'Prince**, and **Di'Jah**.

PERE

Pere was a smash hit from the **Mo Hits All Stars** album *Curriculum Vitae*, released in 2007. **D'Banj**, **Wande Coal**, **D'Prince**, and **Don Jazzy** were among the contributors.

THE KICK

Wande Coal's track "The Kick," featuring **Don Jazzy**, 'Don baba J,' was released in 2013. **Don Jazzy**, who is also the song's producer, contributed a great kick and vocal to this single.

POP CHAMPAGNE

Pop Champagne was club banger from **Dr Sid's** *Turning Point* album. On *Pop Champagne*, **Dr Sid** sought the help of **Koko Master D'Banj**.

EMINADO

'*Eminado*' is one of the biggest songs of **Tiwa Savage's** music career and this was another **Don Jazzy** production. *Eminado* translates to 'Good Luck Charm.' *Once Upon a Time* (2013) was **Tiwa's** debut studio album, and it was released as the seventh single. Besides just producing the song **Don Jazzy** was featured as a singer. It didn't take long before 'Eminado' became a national hit for **Tiwa**. Currently, the song has over 28 million views on YouTube.

BOOTY CALL

'*Booty Call*' was an outstanding single from the "Mo' Hits All Stars Curriculum Vitae" album which was a major hit on radio and TV. At this time, the **Mo'Hits** crew was a household name in the Nigerian music space, dropping hits after hits. When you hear that 'It's **Don Jazzy** again' you know the beat was definitely made by him.

SURULERE

Under **Mavin Records**, **Don Jazzy** produced 'Surulere' for Nigerian musician **Dr Sid** in the year 2014. It was a fan favourite from **Dr Sid's** sophomore album 'Seduction'. **Dr Sid's** 'Surulere' was played in radio stations across the country and due to popular demand, a remix was done with **Wizkid** and **Phyno**.

GOD WIN

Don Jazzy came through again when he made the beats for **Korede Bello's** 'God Win'. It was an election year in Nigeria at the time the song was released in 2015 and the tune became the official victory song for elected politicians or anyone who had a reason to thank God. 'God Win' was so good it was a hit on the secular and gospel music scene. Many folks sang it in church, it was indeed a national hit.

OLORUN MAJE

Olurun Maje is a song written specifically for haters and those who constantly flatter their eyelashes at you and wish for you to fail at every opportunity. "God Forbid," as the title "Olurun Maje" implies, is the message of this song. It's a heartfelt track with addictive and catchy feelings. It also features lyrics that are reliable.

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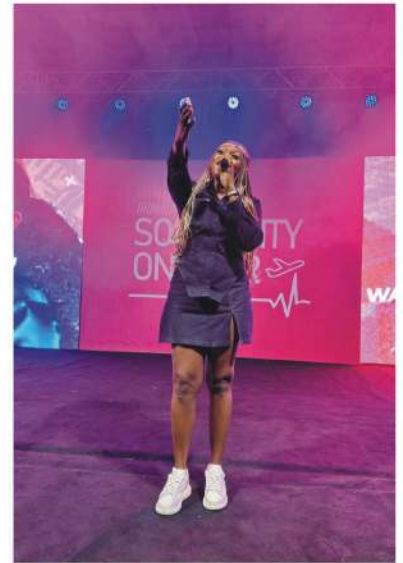
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Glo Launches Flexible Payment Plan for Smartphones



Globacom, Nigeria's leading digital services provider, has introduced an innovative Device Financing Scheme, "Buy now pay small-small" to make customers more connected and more productive.

"Buy now pay small-small" aims to bridge the digital divide and empower individuals and businesses with cutting-edge technology by ensuring availability of latest smartphones and devices to customers, thus enhancing connectivity and productivity.

"We are offering customers

flexible payment options, to allow customers to spread the cost of their new devices over manageable monthly installments. This ensures that everyone, regardless of their financial situation, can enjoy the benefits of the latest technology", said Globacom, in a statement in Lagos.

The scheme which is available to all new and existing Glo customers who can enjoy the benefits of the device financing program on purchase of new devices covers a broad selection of smartphones and other smart devices from top brands.

Also varieties of payment plans are available for customers to choose from, depending on the one that suits their budgets. The plan has terms ranging up to 6 months, in addition to special interest with all flagship devices. Globacom, which said that customers who purchase any of the devices under the scheme will receive 18GB Data over six months

explained that its focus remains on customer satisfaction, technological advancement, and setting industry standards.

It advised customers to visit any Gloworld shop across Nigeria to take advantage of this exciting offer.

Japa: Canada Student Enrolment Drops By 45 Per Cent

Universities Canada have raised the alarm over a significant drop in international student enrolment following the cap on student visas. The Nation reported that foreign students recently protested in Canada, following plans by the authorities to deport them on account of a new policy on immigration.

The national cap, introduced in January by Immigration Minister Marc Miller, was initially aimed at reducing international student intake by 35% over the next two years.

The temporary measure was put in place to address concerns over housing, healthcare, and other services strained by the growing number of international students. However, Gabriel Miller, president of Universities Canada, said there is a decline in international student



admission. He told Global News that initial projections suggest a dramatic 45% drop in international student enrolments once universities complete their tallies in October. "There's every possibility that it's going to be even worse than we fear," Miller said in an interview. "We're already in uncharted

territory, and this should be a wake-up call for Ottawa to take immediate action," he stated. The government initially estimated that approximately 364,000 study permits would be approved in 2024 but this figure has since been revised to around 292,000.

The reduction is especially targeted at provinces experiencing the most significant growth in student numbers.

Universities Canada is worried about the long-term effects of the cap on enrolment and competitiveness. International students, according to Miller, are

crucial not only for enhancing the educational experience but also for contributing financially to Canadian institutions and the broader economy.

"The cap's collateral damage will hurt our ability to attract and retain talent in the future," he added.

In response to these concerns, the immigration minister's office noted that, while they have seen a reduction in approvals compared to 2023, it is still too early to assess the full impact.

The busiest period for study permit processing August and September has yet to be fully analyzed.

The office added that more accurate data would be available once the final numbers for the fall 2024 and winter 2024 seasons are collected.

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.

MTN Nigeria projects 40m MoMo wallets in 2025

MTN Nigeria has set a target to build the largest fintech platform in the country, aiming to reach 30 to 40 million active MTN MoMo wallets by 2025. This was disclosed in its sustainability report filed with the Nigeria Exchange Limited on Tuesday, made available to The PUNCH on Wednesday. "MTN Nigeria has set a target of building the largest and most valuable fintech platform in Nigeria with 30-40 million active MTN MoMo wallets by 2025," the report stated. According to the report, in alignment with the Central Bank of Nigeria's legal requirements, the company offers services that enable more Nigerians to easily transact via the USSD channel, save money, connect with MoMo Agents for deposits and withdrawals, and conduct transactions on the MoMo App.

"In strict compliance with the Central Bank of Nigeria's legal requirements, MTN Nigeria strives to uphold high standards of product development and continue to offer services to the Nigerian populace that allow more individuals across the country to easily transact via our USSD channel, to save their money with us, connect with our MoMo Agents for deposit and withdrawal and make transactions on the MoMo App. "In 2023, our commitment to promoting financial inclusion resulted in the number of active mobile money (MoMo PSB) wallets increasing by 163.2 per cent to 5.3 million. We plan to continue finetuning our services so that more people have easy, convenient, and low-cost access to financial services." Currently, the MoMo platform focuses on three main activities; MoMo Wallet, MoMo Payment & E-

commerce, and MoMo Bank tech to enhance the financial experiences of users and businesses alike. It added that the E-commerce platform has been particularly beneficial for entrepreneurs, providing practical solutions that enhance their business operations. As a result, over 5 million people actively use MoMo every month, including more than 324,000 merchants who are served through MoMoPay. MTN Nigeria closed the year with over 326,700 active MoMo agents, marking a 46 per cent increase compared to 2022. This expansion of agents is crucial in ensuring that financial services are accessible to people even in remote areas. "As a result of our work, over 5 million people actively use MoMo every month, of which more than 324,000 are merchants served through MoMoPay. In 2023, we



closed with over 326,700 active MoMo agents, which shows an increase in agents of approximately 46 per cent in comparison to 2022." Additionally, MTN Nigeria is pursuing the Global System for Mobile Communications Mobile Money Certification, a third-party assessment that validates mobile money services against global best practices. This certification will reinforce MoMo's reputation for dependability among consumers, regulators, and stakeholders, ensuring that they can rely on MoMo for secure and reliable financial solutions.

From Afrobeats to Everyday Beats: How the new oraimo SpaceBuds Enhance Your Listening Experience

If you're an audiophile seeking the ultimate sound experience, the new oraimo SpaceBuds are here to revolutionize your music journey. Mobile accessories giant, oraimo recently launched the oraimo SpaceBuds and this has got tech experts talking because of its sophisticated features. Engineered with cutting-edge technology and a deep understanding of audio engineering, these earbuds are poised to redefine how you immerse yourself in your favourite tunes. Powered by advanced features like 4-mic 50dB Active Noise Cancellation (ANC), HavyBass™ bass boost algorithm, and a massive 11mm dynamic driver, the SpaceBuds which are the new generation of the oraimo FreePods series, deliver a listening experience that will leave you spellbound. Developed by audio engineers who have worked with renowned brands like Harman Kardon, these earbuds are designed to cater to the discerning tastes of music enthusiasts. But the magic doesn't stop there. The SpaceBuds boast a customizable voice prompt and light case, allowing you to personalize your audio experience to soothe your style. With a remarkable 40-hour playtime, you can indulge in your musical escapades without interruption, whether you're jamming to Afrobeats or enjoying your

everyday playlist. Remarkably, the oraimo SpaceBuds are crafted to be accessible to a broader premium audience, making them a must-have for anyone seeking a truly immersive and personalized sound experience. With a wide tap area and smart chat mode, these earbuds seamlessly integrate into your daily life, enhancing your connectivity and convenience for personalized interactions, while the wide tap area and smart chat mode make controlling your music a breeze. Priced affordably to reach a broader premium audience, the oraimo SpaceBuds offer a truly remarkable listening experience that seamlessly blends cutting-edge technology with the rhythmic energy of Afrobeats. Whether you're immersed in your favorite tunes or need to stay connected on the go, these earbuds are the perfect companion for your musical adventures. The oraimo SpaceBuds are a game-changer in the world of true

wireless earbuds. Inspired by the captivating Lunar Eclipse, these earbuds boast a unique and stylish design that sets them apart from the competition. With their advanced features and exceptional sound quality, the SpaceBuds are poised to elevate your listening experience to new heights. Equipped with powerful drivers and EQ tuning, these earbuds deliver a rich, immersive audio experience, whether you're jamming to the latest Afrobeats hits or enjoying your favorite podcasts. The device keeps you connected as a single charge of 10 minutes, delivers a playtime of 2 hours, now that is spectacular! But the SpaceBuds offer more than just exceptional sound. With their customizable touch controls, you can easily manage your music, take calls, and adjust the volume without ever reaching for your phone. And with their IPX4 dust and water resistance, you can enjoy your tunes worry-free, even during your most intense workouts. To sweeten the deal, oraimo is offering a special 5% discount on the SpaceBuds when you use the code [PUNCH] on their official website, ng.oraimo.com. Don't miss out on this opportunity to

elevate your listening experience and save some cash in the process. A quick comparison with previous versions of oraimo FreePods, like the FreePods 4 which has 4 mics, no personalized light

or voice prompt, no smart chat mode, no wide area tap, comes with a 5.2 Bluetooth version, a 10mm driver size, & a 35.5 battery life. The SpaceBuds is an upgrade, having more features such as 6 mics, personalized light, customized voice prompt, smart chat mode, wide area tap, 5.4 Bluetooth version, 11mm drivers, a specially tuned gaming sound & lasting 40 hours. When compared to industry giants like the Apple AirPods Pro 2 or Samsung Galaxy Buds, the oraimo SpaceBuds hold their own, delivering similar quality at a more affordable price point. With their impressive 40-hour battery life, seamless dual-device connectivity, and advanced noise-cancelling technology, the SpaceBuds are a true contender in the true wireless earbud market. The A'Design Award-winning company took the innovations even further, the new product charging case is a sight to behold; adopting advanced Bi-color injection moulding technology. Having 2 layers: the outer layer is transparent, and the inner one has metallic lustre because of the utilisation of new material that combines metal particles inside. Experience the future of listening with the oraimo SpaceBuds. Download the oraimo Sound app and unlock the full potential of these remarkable earbuds. Plus, oraimo just launched their official store app, available on Google Play and the App Store. Download it now and get an extra 12% off for your SpaceBuds. Get ready to immerse yourself in a world of captivating audio, where every beat, every note, and every moment is enhanced to perfection.



Introduction:

In the dynamic and ever-evolving landscape of Nigerian music, a rising star is emerging from the vibrant city of Ibadan, Oyo State. Alade Adekunle Mathew, known in the music industry as K-Trace, is carving out a unique place for himself with his infectious Afro-Fusion sound and thought-provoking lyrics. In this article, we delve into the life, influences, and aspirations of this talented artist who is steadily gaining recognition in the Nigerian music scene.

Early Life and Musical Inspiration:

K-Trace hails from Awo Ekiti and was raised in the bustling city of Ibadan, Oyo State. His love for music was instilled at a young age, thanks to his father's passion for music. His dad's collection of albums and tapes exposed him to a diverse range of musical genres, laying the foundation for his future musical journey. It wasn't until after completing secondary school that K-Trace began to seriously pursue music. Encounters with local artists in his neighborhood sparked his interest, and he recorded his first track, which was well-received by his peers. This positive feedback fueled his determination to pursue a career in music.

Simplicity in Sound:

One of K-Trace's defining characteristics as an artist is his commitment to creating music that is simple and relatable. He believes that music should be accessible to everyone, and he strives to produce tracks that resonate with a broad audience. This approach has allowed his music to cross cultural and linguistic boundaries, making it a hit with listeners of various backgrounds.

Discography:

K-Trace has a handful of releases such as Pull up, Fada Xmas and his debut body of work, Limelight, a 8 track offering in 2021. He started the year with release of his track "Whulla Dem" across all major music platforms. The song carries a powerful message about living life to the fullest and not letting the burdens of life weigh one down. With a catchy beat and meaningful lyrics, "Whulla Dem" is quickly gaining popularity and establishing K-Trace as an artist with a message. "Bullion Van" A Melodic Ode to Lavish Desires, this is his follow up to Whulla dem, a collaborative effort with Hotkid, this track encapsulates the thrill of indulgence and the unapologetic pursuit of desires. Through its captivating lyrics and rhythmic beats, the song invites listeners to embrace the richness of life and the passion that drives them. The world definitely should expect a whole lot more from his growing discography.

Influences:

K-Trace draws inspiration from a variety of artists, with names like Wizkid and Chris Brown standing out as major influences. These global superstars have undoubtedly contributed to shaping his unique musical style.

Challenges in the Industry:

While K-Trace is making strides in the Nigerian music scene, he acknowledges the challenges that come with promoting his music. Independent artists like him face the daunting task of financing their marketing efforts in an industry that demands



K-TRACE

The Rising Afro-Fusion Star Set to Dominate the Nigerian Music Scene



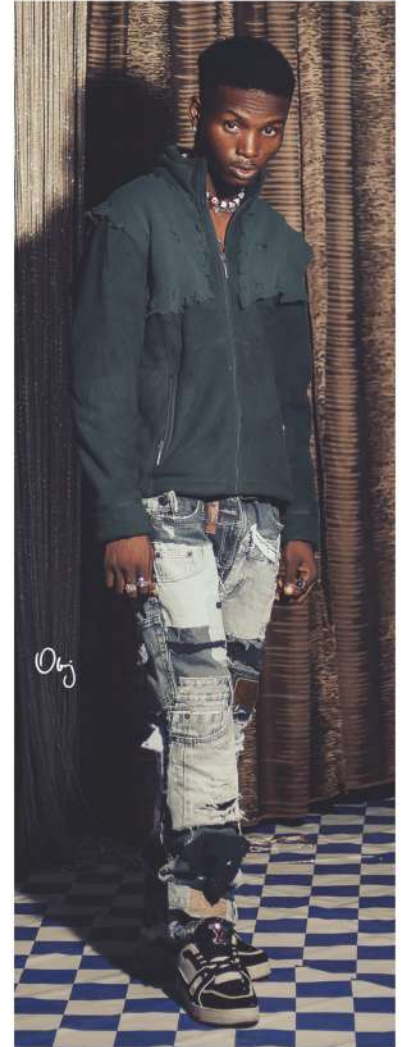
significant financial investment. However, his passion and determination continue to drive him forward.

The Thriving Nigerian Music Scene:

K-Trace is optimistic about the prospects for Nigerian artists on the international stage. With the world's attention increasingly focused on African music, opportunities once considered distant dreams are now within reach. He is thrilled to be a part of this exciting era in Nigerian music, where the boundaries of success are continually expanding.

A Future Full of Promise:

As for his ultimate dream, K-Trace is not one to rest on his laurels. He believes that dreams should be a continuous pursuit, and he remains hungry for more success and innovation in his music career. With each milestone reached, he sets his sights higher, showing a relentless determination to reach the pinnacle of his potential



Conclusion:

K-Trace, born Alade Adekunle Mathew, is a rising Afro-Fusion sensation whose musical journey continues, there is no doubt that he will continue to break boundaries and explore new horizons in the music industry. He is making waves with a growing fan-base in the Nigerian music scene, delivering meaningful messages through his tracks, and positioning himself as a unique voice in the industry. With "Whulla Dem" and "Bullion Van" already making an impact and exciting collaborations on the horizon.

With his dedication to his craft, boundless creativity, and commitment to delivering exceptional music, K-Trace is undoubtedly a rising force in the world of Afropop and is poised to leave an indelible mark on the global music stage.

We can't wait to see where his musical journey takes him. As he aptly puts it, "God bless everyone out there supporting my craft, I have lots of great music coming your way," and surely, the music-loving world is eagerly awaiting more from this talented artist.

Follow K-Trace on all socials :
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SARPHOTOGRAPHY

NOLLYWOOD STAR ACTRESS **Funmi Awelewa**

Makes Directorial Debut With
“A WISH”
Celebrates Birthday

Delectable Nollywood actress, **Funmi Awelewa** who is also popularly called “Morili Omo Ibadan” for her comical roles has upped her game by stepping up from acting to directing.

Funmi Awelewa made her debut as a director in a new short movie, **“A WISH”**, which is a true life story.

The movie was shot on location at Ibadan by her production company, Faab Entertainment. It was filmed at the actual places where she grew up and had her childhood.

In this interview, the actress shared with us her experience directing the movie, her sojourn into acting and other topical issues. Enjoy!

Congratulations on your new movie project and directorial debut. Can you share with us your experience as a first time director?

It was challenging for me because I also acted the lead role. Having to direct and also act was quite tough but an awesome experience. I wasn't scared to do it because I know I can do it.

What's the story behind “A Wish”?

“A Wish” is my true life experience. It's a film project I had in mind since 2019 to produce which deals with my childhood experiences and how my mom lost her sight just to inspire others not to abandon their loved ones in quest for fame and fortunes.

What prompted your decision to direct the movie?

I knew right from the day I had the script that I'd be the one to direct it and I did. I know I have the potential

and it is the story of my life. It is one story very dear to my heart, hence my resolve to take the risk and direct it myself and I thank God it turns out just the way I wanted it. I grabbed the opportunity and I did. With the success the movie has recorded and the feedback I've been getting, I'm planning to have a formal training as a director by going to a film school very soon.

What are the challenges you went through directing the movie?

Hmmm, I really don't have any major challenge because from day one, I know what I want to achieve and it wasn't difficult for me to get the props, good locations, the lines making sure my actors get it right on set. I believe God is involved.

How did you get into acting?

I got into acting in 2013 through Sola Kosoko and I featured in one of her movies titled “Wosi Kenke” then. I started going to different locations till I produced my first film titled “Morili”.

How has the journey been so far?

It was a great and challenging one but I'm grateful it was all worth it at the end.

How do you derive inspiration for your movies?

Most of my movies are based on life experiences. The comedy ones were generated from how or where I grew up. I used to gather real life experiences, things going on around me, our ways of life and put them into movies.

What's your take about bullying in the industry?

Bullying is a dangerous thing to do to a person. People really need to stop deliberately harming and humiliating others, specifically those who are smaller, weaker, and younger. Funny enough, people usually think it's only in the entertainment industry, but it's a thing that exists in all facets of life.

Have you ever been bullied before?

No! I'm a sharp breed from Ibadan so I don't take nonsense lol!

You have glowing skin; do you have a beauty routine?

Yes, my beauty routine is from my beauty brand “GlowEnvy by Awelewa”. Every lady wants clear, clean, glowing skin and I believe with the right skincare regimen, it's totally attainable. I exfoliate; do spa and sauna whenever I can get away from locations and businesses. I also frequently moisturize my skin. At night, washing with a cleanser or gentle soap gets rid of the day's dirt and makeup. One must learn how to pamper one's skin.

Which part of your body is your best asset?

Both body and mind are the assets we have but my best asset is my confidence.

How do you handle your male fans?

I treat them equally and make sure I don't get carried away with the distractions that come with it. Some of my male fans go extra miles to send me gifts, money etc but trust me I make sure it's not more than that.

You were out of the scene for a while to take care of your ailing mother. What was it like during those trying times?

It was so challenging that I ended up being depressed for months. It's sad seeing one's love in so much pain and trust me, I can't even explain what I went through. I lost so many deals; friends and this caused me a setback because I couldn't concentrate on my life. But thank God I'm back and better now!

Did you get support from your

colleagues during this period?

Best thing I ever did was not telling people what's going on in my life. I didn't open up to my colleagues till I got myself together. I'm the type that enjoys her privacy. Only a few people reached out and I appreciated it even when they wanted to support me with funds, I turned down financial support from 2 top names in the industry.

You are also into the skincare production and retail business. How is the business doing?

The business is doing great, I have clients that patronize me home and abroad and I'm happy the business is steadily growing every day.

How do you react to negative vibes, either from the media, public or fellow actors?

I ignore them because I see negative vibes as distractions and I don't welcome that. I only focus more on my growth and my only inspiration is to become the better version of me.

Many actors and actresses are stepping up their games and producing cinema movies. Are you having any plans to toe this line?

Yes, I have plans to produce my first cinema project soon.

What lessons do you learn from this experience?

I learnt never to allow the pain of the past to destroy me; I've been through a lot before my Mom's illness. I cried alone because I couldn't speak to people so it affected my mental health that I had to go on a long break to heal. All I can say is that I build strength out of pain. I'm now fearless and better

You recently built a house for your mum and siblings, what informed that decision?

I already had plans to do so for my family from when I was young. It was Genevieve Nnaji's story that inspired me again when I read about how she took her family to a better place about 11 years ago or more. So I prayed to God to give me strength and grace to do the same. I started the project in 2020 and I'm glad my mother is alive to witness the success.

What has changed in you in the last few years?

If I can list a few of the things that have changed in me; my mindset changed, my taste has changed and my priorities have changed too. I'm glad I'm evolving into a better person.

Certainly, you have added so many friends since you delved into the industry. How would you describe your relationship with them?

I don't have a personal relationship with them; I treat everyone equally and make sure I don't disrespect my senior colleagues. I respect my mates in the industry and give honor to those that deserve it.

You had an NGO sometimes back. How many people have benefitted from the foundation?

I've done more since I started the NGO but I think it's time I start showing it on my platform. I'm the type that keeps things like that off the media but I was told to start airing it to inspire some other people who may want to do so, that is, helping humanity. We just have to learn to give back to society in our own little ways.

Where do you see Morili in the next few years?

I see Morili in greatness! I see myself as financially stable. I want to be more skilled, as well as looking forward to improving myself day-to-day in my work life and career.

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