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LATEEFAH**

MOVIE HITS N350+ MILLION AT THE BOX OFFICE

**ISSUE 323**

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## CNN and Glo celebrate 15 years of African Voices

**A**t an event held in Lagos, CNN celebrated the 15-year anniversary of the multiplatform series African Voices, alongside the show's longtime sponsor Globacom, with a special taping of the show in front of a live audience. The evening featured an interview between host Larry Madowo and Grammy nominated singer Yemi Alade, who performed her single 'Tomorrow'. Madowo and Alade's conversation will air in a distinctive episode of the show, premiering on CNN International on November 30th. The event brought together prominent personalities from across Nigeria and beyond, including former African Voices guests, cultural icons, entrepreneurs, business leaders and influencers.

Attendees enjoyed an evening of conversation, entertainment, and a behind-the-scenes look at the filming process. One of CNN's longest-running and most successful series, African Voices Changemakers tells the stories of the continent's thought-leaders, creatives, athletes, and entertainers who are at the forefront of change across Africa. The show also profiles Africa's sporting stars in special African Voices Playmakers episodes and segments that additionally air in CNN's flagship sport show World Sport. Alongside this on-air content, African Voices Changemakers is available across CNN's digital and social platforms, with social-first My Drive videos and a dedicated playlist on Apple Music. Globacom is the exclusive sponsor of African Voices

Changemakers across all platforms. Phil Nelson, CNN International Commercial (CNNIC) Executive Vice President, said, "15 years of programming is a huge landmark and I'm pleased to celebrate it in Lagos with our longstanding commercial partners at Globacom, I thank them for our ongoing collaboration. This anniversary event for African Voices reaffirms CNN's commitment to the series and to showcasing the richness, diversity, and dynamism of Africa on the global stage." Globacom noted that the programme has amplified voices that might otherwise have remained unheard, bringing to light the remarkable achievements of African entrepreneurs, artists, leaders, sportsmen and sportswomen, all of whom are changemakers.

In a speech delivered by Ashok Israni, Globacom's Chief Marketing Director on behalf the company's executive Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Bella Disu, he said "This sponsorship is more than just brand alignment; it has been a profound expression of our shared commitment to the transformative power of storytelling. And in partnering with CNN, we have helped ensure that Africa's voicesits dreams, its challenges, and its triumphsare broadcast to the world".

Dignitaries at the event included Mrs. Bella Disu, Globacom EVC, who represented the Chairman, Dr. Mike Adenuga, Mr. Phil Nelson, CNNIC EVP, Mrs. Omolola Akpata-Owolabi, MD of OJ&T, Country Representatives of CNN, among other artistes and distinguished guests. The special episode of African Voices Changemakers will premiere on Saturday 30th November.



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## COVER FEATURE

# WUMI Toriola

## Joins The Big League



**T**his is really a joyful moment for Nollywood star actress, **Wumi Toriola** as her debut cinema movie, **Queen Lateefah**, crossed the N300 million mark at the box office, making the movie to ranked among the top 7 Nollywood's highest box office earner which is really a big boost for her acting career. **Queen Lateefah**, the Nigerian cinematic

sensation, has grossed over N350 million at the box office since its release on September 27.

The film is now the seventh highest-grossing Nollywood movie to date and holds the distinction of being the top-earning release outside of the lucrative December period, unadjusted for inflation. This box office success, as reported by **Nigerian Box Office**, underscores the increasing appetite for Nollywood's homegrown stories.

Joining the ranks of blockbusters such as **Ajosepo**, which earned N257.2 million, and **Ajakaju**, with N252.8 million, **Queen Lateefah** has quickly established itself as a high performer within Nollywood's non-December releases. **Queen Lateefah's** journey to its current box office standing has been marked by significant milestones. Within three weeks of its premiere, the film crossed the N200 million mark, an achievement few Nigerian films reach. By mid-October, box office receipts totaled N216 million, solidifying its place among the highest-grossing films in the country's history. The film's success can be attributed to its broad appeal and the meticulous distribution strategy executed by **Cinemax Distribution**. **Ope Ajayi**, **Cinemax's** founder and a

leading voice in Nollywood's distribution and production sector, highlighted the importance of connecting audiences with stories that resonate culturally and emotionally.

"Our goal at Cinemax is to empower Nigerian storytellers by ensuring their work reaches the right audience," Ajayi stated. "**Queen Lateefah's** success is proof that there is a growing appetite for local stories that reflect the diverse realities and aspirations of Nigerian viewers. The box office numbers reflect a collective embrace of our culture and stories, and this is just the beginning for Nollywood."

The sustained success of **Queen Lateefah** signals a new chapter for Nollywood, which increasingly demonstrates its ability to stand toe-to-toe with international releases. Despite facing competition from foreign films, **Queen Lateefah's** consistent ticket sales throughout October illustrate Nollywood's growing influence and the broadening market for Nigerian cinema.

**Wumi Toriola** was born in Lagos, Nigeria. She attended **Providence Primary and Secondary School** in Lagos State before she later proceeded to **University of Ilorin** where she obtained a **Bachelor's degree in Linguistics**. In 2009, Toriola got her first acting role in the movie titled **Odunfa Caucus**, and produced her first movie titled **Ajewunmi** in 2015.

In 2018, she won the **Fastest Rising Actress (Yoruba)** award at the **City People Entertainment Awards**. The prolific actress has featured in many Nollywood movies such as **Alakada Reloaded**, **Ayomipo**, **Wedding Ring**, **Our Love Story**, **False Flag**, **The Cokers**, **Battle on Buka Street**, **Ija**, **Crossroads**, **Farmer's Bride**, etc. She had also produced her own movie which includes **Obinrin**, **Ajewunmi**, **My Past**, **Ayo Ife**, **Sugbon Kan** and **Omo Better**.





# 12 Reasons Why You Should Study Abroad

Studying abroad is an increasingly popular choice for students seeking to enhance their academic and personal experiences. Whether it's for a year, a semester, or a summer school program, studying in a foreign country offers numerous benefits. From boosting employability to providing valuable life experience, the reasons to study abroad are compelling. This article explores twelve key reasons why you should consider studying abroad.

## 1. It's a Challenge

Studying abroad is an adventure that pushes you out of your comfort zone. It's an opportunity to face new and exciting challenges, from navigating a different education system to living in an unfamiliar environment. These experiences help build resilience and adaptability traits that are highly valued by employers and beneficial in all areas of life. Overcoming these challenges not only enhances your problem-solving skills but also boosts your confidence, preparing you for future obstacles.

## 2. Experience a Different Culture

Immersing yourself in a new culture involves experiencing the traditions, cuisine, and social norms of another country. It's a journey of discovery and enrichment. This cultural immersion broadens your perspective and deepens your understanding of global diversity. By living and studying alongside locals, you gain insights that go beyond what you could learn from books or media, fostering a greater appreciation for the world's rich tapestry of cultures.

## 3. Enjoy New Opportunities

Studying abroad often means accessing some of the best educational institutions in the world. Many countries boast universities that are highly ranked internationally and known for their academic excellence. Attending these institutions allows you to learn from leading experts in your field and utilise top-notch resources and facilities. This experience can significantly enhance your academic credentials and open up new opportunities for further education and career advancement.



## 4. Learn a New Language

Living in a foreign country is one of the most effective ways to learn a new language. You'll have the opportunity to take language classes, practice with native speakers, and use the language in everyday situations. This immersive experience accelerates your learning process. Becoming bilingual or multilingual not only enhances your cognitive abilities but also makes you more competitive in the global job market. Language skills are a valuable asset that can open doors to international careers and cultural exchanges.

## 5. Make New Friends

Studying abroad provides a unique opportunity to build a global network of friends. You'll meet people from various backgrounds and cultures, forming friendships that can last a lifetime. These connections enrich your personal life by exposing you to different perspectives and traditions. Professionally, networking with international peers can lead to future collaborations and opportunities across different countries and industries, broadening your career prospects and enhancing your global understanding.

## 6. International Travel

One of the exciting perks of studying abroad is the chance to travel and explore new places. Besides your host country, you can visit neighbouring countries and experience a variety of landscapes, cities, and cultures. This travel experience broadens your horizons and creates unforgettable memories. Whether it's a weekend trip to a

nearby city or an extended holiday exploring a different region, international travel is a thrilling aspect of studying abroad.

## 7. Become Independent

Living abroad fosters independence and self-reliance. You'll learn to manage your finances, find accommodation, and navigate daily life in a new environment. These experiences teach you important life skills, such as budgeting, time management, and problem-solving. Developing independence is a significant step toward becoming a well-rounded and self-sufficient adult, ready to tackle life's challenges.

## 8. Personal Development

Studying abroad is a journey of personal development. It offers a unique chance for self-discovery, helping you understand your strengths and weaknesses. The experience builds confidence, adaptability, and a sense of accomplishment. As you navigate new environments and challenges, you'll grow in ways you never imagined. Personal development is a key outcome of studying abroad, contributing to your overall well-being and success.

## 9. University Applications

Having studied abroad can make your university application stand out. It demonstrates to admissions officers that you are proactive, adventurous, and capable of thriving in diverse environments. The experience showcases your commitment to personal and academic growth, making you a more attractive candidate. Many universities

value the global perspective that comes with studying abroad, enhancing your chances of acceptance and potentially opening doors to scholarships or other forms of financial aid.

## 10. Life Experience

The life experience gained from studying abroad is invaluable. You'll collect unique stories and memories that shape your outlook on life. These experiences teach you resilience, empathy, and a global perspective. The personal growth and life skills acquired while studying abroad will stay with you long after you return home, enriching your life in countless ways.

## 11. Career Opportunities

Studying abroad can significantly enhance your career prospects. Many employers value international experience as it demonstrates a candidate's ability to adapt to new environments, work with diverse teams, and handle the complexities of global business. Additionally, you might have access to unique internships and job opportunities in the host country, giving you a head start in building an international career network. The skills and experiences gained from studying abroad can set you apart in a competitive job market.

## 12. Access to Unique Programs and Research Opportunities

Many universities abroad offer specialised programs and research opportunities that may not be available in your home country. These programs can provide a unique angle to your education and allow you to delve deeper into your field of interest. Engaging in research projects, internships, or specialised courses abroad can enhance your academic profile and provide hands-on experience in cutting-edge fields. This access to unique educational resources can enrich your learning and better prepare you for future academic or professional endeavours.

## Conclusion

Exploring education in another country can be incredibly rewarding for students. By studying abroad, you immerse yourself in a foreign culture and environment while developing your social skills and enhancing your academic journey. The benefits are vast, from personal growth to professional advantages.

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# MTN See Naija





## MTN Nigeria Unveils See Naija Platform to Showcase Nigeria's Rich Cultural Heritage

*... kicks off competition to empower content creators*



In commemoration of the World Tourism Day, MTN Nigeria has launched the See Naija platform, a digital tourism initiative aimed at showcasing Nigeria's vibrant culture, iconic landscapes and creative talent. The launch which held at the MTN Event Centre in Ikoyi, seeks to reshape the misconceptions and negative stereotypes often associated with Nigeria.

The See Naija platform is a curated online destination that allows individuals to discover beautiful spots and unique insights about Nigeria's diverse culture, from its stunning natural landscapes to its colourful festivals and traditional lifestyle. In collaboration with some content creators, the platform will explore captivating visuals and stories about the Great Oyo Empire, Gashaka Gumti Park in Taraba state, Gurara

Waterfalls in Niger state, Mount Patti in Lokoja, Agbokim Waterfall, Osun Sacred Grove and a host of others.

As a part of this launch, MTN also announced the 'See Naija' Competition which invites participants to rediscover the beautiful sights and sounds that highlight Nigeria's rich cultural heritage. Using the hashtag #SeeNaijewithMTN, the creative challenge encourages individuals including content creators, photographers and videographers to share their unique perspectives on Nigeria through photos or videos that best represent the heart and soul of Nigeria, either through its people, landscapes, culture, or traditions.

Speaking about the initiative, the Chief Customers Relations Officer and Ag. Chief Marketing Officer,

Ugonwa Nwoye, said, "At MTN, we believe in the beauty of diversity and inclusion. These two sit at the heart of our identity and organisational culture. Nigeria is a bigger picture of our culture. The nation is one of the most culturally varied countries, home to over 500 languages and over 300 ethnic groups. Nigeria's rich cultural heritage, encompassing art, crafts, and traditions from the Nok civilization to the Benin Empire, has formed the country's identity."

"To change the narrative about our country and showcase its beauty to the world, we, as indigenes, must play our part. This is why we have launched a competition inviting Nigerians to participate in rewriting history. Let's tell and share our stories about the lively markets in Lagos, the beautiful scenery in Calabar, or the customary celebrations in Kano. From our cuisine to our craft, to the diverse languages we speak, there is so much about our culture that we are yet to uncover. Let's see Naija for the beauty that it truly is," she added.

To enter the competition, interested participants can:

- ☐ Visit the See Naija website - [mtn.ng/see-naija/](https://mtn.ng/see-naija/)
- ☐ Submit a 12-minute video entry of fascinating locations in your city
- ☐ Upload your video on social media Instagram, X, TikTok, Facebook or YouTube
- ☐ Use the hashtag - #SeeNaijewithMTN
- ☐ Tag @mtnng and tag your location

The campaign kicked off on World Tourism Day and will run for 3 months. With the launch of this initiative, MTN Nigeria demonstrates its commitment to empowering Nigerians, promoting local talent, and driving socio-economic growth.







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# MARGARET AWOJIDE

**How She Achieved First-class In Final Year Through 3 Consecutive Perfect GPAs**

**T**he best graduating student from the department of Statistics' first graduating sect at the University of Lagos speaks with Edugist about her undergraduate experience and how she achieved the cumulative first-class grade only in her final year. Margaret Awojide emerged the best graduating student from the department of Statistics' first graduating sect at the University of Lagos. She speaks with Edugist about her undergraduate experience and how she achieved the cumulative first-class grade only in her final year. Excerpts **Please share with Edugist a little about yourself and your background.**

I am a first-class graduate of Statistics from the University of Lagos and the first best graduating student of the department. I was the Director of Studies for the National Association of Mathematics Students, Unilag Chapter. I hail from Osun State but I have mostly lived in Lagos and Ogun states. I have two brothers who are both graduates of the University of Lagos. Professionally, I am a Data Analyst and Data Scientist, a career path I started in 2020.

**What motivated you to pursue a degree in statistics?**

I have always loved numbers and computation. I applied to study mathematics at the University of Lagos. By the end of 100 level, we were told to select a field in mathematics to specialise in. I did a little research and learned about Data Analytics as a career and the importance of a degree in Statistics for this field. So, I

decided that I wanted to specialise in Statistics. In 2022, Statistics was finally accredited to become a department at the University of Lagos.

**Were there any courses that you found particularly challenging?** Many courses were challenging. I particularly found stochastic processes difficult, and the ASUU strike in the middle of the semester did not help matters. However, I am glad everything turned out fine eventually. **What significant challenges did you encounter during your study?**

My journey was not all rosy. I had moments of financial constraints and burnout. There were also several strikes which were not encouraging. When I started at UNILAG, my CGPA was not at a first-class level. It wasn't until my final year before I entered the first class, a feat made possible with three consecutive 5.0/5.0 semester GPAs.

**Did you participate in any internship during your study?**

My department did not have a structure for industrial training. However, I actively participated in several extracurricular activities. In 2021, I was a Data Science tutor for the Google Developer Student Club. In the same year, I did an apprenticeship with Datagenius Consulting as a Data and Research Analyst. In 2022, I was selected for the ALX-T Udacity Nanodegree and successfully became a Room Fellow.

In my final year in school, I was a Student Ambassador for Tableau, during which I

hosted and co-hosted several workshops to teach Data Analytics and Tableau. I also actively participated in several hackathons, including the 10Alytics African Data Hackathon where I came 6th place out of about 1500 participants. **Did you win any scholarships for your study?**

Unfortunately, I didn't win any scholarships during my period at the University of Lagos.

**Do you have any role models you look up to?**

When I gained admission to the University of Lagos, I heard about Omotuyi Oyindamola who made the headlines for being the overall best-graduating student at the University of Lagos and achieving a perfect CGPA of 5.0/5.0 in Systems Engineering. I was inspired by the feat of this lady. My brothers also graduated from UNILAG and performed excellently well. I look up to them as role models and I knew I was going to do my best during my stay in school.

**Has any lecturer contributed to your ease of navigating our academics?**

My course advisor and project supervisor, Dr. Mary Akinyemi, was one of my mentors during my stay at the University of Lagos. She taught me to push harder rather than achieve the barest minimum. With her support, I was able to present my project topic: "Evaluation of Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis Using Machine Learning Models" as a research paper at the 9th Annual Conference on Mathematical Sciences and Optimization.

**What are your long-term career goals?**

I am interested in furthering my education after my bachelor's degree. Currently, I am in search of scholarships for a master's degree.



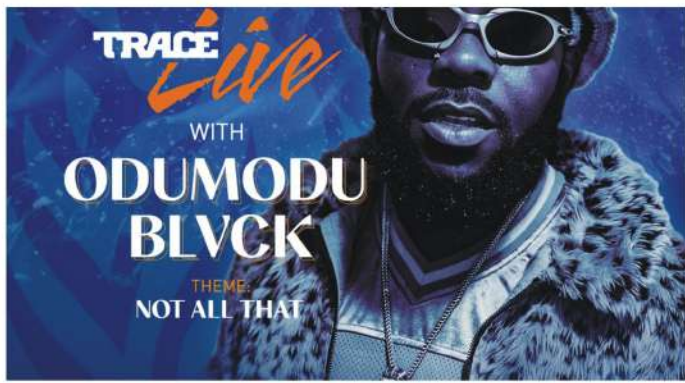
My long-term goal is to continue and advance my career in data. If I were asked 10 years ago about my career goals, I would have likely said something different. However, I am certain that I will be excellent wherever I find myself.

**What advice would you offer students who would love to replicate this success in STEM fields?**

I have three pieces of advice. The first thing I would say is to enjoy your course. I realise that it is easier to do better when you have a passion for what you are doing. Research about your course, and don't limit yourself to what you learn in class. The second thing is for you to start studying early. Personally, I am against reading a week or a day before the exam. Start from the first day and keep practising. Never pile up. The last thing I would say is to manage your time wisely. It is a good idea to participate in extracurricular activities for career development. You can also make use of productivity tools like Pomodoro, To-do-list/Schedule apps, and so on. However, ensure you manage your time properly so that the activities don't affect your academics.

EDUGIST







# hackahol/cs> 5.0 GRAND FINALE



## Seven Startups Receive N145 million at Wema Bank's Hackaholics 5.0 Grand Finale

**W**ema Bank, Nigeria's most innovative bank and pioneer of Africa's first fully digital bank, **ALAT**, has successfully concluded the 5th edition of its **Hackaholics initiative**, a premier ideathon designed to empower and support the nation's brightest tech innovators. The grand finale, which took place recently in Lagos, witnessed a remarkable showcase of ingenuity and problem-solving prowess, culminating in seven startups sharing an impressive **N145 million in prize money** nearly double the initial prize fund of N75 million. This year's Hackaholics stood out with a record-breaking **3,500 applications** from across Nigeria. From this pool, **10 finalists** showcased innovative solutions addressing real-world challenges, ranging from education accessibility to sustainable agriculture, healthcare, and more. **Feegor**, the overall winner, was awarded the top prize of **N50 million** for its innovative B2B wholesale marketplace and SaaS platform. Feegor empowers SMEs to discover, negotiate, and source goods from verified suppliers while accessing credit through a Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) model. This groundbreaking approach is set to drive growth and create significant economic impact.

The first runner-up, **Employment AI**, received **N35 million** for its AI-powered invoice discounting platform, revolutionizing how businesses manage payments. **Bloom Beauty**, the second runner-up, was awarded **N20 million** for its personalized, AI-curated solutions that are transforming the beauty industry. In the women-led category, **MyTherapist** secured the position of first runner-up, earning **N12 million**. MyTherapist connects users with mental health professionals, providing accessible and affordable therapy solutions for emotional well-being. Meanwhile, **Mytura**, an innovator delivering remote healthcare services, clinched the position of second runner-up in the women-led category, receiving **N8 million**. Both **Northino** and **University X** earned honorable mentions at the grand finale, each receiving **N10 million**. Northino was recognized for bridging traditional knowledge and modern technology through digital skills training for African native speakers, while University X impressed with its transparent, all-encompassing platform for tertiary education management. The significance of these groundbreaking innovations was

highlighted by Wema Bank's CEO, **Moruf Oseni**, who shared his vision for the initiative. In his words, "We are delighted to celebrate the brilliance of our youth through the Hackaholics initiative. At Wema Bank, we are more than a bank; we are enablers of dreams and drivers of transformation. When I stood here earlier, the total prize money was N75 million. But, inspired by the potential we saw, we decided to increase the total prize pool to N145 million. Wema Bank's legacy of 79 years remains rooted in innovation, and with initiatives like Hackaholics, we continue to empower lives and shape the future."

**Ugonna Ginigeme**, CEO of Feegor and the overall winner, expressed heartfelt gratitude for the recognition and support.

"I feel very grateful to God, my team, and everyone who has been part of this journey. Winning among so many great startups and entrepreneurs is humbling. I sincerely thank the MD, Wema Bank, and its management for this incredible opportunity. These are still early days, but we are determined to keep working, building, and creating a positive impact for SMEs and the Nigerian economy while building an all-around successful company," Ginigeme said.

**Hackaholics 5.0** not only underscores Wema Bank's legacy of innovation but also sets the stage for further technological advancements, fostering a generation of problem-solvers poised to reshape Nigeria's future.





# WEMA Bank Pioneers Nigeria's First Licensed Banking App For Teenagers, ALAT Xplore APP

**W**ema Bank, Nigeria's foremost innovative bank and pioneer of Africa's first fully digital bank, ALAT, has launched its highly anticipated ALAT Xplore App, a first-of-its-kind mobile banking app designed strategically to empower teenagers ages 13-17 with financial resources and opportunities to give them a head-start towards financial responsibility. The groundbreaking App was unveiled at the official launch event on Saturday, October 26, 2024 in Lagos.

Currently available on the PlayStore or App Store, ALAT Xplore App is breaking new ground as the first-ever licensed Nigerian banking app for teenagers. The App boasts a unique range of engaging, educative and innovative features that make finance management more interesting for teenagers and help them weave financial literacy into their daily lives. The App offers a seamless onboarding experience, savings goals for Teens to save towards specific targets of their choice at any frequency and earn interest, widgets that allow teens customise the App's interface based on their preferences. The ALAT Xplore App also allows teenagers access a debit card for their use, offering a range of three unique, intriguing and innovative ALAT Xplore Debit card design options to select from, based on their preference.

Built with a unique parental-control framework, the ALAT Xplore App works in connection with the ALAT App, offering a unique experience that allows teenagers manage their finances via the ALAT Xplore App, with parents able to supervise and control the teenagers' access to onboard on the app, as well as their use of funds. The parent/guardian opens, funds and manages the ALAT Xplore Account for their Teen via the ALAT App. While the teenager can download the ALAT Xplore App on the App Store and Playstore, the parent

is required to give approval for the teen to complete the onboarding process on the App. Once the parent/guardian approves, the teenager can log in and use the ALAT Xplore App any time.

To further ensure that the teenagers' use of the ALAT Xplore App does not interfere with the parents' overall financial contributions towards the teen's future, the ALAT Xplore App operates with a wallet account connected to the ALAT Xplore Account. The parent funds the wallet account at their discretion, and the teen can access any amount funded into the wallet account using the ALAT Xplore App; not the entire amount in the ALAT Xplore account. Where teens run out of funds on the ALAT Xplore App, the App offers a smart feature through which they can request money from their parent/guardians in a few clicks. The parent/guardian simply receives a notification telling them how much their teen has requested as well as what they need the money for, with the option of granting the request.

The ALAT Xplore App Launch is guaranteed to be a gamechanger not just in the Nigerian banking and financial services industry, but also for teenagers across Nigeria who will now be able to bank on their mobile phones, manage their finances, save at their pace, spend with debit cards issued in their name, learn efficient finance management and get a head-start in financial responsibility as they journey towards adulthood.

Wema Bank's MD/CEO, Moruf Oseni, emphasised the importance of inculcating financial literacy from early childhood and teenage years, towards producing more financially responsible adults. "Teenagers stand at a confluence between childhood and adulthood, and while 0-8 are regarded the formative years, teenage years have the capacity to steer the course of adulthood, and it is important that we leverage this pivotal phase to steer teens in the right direction. We had created the ALAT Xplore Account to help parents and guardians build a solid financial foundation for their teens, and the results have been impressive so far. However, we identified an equally important need for these teens to become involved in this journey to financial success, hence the launch of the ALAT Xplore App. The App has been curated intentionally to give teens a head-start in their journey to financial independence, helping them understand the intricacies of finance management and how best to navigate the terrain, ensuring that by adulthood, they are equipped to thrive. The goal is to build more financially responsible adults from the point of being teens".

"We are excited to launch teenagers across Nigeria into a world of financial possibilities through the ALAT Xplore App, and we invite parents, guardians and teenagers across Nigeria to join us on this thrilling journey. As always, we have been thoughtful in curating this App to serve the needs of teenagers with some

parental control as an added measure to guide these teenagers. The big picture for us is to empower teens towards financially responsible adulthood by introducing them to the practicalities of finance management in the most simplified, relatable and realistic way. I encourage every teen to download the ALAT Xplore App and onboard, every parent or guardian to open an ALAT Xplore Account for their teenager on the ALAT App, and every Nigerian to take pride in spotlighting, promoting and adopting this pioneering innovative solution that is set to rejig the industry and empower teens for a productive and successful future. The ALAT Xplore App is a game changer in the Nigerian banking industry and as we did when we pioneered ALAT, we are ushering in a new era of financial inclusion for Nigerians, this time, for teenagers", Oseni concluded.

The ALAT Xplore App is the Nigeria's first licensed banking app for teenagers. The App is accessible from any part of the world, allowing teenagers within and outside Nigeria to onboard on the app provided their parents have opened ALAT Xplore accounts for them on ALAT. The intriguing card designs also present a new opportunity for teenagers to own and operate their own debit cards issued in their own name, as they explore on their journey to adulthood.

Teenagers are encouraged to download the ALAT Xplore App on the Playstore or App Store to onboard and request a debit card of their choice. Parents and guardians are to download the ALAT App, open an ALAT Xplore Account for their teens and give approval in-app for their teen to fully onboard.

introducing

## ALAT Xplore

App by Wema

### Nigeria's First Licensed Banking App For Teenagers



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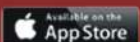


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# LASU Unveils 10,800-Bed Hostel, First Phase Ready for Commissioning

*...Tokunbo Wahab lauds PPP approach, thanks stakeholders*

In a landmark development for Lagos State University (LASU), Ojo, the first phase of a transformative 10,800-bed hostel project is now ready for commissioning. This ambitious initiative, facilitated by the Lagos State Government under Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, represents a significant stride in improving student welfare and addressing accommodation challenges at the institution. The announcement was made by Tokunbo Wahab, the former Special Adviser to the Governor on Education who is now the state environmental czar via a post on X (formerly Twitter). Wahab described the project as one of the most ambitious undertakings during his tenure, highlighting its execution through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model under a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) arrangement. The collaboration involves seven reputable investors. "Through the grace of God, the unwavering support of the Lagos



State Office of Public-Private Partnerships, the relentless

efforts of LASU management led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Ibiyemi

Olatunji-Bello, and the cooperation of key stakeholders, the first phase of this landmark project has now been completed," Wahab said. A Game-Changer for Student Accommodation The 10,800-bed hostel is poised to be a game-changer for students at LASU, alleviating long-standing accommodation challenges. The project exemplifies the Lagos State Government's commitment to leveraging public-private partnerships to address critical infrastructure needs in the education sector. Wahab expressed pride in the project's progress and its readiness for commissioning by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, stating: "Proud of the work done here and to have been a part of this special one." As LASU prepares to commission this milestone development, students, staff, and stakeholders eagerly anticipate the improved living conditions and enhanced academic experience the new hostel will bring. The completion of this phase sets the stage for further advancements in the institution's infrastructure and positions LASU as a leading center of academic excellence in Nigeria.

## 17-yr-old Ugochukwu, son of Nigerian model Oluchi Onweagba, wins Macau Grand Prix

Ugo Ugochukwu, the 17-year-old Nigerian-American racing prodigy, clinched the 2024 FIA Formula Regional (FR) World Cup title on Sunday at the 71st Macau Grand Prix. The young driver dominated the race from start to finish, representing R-ace GP, with Olivier Goethe of MP Motorsport and Noel León of KCMG IXO by Pinnacle Motorsport finishing second and third, respectively. With this victory, Ugochukwu became the first American driver to claim the prestigious Macau Grand Prix title in more than four decades. Reflecting on his historic achievement, Ugochukwu credited his resilience and confidence as the keys to his success. "I can't describe the feeling; of course, I'm super happy. It was quite a tricky race. I was pushing the whole way, but I was confident in the pace ever since Q2, we've been really quick," he said. "Of course, we won the Quali race as well, but there was still one more thing to do, which was win the main race, and we managed to do it. I can't thank the R-ace GP

team enough. We had a great weekend, and yeah, I'm super happy to finally get the job done." Who is Ugo Ugochukwu? Ugo Ugochukwu, a Nigerian-American driver born on April 23, 2007, in New York, USA, is the son of former Nigerian queen, Oluchi Onweagba. He began his racing journey in 2014 by competing in the Micro ROK Cup USA. He quickly made his mark, winning his first American championship title that year. His exceptional talent and charisma propelled him to claim

two more American championships in 2014 and 2015. In 2016, Ugo expanded his horizons by competing in European series, securing second place in the Mini ROK Cup and Mini 60 Italian Championship. The year 2017 was a breakthrough, as he won the Mini X30 IAME All Star Finals and the IAME International X30 Mini Cup, showcasing his prowess on the global stage. Ugo continued to dominate in 2018, earning the title of Junior ROK-Challenge of the Americas

champion and finishing as vice-champion in the Junior ROK Florida Winter Tour. Despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, he remained focused and was signed by Zak Brown, CEO of McLaren F1 Racing Team, as the first member of the McLaren Junior driver program. That year, he secured second place in the OK Junior Champions of the Future Championship and won the OK Junior FIA European Championship. Before transitioning to single-seater racing in 2022 with Carlin Racing in the British F4 Championship, Ugo concluded his karting career on a high note by finishing second in the OK Senior WSK Euro Series in 2021. His journey reflects relentless determination and a bright future in motorsport.







## Netflix Denies Plans To Exit Nigerian Market Amidst Rumours

**N**etflix has dismissed recent speculations about exiting the Nigerian market, affirming its commitment to serving its audience in the country. In a press statement sighted by our correspondent, Netflix clarified that the rumours were unfounded. The platform reiterated its dedication to the Nigerian creative industry, highlighting its collaborations with local filmmakers and investments in original content to entertain and captivate Nigerian viewers. This response follows a series of social media posts suggesting that Netflix might discontinue its services in Nigeria due to economic challenges and regulatory pressures. However, the company's statement reassures its subscribers that it



remains firmly committed to its operations in Nigeria. Netflix has become a major player in Nigeria's entertainment ecosystem, with several Nigerian productions gaining global recognition on the platform. Titles like *Blood Sisters*, *Anikulapo*, and

*Shanty Town* have showcased the country's storytelling prowess to an international audience. This denial underscores Netflix's strategy to expand its footprint in Africa, a key growth region, by deepening its connection with local markets and audiences. Earlier, **Kunle Afolayan**, a movie producer had been reported to have said that the movie streaming platform had quietly left Nigeria eight years after it launched in the

country. Afolayan was reported to have made this revelation while speaking at the **2024 Zuma Film Festival** which took place in Abuja. Afolayan said that Netflix had stopped commissioning new Nigerian originals and that unlike many of his colleagues, he was fortunate to have secured a third season for his hit series 'Anikulapo' before the platform made the decision. He added that some of his colleagues were not that lucky as other Nollywood projects in development were cancelled. He described their leaving as a big blow to the industry and also saw it as a wake-up call for the movie industry.

## "Big Doings": Billionaire Okoya's son to gift

**R**olls-Royce to winner of song challenge

Subomi Okoya who goes by the stage name Siraheem and the son of Nigerian billionaire Rasak Okoya, has promised a red Rolls-Royce to the winner of his unreleased song's challenge 'Bad Bitch Syndrome'. In a video posted to his social media accounts, Siraheem stood beside the luxury car and laid out the rules. "Bad bitches, pull up in your best fit. You win the challenge, dress well, you win the Rolls-Royce," he

said, urging fans to showcase their style and creativity in line with the song's bold theme.



The announcement has sparked a wave of humorous reactions online, with fans commenting light-heartedly about the logistics of winning a luxury car. One fan said, "Who will help me put fuel in the car if I win?"

The unreleased snippet of the song has gained significant traction on TikTok, amassing over 14,000 posts. Fans are posting videos of themselves vibing to the track, with some sharing that they have a love-hate relationship with the song. Others believe the track will go viral, partly due to Siraheem's status as the son of a billionaire. Siraheem has been actively promoting the challenge, even collaborating with his father's Eleganza Group staff to create entertaining videos. It will be recalled that Afrobeats sensation Davido publicly endorsed Raheem Subomi Okoya's debut song, amidst mixed reactions from the public. Davido, the Grammy-nominated singer, showed his support by commenting on Raheem Okoya's post, declaring the song a "hit." He further clarified the lyrics on his X page, correcting the misconception that Raheem sang "very stingy" instead of "bad b\*\*ch syndrome."

## Asake Sets New Record With His Chart-Topping Album 'Lungu Boy'

**A**fter consecutive success with his first two albums, Asake released his third album in three years titled 'Lungu Boy'.

Asake has now made history with his latest album which has become the longest-charting number-one album on the TurnTable album chart. 'Lungu Boy' has spent 15 weeks atop the chart which is essentially all the time since its release on August 8, 2024. With this feat, Asake now holds the record for the longest charting album and song on the TurnTable Charts. In 2023, Asake's hit single 'Lonely At The Top' became the longest charting number-one song after disposing of Omah Lay's 'Godly'



which held the record with 11 weeks at the summit.

Since breaking into the mainstream in 2022, Asake has risen to superstardom thanks to his serial hit releases housed across his albums 'Mr Money With The Vibes' and 'Work Of Art'. His third album 'Lungu Boy' featured guest appearances from Stormzy, Central Cee, Anais Cardot, and Wizkid. 'MMS' featuring Wizkid recently earned a nomination for Best African Song Performance for the 67th Grammy Awards which marks Asake's second nomination in two years. Asake's mainstream run has been declared unprecedented

in Nigerian mainstream music and the superstar is showing no sign of slowing down with the digital success of his third album.

## Lil Baby graduates from Harvard Business School program

**A**tanta rapper Lil Baby is officially a Harvard man.

Lil Baby also known as Dominique Armani Jones attended Harvard Business School's "Launching New Ventures," program in February, a spokesperson for the school said. Students in this one-week program learn how to develop entrepreneurial skills and pitch their business ideas to investors, according to the program's website.

Lil Baby enrolled in the school as a way to help him manage his record label Glass Window Entertainment LLC.

A two-minute video of the rapper attending the course was posted on X Wednesday. Toward the end of the video, after Lil Baby earns his certificate of completion, he's met with a surprise party from his family.







# itel Launches the S25 Ultra:

## An Affordable Rival to Samsung S24



itel S25 Ultra

ITEL SMART LIFE PRODUCT LAUNCH

itel, a global leading smart life brand committed to offering affordable technology and good consumer electronic products, is proud to unveil its latest flagship smartphone series, the itel S25 Ultra, positioning itself as a strong contender in the competitive smartphone market. Known for delivering value-driven products, itel's new release combines premium flagship display experience with affordability, offering a viable alternative to high-end devices like the Samsung S24.

The itel S25 Ultra designed to last up to five years, boasts of advanced features designed to cater to tech-savvy users and users on a budget redefining the standard for the perfect balance between affordability and all-round improved performance plus a comprehensive after-sales guarantee. Key highlights of the itel S25 Ultra include:

### Excellent Visual Brilliance with AMOLED Display

A sleek and vibrant Itel S25 Ultra has an impressive 6.78-inch 3D-curved AMOLED display enhanced with Corning Gorilla Glass 7i, offering users a flagship-level viewing experience with a 92% screen-to-body ratio, a stunning 2436\*1080 resolution and a high level FHD+ screen with a peak brightness of 1400nits that delivers deeper blacks, vivid colors, and improved clarity, making every interaction immersive. Its 120Hz refresh rate ensures smooth scrolling and responsive touch, while the In-Display Fingerprint feature adds convenience and security. Even in challenging conditions, such as wet hand use, the display remains responsive and clear, perfect for everyday multitasking or media consumption. For extra peace of mind, itel offers a 100-day free screen replacement for accidental damage.

### Outstanding Image & Video Quality on a Professional Level

Photography enthusiasts will appreciate S25 Ultra 50MP rear camera, offering super HDR, Backlight Shooting and Super Night Mode for crystal-clear images in any lighting making it perfect for professional photography. The advanced image processing ensures vibrant colors and exceptional detail, even in challenging conditions. The 32MP front camera, coupled with AI Beauty 2.0, allows for flawless, crystal clear selfies with wide-angle shots, ideal for capturing group photos or stunning solo portraits.

### Enhanced Multitasking with Powerful and Reliable Performance

Powering itel S25 Ultra is the T620 octa-core processor Cortex-A75 up to 2.2Ghz, supporting super Wi-Fi 6E wall-penetrating to provide ultra-low latency for seamless gaming and automatically switching to the best network, all paired with 16GB RAM (8GB+8GB\*), ensuring seamless multitasking, even with 18 apps running simultaneously. With 128GB ROM, users can

store over 30,000 photos, making it the ideal device for those who need extra space without compromise. The itel Atom Storage Tech, itel S25 Ultra guarantees 60 months of fluency, eliminating users concerns about system lag over time while the device's Graphite cooling system and Super WIFI wall-penetrating capability enhance efficiency in daily tasks.

### An Impressive Long Lasting Battery Capacity

The itel S25 Ultra is equipped with a robust 5,000mAh battery, designed to keep you powered throughout the day without interruptions. To complement its impressive capacity, the device supports 18W fast charging, enabling users to recharge quickly and get back to their tasks in no time making it perfect for those with a fast-paced lifestyle.

### Powered by Latest Software

Running on itel OS 14.5 and upgradeable to Android 15, itel S25 Ultra ensures users stay up-to-date with the latest software enhancements and security updates, keeping their devices secure and future ready. Pre-installed with GPT AI Assistant, the device also features Call Noise Cancellation for clearer conversations, AI Wallpaper, and ASK AI for a smarter and more intuitive user experience. These intelligent tools seamlessly integrate into daily tasks, making the itel S25 Ultra not just a smartphone but a reliable digital companion. With its cutting-edge AI capabilities, users can enjoy enhanced convenience and efficiency like never before.

### Corning Gorilla Glass 7i Resistant Screen

The itel S25 Ultra comes with a Corning Gorilla Glass 7i screen with improved scratch and drop resistance. This means that the phone's screen cannot easily break when it falls on hard surfaces. The itel S25 Ultra is also water resistant with wet or oily touch control. The screen also has the ability to withstand extreme pressures, whether cold or hot.

### Latest Google Security Updates

The itel S25 Ultra is equipped with Google's recently rolled out Theft Protection Security updates, including theft detection lock, offline device lock and remote lock. These features add an extra level of security to detect any potential theft and immediately protect the user's information by locking the phone in ways only the user can unlock. With these advanced protections in place, users can feel confident knowing their device and personal data are safeguarded against unauthorized access. Whether the device is

lost or stolen, these security measures ensure that sensitive information remains secure and out of reach.

### Free Data for 6 Months

You will be glad to know that the itel S25 Ultra comes with a 1.5 GB monthly data plan plus 100 percent data bonus for a period of six months for MTN users. This means that when you purchase the itel S25 Ultra you won't be short of data for browsing, streaming on YouTube, and navigating other social media platforms.

### Affordable Excellence

The itel S25 Ultra is priced significantly lower than the Samsung S24, delivering high-end features at a fraction of the cost. Starting at ₦249,800 for itel S25 Ultra while S25 is ₦204,500, itel continues to ensure bridging the gap between premium technology and affordability is a top priority.

### A Worthy Contender

The itel S25 Ultra's affordability does not compromise its performance. itel S25 Ultra combines sleek aesthetics with practical durability. Its platinum finish, diamond-sturdy frame, and IP54 rating for dust and water resistance ensure it can withstand the rigors of daily life while meeting the needs of a diverse audience from students to professionals and setting a new standard for budget smartphones. With sound optimized by DTS and NFC support, S25 Ultra offers a well-rounded premium experience. It perfectly balances user needs, performance, and affordability, making it the best AMOLED smartphone in its price range and a worthy rival to industry giants like Samsung.

### Availability and Launch Offers

The itel S25 Ultra is now available at leading retail stores and e-commerce platforms nationwide. Early buyers can enjoy exclusive launch promotions, including discounts and free accessories, while stocks last.

With the launch of the itel S25 Ultra, itel reaffirms its place as a brand that understands and caters to its audience's needs while committed to democratizing technology for emerging markets consumers and the itel S25 flagship series is a testament to this commitment offering exquisite craftsmanship, top-tier aesthetics, comprehensive functionality, and affordability backed by a robust after-sales service package. As the most cost-effective and durable curved AMOLED smartphone in its class, itel S25 Ultra sets a new standard for value and performance.







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Corning® Gorilla® Glass 7i

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Ultra Slim Design

256+16GB\*  
(8+8GB) Extended RAM

**1.5GB data monthly for 6 months  
+ 100% data bonus monthly**



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\*The image shown here is indicative only. The actual product may differ. S25 Ultra 256+16GB version's RAM is composed of 8+8GB expansion. Memory foam may vary by device model. Phone, net's own search app, is widely compatible and pre-installed on the S25 Series. Corning and Gorilla are registered trademarks of Corning Incorporated.



# BURNA Boy

Is The Most  
Streamed  
Nigerian  
Artist Of  
All Time On  
Apple Music

To mark **Nigeria's 64th Independence Day** celebration, **Apple Music** published a list of the biggest Nigerian artists, songs, and albums of all time.

**Apple Music** celebrates Nigeria's Independence Day with **Oshe Naija** (meaning *Thanks Nigeria in Yoruba*), a month-long initiative that will pay tribute to several regions that have significantly shaped the soundscape of Nigerian music and primed it for a worldwide

audience.

As part of the celebrations, **Apple Music** published the list of the top 10 most streamed Nigerian artists of all time on the platform.

The list is topped by **Grammy-winning star Burna Boy** who has soared to global fame in 2018 with his smash hit single 'YE'.

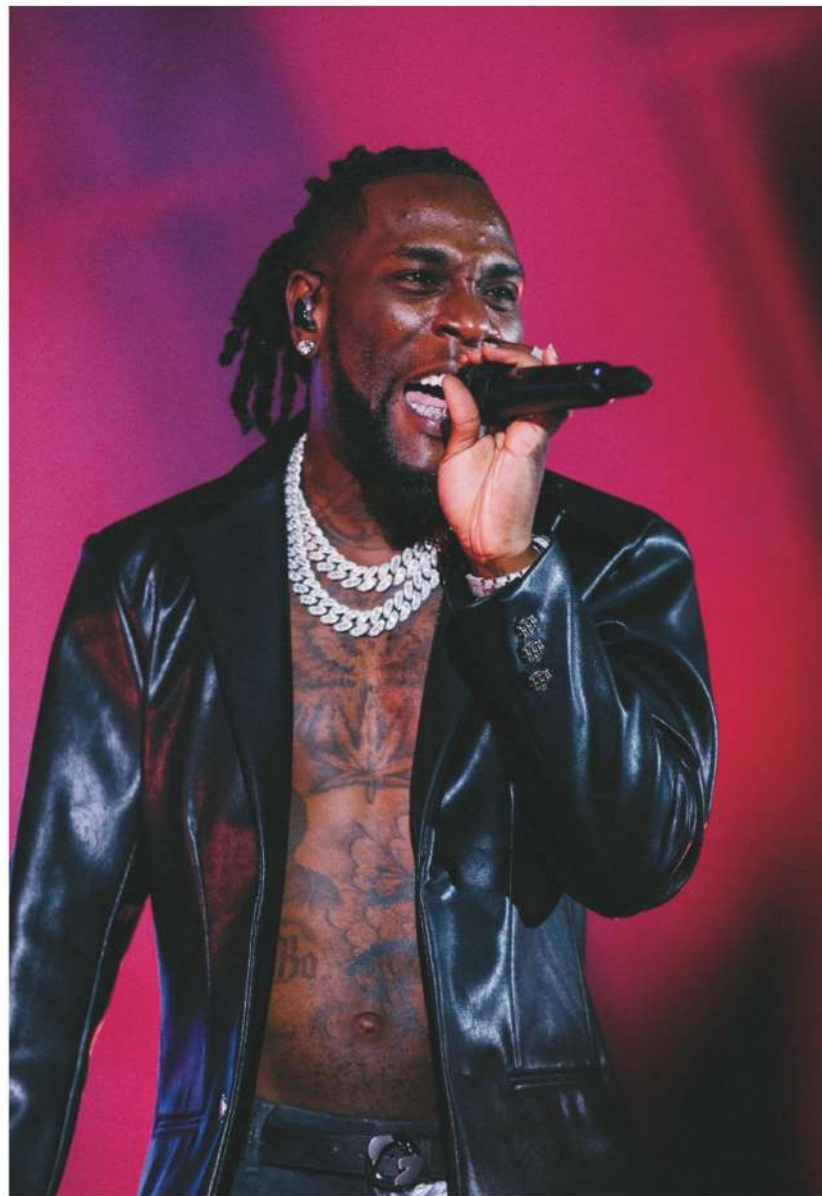
The list also features some of Nigeria's biggest and most successful artists of the last decade with **Wizkid** coming second, **Davido** third, **Rema** fifth, and **Asake** rounding off the top 5 thanks to his surreal run of hits.

**Tems** is the only female artist on the list with the Grammy winner soaring to fame after her captivating music found dedicated global listeners.

Top Nigerian Artists on Apple Music

1. Burna Boy
2. Wizkid
3. Davido
4. Rema
5. Asake
6. Tems
7. Omah Lay
8. Fireboy DML
9. Bnxn
10. Olamide

As part of **Apple Music's** celebration of **Nigerian 64th Independence**, the platform will release the **Oshe Naija** collection will feature 8 exclusively curated playlists by Afro-fusion superstar **Omah Lay** (Port Harcourt), Hip-Hop force **ODUMODUBLVCK** (Abuja), maverick rapper **Shallipopi** (Benin City), Afro-R&B doyenne **Qing Madi** (Benin City), genre-bending singer-songwriter **Seyi Vibe** (Lagos), legendary Afro-pop singer-songwriter **2Baba** (Jos), sure-fire rapper **Jeriq** (Enugu) and trailblazing up-coming singer **Bloody Civilian** (Abuja).







# BILLY QUE

## *Life As A Showbiz Promoter*

**B**illiamin Olabanji popularly known as Billy Que in the entertainment circle is one of the leading Nigerian artistes and showbiz promoters in the United Kingdom. The affable young man has carved a niche for himself with his UK and European Tours which he frequently packaged for artistes, more especially young and talented Nigerian artistes and DJs which has tremendously helped in showcasing and exposing them to international audiences. In this exclusive interview, Billy Que speaks about his experience working with Hip-hop and Fuji Artistes, his contribution to the ever growing popularity of the Afrobeats genre, his visions for his brand among other topical issues.

### **Can you tell us about yourself?**

My name is Billiamin Olabanji. I am an Artistes and Event Promoter based in London, United Kingdom. I'm the CEO and founder of Billy Que Entertainment. And within the industry, people call me Billy Que.

### **How did you get to be a show promoter?**

When I was young, I used to be a party rider. I like going out a lot. I love to attend parties and have fun. And I always organize parties for friends and families. So one day, I just asked myself why don't I start making money with these parties and gatherings I do for people when I noticed people are making money off it as well. This was how I became a promoter and event planner.

### **So far, what has been your biggest failure, and what did you learn from the experience?**

Organizing an event and it was later canceled due to artiste missing flight on the day of the event. So I have learnt never to make such a mistake again, as in getting an artiste to land on the day of the event. It's just too risky. I will never try such a thing again.

### **What's one thing about your career that you didn't expect?**

I didn't expect my promotional deals with Hip-hop / Afrobeats artistes as well as Fuji artistes, like proper indigenous music artists. It's kind of funny how I've been able to handle the two genres effectively.

### **Between promotions of Fuji Artistes and the Afrobeats or Hip-hop acts, which do you prefer or which is easier to package and handle?**

Hip-hop artistes are easier to package because it involves less logistics.

### **You tend to love Fuji music and promoting Fuji Artistes. What led to this?**

As a Yoruba boy. I like my culture. That is why I like promoting Fuji music.

### **Who are the Fuji Artistes you've worked with?**

Too many Fuji artists have worked with. From King Wasiu Ayinde, Wasiu Alabi Pasuma, Sulaimon Alao Malaika, Saheed Osupa, Obesere, Taye Currency, Adewale Ayuba, Remi Aluko, and so many fast rising upcoming Fuji artistes.

### **Tell us about your first music promotion.**

My first music promotion was for Qdot, a hip-hop artistes in 2011.

### **Which will you describe as your toughest event?**

First major concert for Davido in 2013.

### **What's the biggest challenge you're facing in your career right now, and how are you tackling it?**

My challenge right now is risking a lot of my personal money to invest on a big project without having major sponsors or part sponsors. So I'm always

looking for sponsors to execute my big projects. Now, I do more of marketing of my shows to brands and sponsors and the responses are encouraging.

### **What's the most important lesson you've learned in your career so far?**

In this line of our business, one must have integrity because it's a business that largely deals with money.

### **Artistes are known to be eccentric and very unpredictable. How do you manage their excesses?**

Artistes are really not predictable, most of them are ungrateful once they get the fame or too much money coming in for them.







“

**In this line of our business, one must have integrity because it's a business that largely deals with money.**

My own is to promote and do whatever business I have with them. I don't really expect favours or help from them. I do strictly business with them most times so I don't get disappointed anytime they start their ungrateful acts.

**Can you share with us the weirdest thing an artiste has ever done to you in this music promotion business?**

Promoting an artist from scratch. From when nobody knows him at all and when he gets known and gets fame, the artiste doesn't appreciate me or my effort anymore. Like 2 to 3 artistes have done this to me. But I

don't want to start mentioning names.

**In your opinion, what's the most important strength or personality trait someone would need to be successful in your job?**

You must be ready to sacrifice your personal life and time. The job takes a lot of my personal time, in fact that includes my family time. If you want to be a promoter like me, you must be ready to give 60% of your personal time on the business and 40% of your family time. You must also know how to relate with people because in this promotion job, you meet a lot of people, I mean different types of people with all sorts of characters.

**How much time do you spend on social media each day?**

I literally lived on social media because I need to keep abreast of happenings in the entertainment industry. I can tell you I'm on social media or online for 18hrs. In fact, it's only when I'm sleeping that I am offline.

**Is there anything you wish you could change about the social media world?**

Yes of course! Cyber bullying. I don't like that on social media. People need to stop that.

**What is your dream project?**

It's to host my own show at the 20 thousand capacity O2 Arena in the UK.

**What trends do you see**

**emerging in the Entertainment industry, and how impactful do you consider them to be?**

All those funny skit makers. Many are very creative and informative. They are giving people joy and hope to live life, and also taking stress off the people especially at this difficult time.

**What are your long-term professional goals within the Entertainment industry?**

My long term goal is to own my own nightclub or an event center.

**How do you spend quality time with your family despite your tight schedules and trips around the world?**

I tried to make up for the times I'm not around whenever I have the opportunity to be with my family. I spend time with my wife and kids whenever I am home with them because once I am out like this, I am in a different world.

**What does your morning routine look like?**

Due to the nature of my job, I work most of the night, so in the morning, trust me I am still sleeping and trying to relax.

**Why do some people call you Billy 60-40?**

Haaaa haaa (*laughing out loud*)! That's my sharing formulae with most of the artistes I worked with on events or shows we do together. After taking our costs invested on a project. I give them 60%, I take 40%.

**What advice do you have for young people out there who want to take up music promotions as a career?**

Music promotion is a good career. My advice to young people out there is to get focused and know exactly what you really want to be in the music industry, if it's DJ, MC, Event Planner or Club Promoter, just focus on your craft and do it well. Be humble and honest. Integrity really matters a lot. Let people know you for one thing. It really goes a long way.







## 9TH Ghana-Nigeria Leadership Summit/Achievers Award *A Platform For Effective Bilateral Cooperation*

**A**buja, the capital city of Nigeria on Thursday 5th September, 2024 hosted the society creme de la creme and industry players from Ghana and Nigeria as the Ghana Nigeria Achievers Award Foundation hosted the 9th edition of the global event.

The event started with a beautiful display of African culture by the Thunder Dancers, music rendition and different speeches from invited dignitaries.

Comrade Barry Ndu Nwaihim, convener of GNAA while giving the opening remarks stated that the reason for the event was in recognition of the enormous intellectual and mineral resources evident in both countries and the need to continuously collaborate in making Africa a better place for all. He called for more flexible business opportunities, inter country collaborations and unity in attending to the needs of citizens. He emphasized that the time used for unnecessary jollof

rice and football rivalry should be channeled into thinking out ways on how these two great countries can benefit from resources available within.

H.E Amb. Eddison Agbenyagah, Ghana's Deputy High Commissioner to Nigeria appreciated the organizers for such laudable initiative. He noted that such events help in consolidating on the good relationship between Ghana and Nigeria. The Diplomat said that there are a lot of business opportunities to be invested in within the two countries and asked investors to do well and visit to see inherent potentials. He assured of the support and collaboration of the High Commission even in subsequent editions.

Dr. Jayne Onwumere, GMD of PWAN Group, the first Real Estate network company in the world commended the vision behind the initiative, she pledged total commitment and support towards the 10th edition of the event. The

global Amazon who expressed excitement for the honour called on all that attended to keep showing love for humanity, passion for people and excellence in hard work.

Hon. Frank Annon-Dompreh, Majority Chief whip of Ghana's parliament who received Africa's Impactful Member of Parliament Award said that the honour would inspire him and other recipients to keep working for the unity of Africa and ensure that citizens continue to benefit from the dividends of Democracy.

In all, the event was a huge success as about 40 impactful individuals were honoured for their good works towards humanity and enabling a better Ghana, Nigeria relationship. The organizers said that preparations towards the 10 Edition would start immediately as it is expected to be filled with much more impact. The convener would be launching his book, Ghana - Nigeria Diplomatic

Relationship: Beyond Rhetorics soon.

Some of the Award recipients included Prof. Steve Azaiki, OON, Chairman Azaiki Foundation, ACG. James Sunday PCC, FCAI, Zonal Coordinator Nigerian Immigration Service, Zone C Headquarters, Dr. Griffin Quabena Ikeson, CEO Griffin Home Ghana, Dr. Dacosta Aboagye, CEO National Health Insurance Authority, AIG Aisha Abubakar Bajju PhD, OON, Hon. Amb. Ginika Florence Tor, Federal Commissioner, Federal Character Commission, Dr. Eunice Emmanuel, President Young African Women Congress, Nigeria, Mr. Ibrahim Mahama, Hon. Awaji- Inombek D. Abiante PhD, Member House of Reps, Andoni Opobo Nkoro Fed. Constituency, Amb. Dr. David Egwu, Hon. Samuel Aukwu, CEO National Lottery Authority Ghana, Mr. Samuel Dentu, Deputy CEO Ghana Export Promotion Authority and many more.





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# Growing Up in Oshodi Influenced My Going into Business

## JOWOSIMI OLUMIDE

CEO - JayPlug Gadgets

Young entrepreneur **Jowosimi Olumide** has taken his passion for business, the experiences he has garnered while growing up in Oshodi which is known for hustling and the need to provide solutions to problems in building a thriving brand. He is the chief executive officer of **JayPlug Gadgets**, a mobile phone and consumer electronic retailing company.

Today, Jowosimi runs a thriving business despite the current harsh economic situations of the country. His ultimate goal is to make his brand Jay Plug dominate the African market for mobile phones and consumer electronics. It is his emphatic belief that, in business one must be diligent, honest and possess integrity. In this interview, he shared with **ACADA Magazine** what it is like to start and manage a phone retailing business in Nigeria, the many challenges of the business and what has kept him going despite the country's current economic hardship.

### How did you get into the phone retailing business?

I have always been business-oriented, and growing up in a place like Oshodi where hustling is part of everyday life, I knew early on that I wanted to run my own business. The idea of getting into the phone retailing business came naturally because I saw the need to bring mobile phones and accessories closer to people and provide solutions to communication issues. With my business skills, I was motivated to create a store that provides quality products at affordable prices, and that's how JayPlug was born.

### What are the challenges you face in the business?

Like every other business, we have our fair share of challenges. One of the biggest is the fluctuation in foreign exchange rates, which directly affects the cost of importing phones and accessories. This makes it difficult to maintain consistent pricing. Another challenge is the economic situation of the country, which limits people's purchasing power. But despite these challenges, we continue to find ways to excel, and glory be to God for that.

### When it comes to mobile phones, some people prefer to buy used rather than new ones. What's your take on this?

I understand why people might prefer used phones, and it largely

boils down to budget. Not everyone can afford a brand-new phone, and used phones offer a cheaper alternative. However, at JayPlug, whether you're buying new or used, we ensure that our prices are pocket-friendly and the quality is top-notch. We cater to different customers by offering both options, but we always emphasize quality, no matter what. Buying a used phone can lead to serious problems if you don't know the source. It may be a stolen phone and this type of thing has landed many people in serious problems, even leading to jail terms. So one needs to be extra cautious and know the person you're buying from and not just any random person in case an issue arises.

### Aside from mobile phones, what other products do you sell?

Apart from mobile phones, we also sell a wide range of accessories. We offer AirPods, earpieces, speakers, chargers, and other gadgets that complement mobile devices. We ensure that every product we sell meets the high standards of quality that our customers expect.

### What makes JayPlug the go-to store of choice?

What sets JayPlug apart is our commitment to quality and customer satisfaction. We don't just sell gadgets; we sell solutions. Our products are reliable, our customer service is top-notch, and we offer some of the most competitive prices in the market. Beyond that, we make shopping convenient for our customers, whether they're visiting our physical store or ordering online. At JayPlug, we believe that every customer deserves the best experience, and that's what keeps them coming back.

### How do you think the government can support young businesses like yours?

The government can play a big role in helping young entrepreneurs like myself. For one, the provision of grants and loans at low interest rates would go a long way in supporting small businesses. There is also a need to have more empowerment programs for young people who want to go into business. Another key area is stabilizing the foreign exchange rate so that businesses that depend on imports can plan better and avoid sudden price hikes. If the government can address these issues, it will greatly improve the business environment for us.

### With the present economic situation of the country, how has business been?

The economy has been tough, no doubt. People are more cautious with their spending, and the fluctuating exchange rate has made it harder to keep prices stable. But even with these challenges, we've been able to keep the business running smoothly. Our approach has been to continuously find ways to adapt and offer our customers value for their money. It's not easy, but we keep pushing forward.

### Can you share with us your family background and upbringing?

I was born and raised in Oshodi, Lagos, but I'm originally from Ijebu. Growing up in Oshodi shaped me into the businessperson I am today

because it's a place where everyone is hustling and you quickly learn the value of hard work. My family instilled in me the importance of being diligent and having integrity, values that I carry with me in business today.

### Your educational background. Schools that you attended and the course you read at the university?

I studied Biochemistry at the University of Lagos, and I was one of the top students in my set. Although my field of study is different from my business, my education taught me discipline and critical thinking, which have been very useful in my entrepreneurial journey.

### What is your favourite gadget?

Without a doubt, my favorite gadget is the iPhone. It's a powerful tool, not just for communication but also for business. The iPhone has become a must-have for many, and I love the way it combines functionality with elegance.

### When you're not working, how do you unwind and relax?

When I'm not working, I like to take time to strategize and do research. I'm always looking for new ways to improve my business. Besides that, I enjoy reading and studying to expand my knowledge. And of course, I relax with a glass of wine to unwind after a long day.

### What advice would you like to give to young people out there who want to go into business and become an entrepreneur like you?

My advice to young people is simple: be prepared to work hard and stay focused. Starting a business isn't easy, but with persistence, you can overcome the challenges. Also, don't be afraid to take risks. Believe in your vision and be patient because success takes time. And most importantly, always have integrity; your reputation is your greatest asset in business.

### What's your philosophy of life?

My philosophy in life is to always aim for excellence. Whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability. I believe that success comes to those who work hard, stay disciplined, and never stop learning. Also, I believe in giving back; helping others is what makes the journey worthwhile.

### Who is Jowosimi Olumide? Describe yourself.

I am a business-oriented person with a passion for entrepreneurship. Born and raised in Oshodi, I learned early on that hard work and perseverance are key to success. I'm someone who values integrity, excellence, and continuous improvement. In everything I do, I strive to bring value to my customers and make a positive impact. That's who I am; someone who is driven by purpose and committed to making a difference.

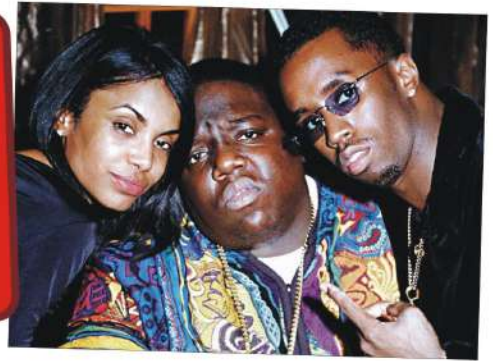
### What are your dreams and aspirations, especially as regards your business?

Our dreams include dominating Africa for mobile phones sales and consumer electronics at large. We want to take gadgetry to a newer level.



# SEAN DIDDY COMBS

## *His Rise To Fame + Ongoing Legal Battles*



**H**ip-hop music mogul and showbiz entrepreneur, Sean "Diddy" Combs' amazing grass to grace story has taken a new turn with the multiple court cases that is currently hanging on his neck. Combs was indicted on multiple charges, including sex trafficking and racketeering, in September, 2024. After facing multiple lawsuits in recent months alleging sexual assault and other crimes, Sean Combs was indicted Sept. 17 on charges of sex trafficking by force, racketeering conspiracy, fraud or coercion and transporting for prostitution. Combs' attorney, Marc Agnifilo, called it an "unjust prosecution," and said his client is "an innocent man with nothing to hide."

The recent charges are not the first controversies that the music mogul and entrepreneur have faced over the years. Combs have attempted to rebrand himself as "Brother Love," but he has a prolonged history of allegations of violence, dating back to the Nineties. He's never been convicted of a serious crime, but has repeatedly been accused of having violent encounters with everyone from his exes Ventura and Gina Huynh (who alleged physical abuse in 2019) to executive Steve Stoute and rappers like J. Cole and Drake. There was a time when an invitation to a party hosted by Sean "Diddy" Combs was one of the most sought-after tickets in the entertainment industry.

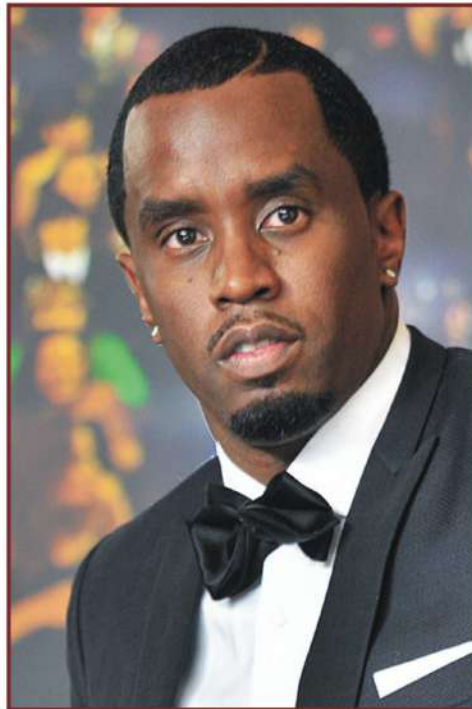
With guest lists that included Justin Bieber, Mariah Carey, Paris Hilton and Jennifer Lopez, it was a chance to rub shoulders with some of the biggest celebrities. Jay-Z and Beyoncé even released new music at his events.

"The reason he was such a superstar

is because all he thinks about is Diddy. From the minute he wakes up until the minute he goes to bed," Mr Shuter told BBC News. "Diddy's hobby is Diddy." In the Los Angeles area, the rapper lived on what has become known as Beverly Hills's most expensive street.

The high fences allow celebrities to hide from prying eyes. Hugh Hefner's Playboy mansion sits a few doors down. Combs's mansion in Beverly Hills was one of several venues he used to host his annual "White Party", a flagship event which he held from 1998 to 2009.

He began the parties in New York's exclusive Hamptons area with a strict all-white dress code, bringing together East Hampton's old-money elite and the rising stars of hip hop. Combs once described the parties as a way to break down racial and generational barriers. But the hottest party of the year was a "facade" that allowed "sinister" conduct, a recent lawsuit alleges. Singer Cassie, who dated the rapper off-and-on for nearly a decade starting in 2007, accused the mogul in a lawsuit of controlling every aspect of her life, forcing her to take excessive amounts of drugs, have sex with other men, beating her for years and threatening her - and those in her circle - when she tried



to leave the relationship.

In a lawsuit - which started an avalanche of accusations against the rapper - the singer said while dating Combs she realised he had a "tremendously loyal network" that would do anything he asked. Combs's fall from grace has been swift, with an extensive federal criminal case charging him in a sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy. More than a dozen civil lawsuits have also been filed, accusing the music mogul of assaults, rape and sexual extortion. One lawyer said he represents more than 100 alleged victims who claim they were sexually abused. The Harlem-born rapper has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing, whether in relation to the criminal or civil allegations. He is set to go on trial in May 2025.

### Who is Diddy?

Sean "Diddy" Combs, who has gone by the names Puff Daddy, P Diddy and Love, is an American rapper, actor and entrepreneur who founded an entertainment empire, including Bad Boy Records, the clothing label Sean John and Revolt TV, which has since announced a new ownership structure. Combs was also the face of alcohol brand Ciroc Vodka, in a deal that ended acrimoniously.

Born in Harlem in New York City,

Combs was just three years old when his father Melvin Combs was murdered after being mistaken for an informant during a drug deal gone wrong.

Combs was nicknamed Puffy in his youth due to his habit of huffing and puffing whenever he was angry. (He changed his middle name from John to Love in 2021.)

Combs dropped out of Howard University in 1990 to pursue an internship at Uptown Records. It would be a rapid rise at Uptown; before long, he was promoted to an A&R executive and later, vice-president.

Uptown has been home to artists such as Mary J Blige, Heavy D & The Boyz, and then Combs is said to have discovered the Notorious B.I.G., aka Biggie Smalls (real name was Christopher Wallace).

But Combs was fired from Uptown Records in 1993 by its founder, Andre Harrell.

Combs founded Bad Boy Records in 1993, a label that represented some of the biggest names in hip hop - including artists like Notorious B.I.G. and Usher. In 1998, he created the Sean John clothing line that later became a cultural phenomenon. From there, he dipped into fragrances, alcohol and even set up a media company, becoming the host of multiple reality shows where he would discover new talent and make people stars.

In 1995, Biggie dominated the charts, making him Bad Boy's premier star.

But on March 9, 1997, Biggie was murdered in an unsolved case amid an East Coast-West Coast feud. He was 24 years old.

A few months later, Combs released his debut album No Way Out under the moniker Puff Daddy. The album included the Grammy-Award-winning single I'll Be Missing You, a tribute to Biggie, which featured his widow Faith Evans and sampled Every Breath You Take by The Police.

No Way Out won Best Rap Album at the Grammys, and Combs snagged Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group for I'll Be Missing You. He also dabbled in the silver screen at times: he played a death row inmate in 2001's Monster's Ball, starring Oscar-winner Halle Berry; a record executive in the comedy Get Him to the Greek in 2010 opposite Russell Brand; and he was a sports agent in the 2014 football drama Draft Day.

ADDITIONAL WORDS: ABC & BBC



Diddy's annual All White Party



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## DON LAMBA

AN EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW WITHTHE NEW  
AFROBEATS  
POWER  
HOUSE

**I**n the world of Afrobeats, certain artists come along and shake the industry to its core. **Don Lamba**, the **CSE Records** founder, artist, and producer, is one of those artists. From the rural hustle to the main stage, **Don Lamba's** journey is one of resilience, grit, and undeniable talent. With his debut EP, *The God's*, he's bringing a sound that blends traditional African roots with bold, modern beats. This isn't just music; it's a story, his story.

One of his signature moves? *Whistling*. A sound we might take for granted has now become one of the most distinctive,

exciting elements in Afrobeats. In *Afro-Whistle*, his first single, **Don Lamba** uses this skill to set a new trend, pushing boundaries and capturing listeners worldwide. But it's more than just an innovative sound; his music speaks to perseverance, empowerment, and the journey of embracing one's potential. **Don Lamba** is more than an artist, he's also a mentor. With **CSE Records**, he's creating opportunities for young talents, guiding them to reach their dreams. Now, as he gears up to take Afrobeats global, **Don Lamba** talks to **Acada Magazine** about his journey, his unique sound, and his vision for the future. Don't miss this exclusive interview with an artist destined to make history!

**Don, you've just dropped your debut project, *The God's*. What's the story behind the title?**

The track *The God's* is raw, it's real. It's my story, the highs, the lows, everything. The title? It's about embracing the divine within. I've never backed down from anything. Since day one, I believed that the Bible and the universe are all telling us we're God's children, with that same spark of power inside. This EP is me pushing my limits and proving that I'm in control of my destiny.

**Your whistling style in 'Afro-Whistle' is something nobody saw coming. Where did that idea come from?**

Whistling is just me. It's in my bones.

Around the time I was creating this song, KC's *Ojapiano* was trending, so I thought, why not do something similar but with my own twist? Even when my producer doubted the beat, thinking it was a bit dated, I didn't let up. I kept pushing because I knew it had to be unique to me.

**Whistling in Afrobeats? That's a bold move. Has it always been part of your style?**

It's always been there. I dabble in all genres, but whistling, that's my signature. It's part of who I am.

**You worked with Oba Naija and Ajura on 'Afro-Whistle'. What was it like having them on the track?**  
They bring this intense passion that

matches mine. They're great artists with a real love for music, and I wanted them to be part of this journey.

**Afro-Whistle and *The God's* both have a fusion of traditional and modern beats. How do you manage that?**

Music isn't just a job; it's something built into my DNA. When you have it, you have it. I'm taking this moment to show the world what I've got, and I'm coming for the global stage, no doubt.

**What makes your sound stand out in Afrobeats right now?**

I'm more than just an artist; I'm also a producer and music director. My sound? It's a mix of everything that's out there,





blended with my own flavor.

**Being an artist and the owner of CSE Records, how does that dual role affect your music?**

I look up to people like Don Jazzy and Olamide Baddo, but I'm doing this my way. I'm building my own empire as Don Lamba.

**CSE Records is home to new talents. How do you guide their careers?**

I invest in people who are serious about growth, who can handle responsibility and take feedback. It's all about building the future with a solid foundation.

**The God's is an anthem of resilience. What's the core message for your listeners?**

Simple, don't ever give up. I'm a living proof. I came from a ghetto, not the Lagos kind but real rural hustle. It's my truth, and I want others to feel that strength.

**The collaboration with 3plebeatz on 'The Gods' has real energy. How did that track come together?**

When two producers, artists, and directors like us team up, it's bound to be fire. We brought everything to this track and nailed it.

**Where do you see Afrobeats going in the next five years?**

Afrobeats has too much talent to fade away. With fresh energy from artists like Asake, Burna Boy, and myself, the genre is only going up from here.

**As a key player in the Nigerian music scene, what challenges have you faced?**

Promotion is a major challenge. Some promoters have been a problem, but I'm working my way around it and finding the right people.

**When you're creating music, where does the process start?**  
It's all intentional. I have a specific audience I want to reach, and I'm

working to connect with them soon.

**Why is Nigerian music so infectious worldwide?**

The beats, the resilience, it's the soul, spirit, and energy in our sound. My beats, Asake's, Burna Boy's, all of them lift people up.

**What's coming up next for you? Should we expect new releases, tours, or collaborations?**

Get ready! 2025 is about to be a year of back-to-back hits. We're taking over the stage for real.

**Many young fans are looking up to you. Any advice for aspiring musicians?**

Find a good label with a supportive team. Don't rush; a 5-year contract is fine if it's with the right people. And get a lawyer before signing anything.

**Was there a pivotal moment that drove you to pursue music and start CSE Records?**

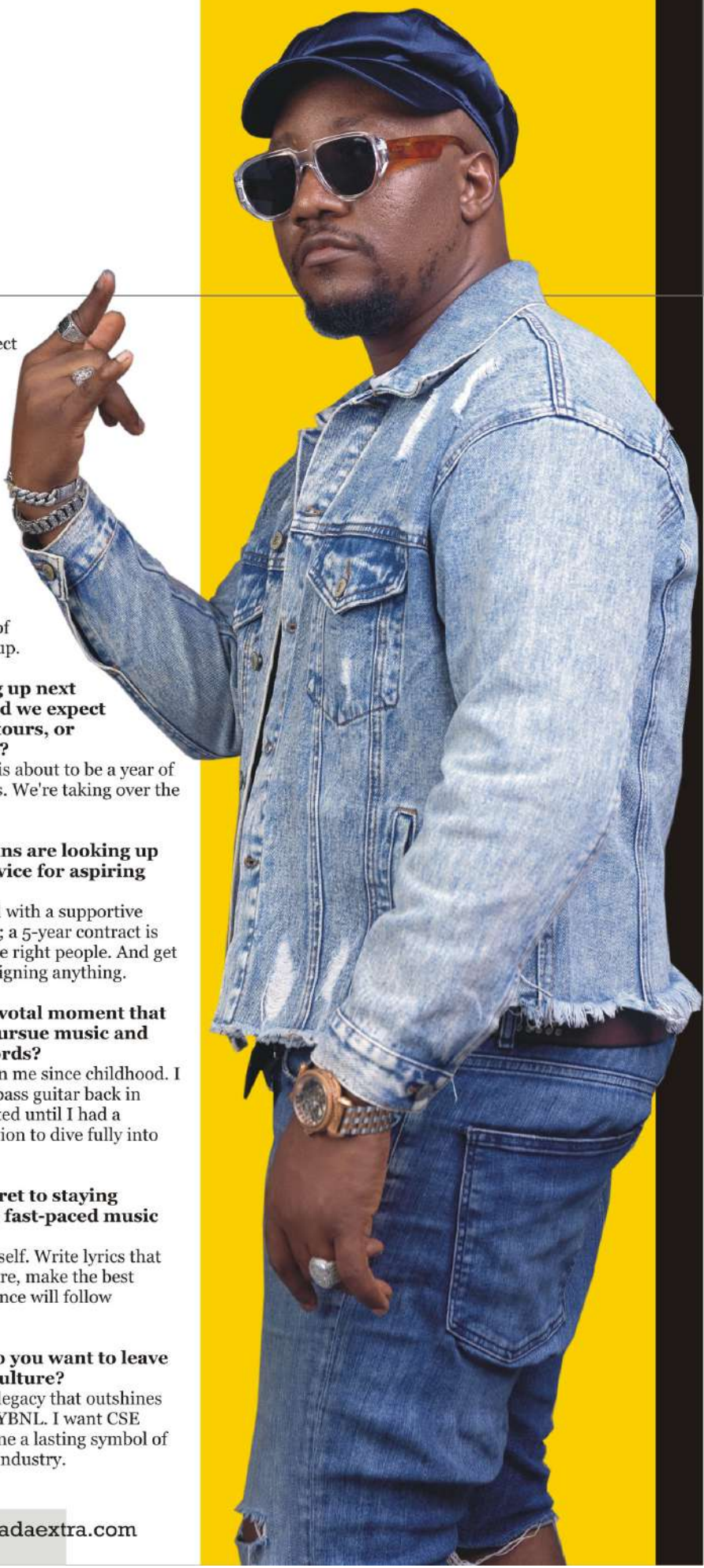
Music has been in me since childhood. I played lead and bass guitar back in school, but I waited until I had a business foundation to dive fully into my passion.

**What's the secret to staying relevant in the fast-paced music industry?**

Stay true to yourself. Write lyrics that reflect who you are, make the best beats, and relevance will follow naturally.

**What legacy do you want to leave in music and culture?**

I'm aiming for a legacy that outshines even Mavin and YBNL. I want CSE Records to become a lasting symbol of greatness in the industry.





NASARAWA TEACHER

# Esomnofu Ifechukwu

## Emerges 2024 Maltina Teacher of the Year

### ...Wins N10 million Grand Prize

**E**somnofu Ifechukwu of Crown Grace School, Mararaba, Nasarawa State, has emerged the winner of the 10th edition of the coveted Maltina Teacher of the Year Competition at the Grand Finale held in Lagos on Friday, October 11, 2024.

Ifechukwu, who was adjudged the 2024 Maltina Teacher of the Year, received a cash prize of N10,000,000 (ten million naira). Additionally, he will be rewarded with an all-expense-paid capacity development training overseas and honoured with school infrastructure worth N30 million in his school.

Kehinde Olukayode from Molusi College, Oke-Sopen, Ijebu Igbo, Ogun State, won first runner-up position and received a cash prize of N3,000,000 (three million naira), while Aniefiok Udoh from Community Secondary Commercial School, Uyo LGA, Akwa Ibom State was second runner-up and went home with N2,000,000 (two million naira) cash prize. In addition, 34 other teachers who emerged State Champions from their respective states received N1,000,000 (one million naira) each.

In his goodwill message, the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, who was represented by the Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Jamiu Alli-Balogun, expressed profound gratitude to Nigerian Breweries-Felix Ohiwerei Education Trust Fund for their steady path and commitment to the education sector through the Maltina Teacher of the Year Competition. He also commended teachers for their enormous contribution to creating a brighter tomorrow despite their many challenges in performing their roles.

Sanwo-Olu noted that through the initiative, NB-FOETF has demonstrated immense support and uplifted the teaching profession in Nigeria with its enduring impact felt across groups and communities nationwide. He stated that the Maltina Teacher of the Year Competition has no doubt spotlighted the incredible contribution of teachers whose passion and dedication are shaping the future of Nigeria and the youths.

He disclosed that the State has been



L-R: Corporate Affairs Director, Nigerian Breweries Plc, Sade Morgan; Winner, 2024 Maltina Teacher of the Year, Esomnofu Chidebube Ifechukwu; Commissioner for Basic and Secondary Education, Lagos State, Jamiu Alli-Balogun, and Managing Director, NB Plc, Hans Essaadi during the presentation of the N10 million grand prize to the winner at the Grand Finale event held in Lagos on Friday.

fortunate to benefit from the initiative, as the company recently donated a digital language laboratory to Keke Senior High School, Lagos, in honour of the 2023 Maltina Teacher of the Year, Adeola Adefemi. According to him, this monumental contribution, meant to enrich our students' learning environment, would encourage literacy and promote academic excellence.

"This donation is one of the lasting legacies of the NB-Felix Ohiwerei Education Trust Fund. I applaud them for this impacting initiative. Since 2015, the initiative has continued to serve as a national platform to recognise, honour, and reward the outstanding efforts of teachers across the country," he said.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Minister of State for Education, Dr. Yusuf Sununu, represented by the Director Yaba College of Technology, Adedotun Abdul, commended NB-Felix Ohiwerei Education Trust Fund for celebrating outstanding teachers and investing in educational resources and infrastructure through the Maltina Teacher of the Year Competition, stating that such an initiative would inspire teachers and help schools strive for excellence.

Sununu stated that the Federal Government, through the Ministry of Education, remains committed to the growing efforts to restore the dignity of the teaching profession in Nigeria as it recently developed a National Teaching Policy focused on their career path, remuneration, and teaching standards.

While congratulating all the awardees and other participants for their dedication and commitment to the teaching profession in Nigeria, he declared that the Ministry of Education was willing and ready to partner with Nigerian Breweries Plc to deliver quality education in the country.

In his keynote address, the Managing Director Nigerian Breweries Plc, Hans Essaadi, stated that the Maltina Teacher of the Year Competition is designed to recognise and eulogise teachers for their labour of love and for their role in shaping the minds through various ways to become noble human beings.

Essaadi commended Nigerian teachers for their unwavering commitment and deep desire to make a difference in their student's lives. He noted that teachers' crucial roles in instilling values, knowledge, and skills in their students have been instrumental to societal growth.

"This year's edition is special because it is the tenth. We have reached this milestone because every teacher, parent, and student believes in the power of education. So, it is indeed heartwarming that we are gathered here to celebrate the role of teachers as society's foundation stone on which all professions stand tall," he stated.

Also speaking, the Corporate Affairs Director, Nigerian Breweries Plc, Sade Morgan, stated that this year's edition was remarkable as it recorded an unprecedented number of valid entries and state champions in the competition's history. According to Morgan, 1,300 valid entries were recorded from 1,477 entries received, while all 37 States (including the FCT) produced champions.

Describing the feat as a demonstration of the exceptional talents and dedication of Nigerian teachers, the quality of participants, and the popularity of competition among teachers in Nigeria, she said "These remarkable results are the crowning jewel of our decade-long journey, validating our tireless efforts and demonstrating the profound impact of the Maltina Teacher of the Year awards on Nigeria's education landscape."

She expressed deep appreciation to all esteemed stakeholders and partners, including TRCN, NUT, Union Bank Plc, Woodhall Capital Foundation, Alert Group, and Air Peace, for their immense support in making this edition memorable.

She equally lauded the esteemed panel of judges for their dedication and painstaking efforts, which have been instrumental in upholding the integrity and prestige of the competition.

In his remarks, the Chairman, Panel of Judges for the Competition, Prof. Pat Utomi, noted that this year's edition remains the most keenly contested since inception, adding that the quality of entries validates the versatility of our teachers and the rising standard of education in Nigeria.

In his response, the 2024 Maltina Teacher of the Year, Esomnofu Ifechukwu, praised the NB-Felix Ohiwerei Education Trust Fund for introducing the initiative to recognize and reward teachers for their contributions. Ifechukwu said winning the competition was a dream come true, considering that he has been applying since 2020.

Since its inception, the Maltina Teacher of the Year Competition has produced ten grand winners: Rose Nkemdilim Obi (2015), Imoh Essien (2016), Felix Ariguzo (2017), Olasunkanmi Opeifa (2018), Ezem Collins (2019), Oluwabunmi Anani (2020), Abanika Taiye (2021), Alaku Ayiwulu (2022), Adeola Adefemi (2023) and Esomnofu Ifechukwu (2024).



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## MEN'S GROOMING: Essentials That Are A Must Have In Every Men's Grooming Kit

### A Face Wash

Indeed, we do require a face wash! A lot of men despite everything still prefer washing their face with soap. However little they know is a similar cleanser will in general make their skin harder, and it does nothing helpful to the skin. A face wash will remove all the residue and dirt from your face making it spotless and alleviating. While purchasing a face wash for yourself, consider your skin type. For instance, in the event that you have dry skin, search for a face wash that is solely intended for dry face. The face wash won't rip off the common oil and keep the dryness under control.



### Moisturizer and Sunscreen

Face cream or moisturizer is one of the basic items for men's grooming kits. It will give your skin genuinely necessary hydration and make your skin delicate. A large portion of the men skip applying a face cream since they don't feel the need for it. Actually, whatever your skin type is, you should utilize the cream. It keeps the natural oil of the skin flawless. Like your face, your body additionally needs dampness. You can consider a face to toe cream in case you would prefer not to buy both separately.



### Trimmer

A trimmer can spare you from making continuous excursions to the salon. You can utilize it to trim your hair and mustaches at whatever point you feel like. With a trimmer, you can likewise trim your body hair. Ensure the trimmer isn't harsh on your skin; else, it might cause skin rashes and boils. A perfect trimmer is the one that is versatile and has great battery back-up. Likewise, it is not difficult to get spotless and solid skin; else, you will end up harming yourself.



A groomed look is what every man wish of and this is the reason why most men must have a grooming kit for all the prepping session.

It wasn't long ago when men used to 'beg', 'borrow' or 'steal' a good face wash or lotion from their girlfriend, wife, or sister. In fact, the idea of owning a vanity kit seemed vague. However, things have changed now and the contemporary man is more than concerned about his looks. But just being concerned is not enough. In fact, you must also prepare your own grooming kit that you can take away for your next weekend trip. So, here are the items that must make a place in your grooming kit:

### Deodorant and A Perfume

We additionally reserve the privilege to smell pleasant! In addition, cleanliness plays a significant principle. It not only covers the body odor and gives you a pleasant aroma. It's acceptable to put resources into an antiperspirant that smells wonderful for an increasingly expanded period, particularly in the summers. It will keep your aromatic throughout the day. Guarantee your antiperspirant doesn't have a solid aroma; else, it may neutralize you. A deodorant will keep your body new for the duration of the day.



### Shampoo

Next in the rundown of basic men's grooming items is a shampoo. Who doesn't care for spotless and fun tresses free from dandruff and other scalp troubles? A perfect shampoo will in a flash treat your raucous hair and keep all the hair issues under control. It is shrewd to put resources into a cleanser that works out positively for your hair. Search for chemical-free shampoo since a large portion of them are paraben-free and have natural fixings that have more advantages over chemical substances.



### Hair Comb

Your daily routine is fragmented without a hairbrush. Regardless of whether you need to style your hair or give it a perfect look, a hairbrush is essential. It is constantly recommended to purchase a wooden brush with wide fibers as it forestalls hair breakage and gives additional sustenance to your locks.



### Body Wash

Body washes are not only meant to keep your body clean, but they also keep you feel energetic and rejuvenated all day long. A refreshing bath that will help you smell great is just a body wash away. So, give your body instant freshness with the Spruce charcoal natural body wash and feel energized everyday.





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Leather Belt



VIKTOR & ROLF Spicebomb



SONY Playstation 5



X-BASS Earphones



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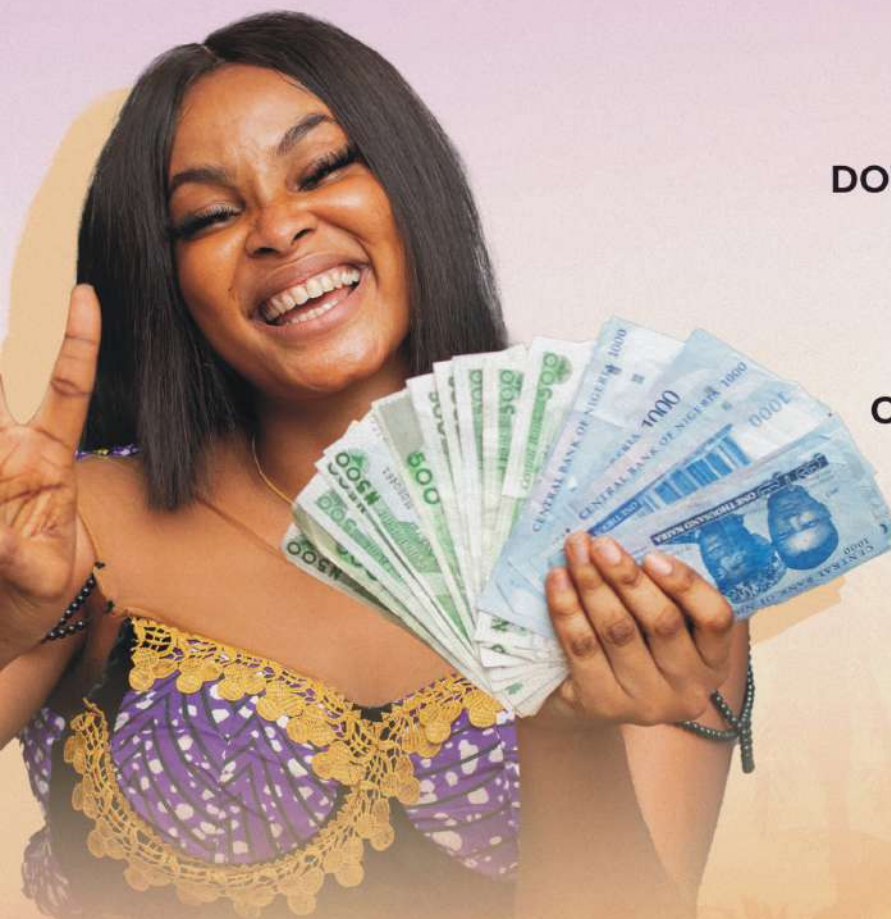
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# First Lady's N50m Endowment Fund For Yabatech Best Female Student

**F**irst Lady, Sen. Oluremi Tinubu, yesterday announced the endowment of a N50 million fund for Yaba College of Technology (YABATECH) overall best female student. She made the announcement, following the conferment of Fellowship Award on her at the 36th convocation of the college, held in Yaba, Lagos. The First Lady, represented by the Senior Special Assistant to the President, Public Affairs and Strategy, Office of the First Lady, Wahab Alawiye King, noted that the gesture was part of her efforts to lift young Nigerian girls for nation

building and development. The president's wife said the education of every Nigerian child was a collective responsibility, emphasising her initiation of charity programmes over the years, including New Era Foundation that gave birth to the Lagos State Spelling Bee Competition, which produced the One-Day-Governor event; Musical Youth Festival initiative that led to the Leadership Academy for Girls, mentorship programme called Daughters of Salafi and Renewed Hope Initiative, which acts as a scope for education, economic empowerment,



health, agriculture and social investment. She dedicated the Fellowship

Award and the endowment to every young girl who cares to dream. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, represented by Minister of State for Education, Suwaiba Ahmad, reiterated his administration's commitment to providing an enabling environment for productivity in tertiary institutions, through funding and infrastructural support. House of Representatives Speaker Tajudeen Abbas, who also received the Fellowship Award of the institution, said a bill that would end dichotomy between university and polytechnic education was underway to stop discrimination against polytechnic graduates. The Rector, Dr Ibraheem Abdul, said no fewer than 8,139 students graduated.

## Canada Now Permits International Students To Work 24 Hours

Canada has increased the permissible work hours for eligible international students during academic terms from 20 to 24 hours per week. This adjustment aims to provide greater opportunities for students to gain work experience while maintaining their focus on academics. Marc Miller, Canada's Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Minister, stressed the intent behind this policy change, saying, "This change will give students more flexibility to manage their time and gain practical experience." The decision builds on remarks Miller made in October 2022 when he emphasized the



importance of work experience for international students. At the time, he stated: "With the economy growing at a faster rate than employers can hire new workers, Canada needs to look

at every option so that we have the skills and workforce needed to fuel our growth. "Immigration will be crucial to addressing our labour shortage.

By allowing international students to work more while they study, we can help ease pressing needs in many sectors across the country, while providing more opportunities

for international students to gain valuable Canadian work experience and continue contributing to our short-term recovery and long-term prosperity." **Key Changes to the International Student Program** *Full-Time Work During Academic Breaks* International students can now work full-time during designated academic breaks, such as summer and winter holidays. These periods allow students to increase their earnings without interfering with class schedules, bolstering their financial stability while continuing their education.

## Glo Lights Up Banana Island Yuletide Season Celebration

**T**he usually tranquil atmosphere of highbrow Banana Island in Ikoyi Lagos came alive at the weekend as telecoms company, Globacom, sponsored the community's Starlight Night to signal the commencement of the Yuletide season. According to the Banana Island Property Owners and Residents Association Lagos (Biporal), which organised the event, the 2024 Starlight Night, the fifth in the series, was an evening to usher in the Yuletide season with families and friends as well as "a day to reflect on how the year has

been, and be thankful for where we are under a beautiful weather".

Globacom said it was delighted to spread the festive cheer by sponsoring the celebration as well as the lighting of a Christmas tree and street light boxes across key locations in Banana Island.

"Christmas is a time for unity, joy, and togetherness, and as a company, we believe in contributing to the communities where we operate. This is our way of giving back and spreading joy and hope to our fellow Nigerians, especially as we

prepare to enter the new year," it said.

The special event brought together local residents, friends, community leaders, and corporate partners, and witnessed electrifying performances by entertainment groups, Art Afrique and SPAN. The night ended with Christmas fireworks

which lit up the sky with dazzling bursts of colour and sparkle, adding a vibrant and festive glow to the celebrations. The event will culminate in the illumination of street light boxes which will be strategically placed throughout the island's key streets.



Globacom's sponsorship of the Starlight night, it said, has added a touch of festive season to the Banana Island neighbourhood, reinforcing the company's commitment to bringing joy to Nigerian communities during the festive season.



# The Top 10 Skills You Need to Succeed in Tech



**W**hether you're a seasoned Tech professional or a novice, these skills are not just tools, these top 10 skills are essential for a successful career path in Tech

To many professionals, the Tech sector can seem like a maze, where each turn holds the promise of progress and the potential for challenges. Within this complex landscape, possessing the right skills is much like a map that guides you towards success. These skills are not just tools; they are the strategic pieces to your professional puzzle. To succeed in this industry, you must equip yourself with a diverse set of skills.

Whether you're a seasoned Tech professional or a novice, these top 10 skills are essential for carving a successful career path in Tech.

## 1. Adaptability and Learning Agility

The Tech industry is notorious for its rapid changes and advancements. The ability to adapt to new technologies and learn quickly is a cornerstone of success. Embracing change and continuously expanding your skill set will keep you relevant and valuable.

## 2. Coding and Programming Skills

Proficiency in coding and

programming is the bedrock of the Tech sector. Whether it's Java, Python, C++, or any other language, the more programming languages you can master, the better equipped you are to tackle diverse projects and challenges.

## 3. Cybersecurity Expertise

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AI and machine learning are driving innovation in various industries. Tech professionals proficient in these technologies can create intelligent applications, automate processes, and make data-driven predictions.

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## 10. Problem-solving and Troubleshooting

The Tech sector often presents complex problems that require creative solutions. A knack for problem-solving and troubleshooting is indispensable. These skills enable you to tackle unexpected challenges effectively.

In conclusion, success in Tech is achievable by mastering these 10 essential skills. The industry's dynamic nature requires constant learning and adaptation. By staying ahead in these areas, you'll be well-equipped to excel in your career. Embark on your journey to mastering these skills today. Start by identifying your current strengths and weaknesses, and then seek out resources and courses to improve in each area. Your future success in Tech depends on your commitment to continuous learning and skill development.

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## FG Trains 541 Youths In Modern Agriculture To Combat Unemployment

**T**he federal government, through the Federal Ministry of Youth Development, has trained 541 young individuals in modern agricultural techniques, including cassava processing, beekeeping, and fisheries, to tackle unemployment.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the two-week training programme in Jos, Plateau State, Minister of Youth Development, Comrade Ayodele Olawande, said the programme aimed to equip young people with modern agricultural techniques and practices to enhance their entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, engage them in agriculture, and foster networking and collaboration among the participants.

In a statement on Saturday, the Director of Information and Public Relations in the ministry, Omolara Esan, explained that the training

would promote sustainable farming practices, thereby enhancing their employability in the agricultural sector.

Olawande assured the 541 participants from the North East, North West, and North Central Regions that the program would be continuous, adding that it is designed to empower Nigerian

youth and enable them to maximize their potential.

Olawande, who was represented by the permanent secretary of the ministry, Olubunmi Olusanya, said: "Our goal is for you to become an employer of labour rather than constantly seeking employment. I can confidently say that we are actively making progress, and youth in agriculture is a priority in the Ministry of Youth Development. Each year will continue to be better than the last. I have noted all your recommendations and requests. When we return to Abuja, a detailed report will be submitted for

implementation, and I can assure you that we will do our best to follow through on these plans."

The Adagwom of Jos Izere Chiefdom, Jos-North Local Government Area, His Royal Highness, Ada Emmanuel Ajik,

commended the Federal Government for organising the training for the "teeming youth across the country and for being part of the historic occasion."

He congratulated the participants and organisers for completing the training programme.

The monarch stated that "if it is true that the youth are the leaders of tomorrow, then there is no better way to prepare them than through the training they have undergone." He stated: "No society can develop without equipping its youth to succeed."

The monarch urged the participants to apply what they had learnt during the period and to seize every opportunity to contribute to the nation-building effort.

A participant in the programme, Idah Dominion said he was overwhelmed by the way the facilitators made the process easy, adding that the training provided them with a high level of knowledge which he said would have been acquired with a huge amount. He commended the federal government for the opportunity given to them.





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# POP-UP STORE NIGERIA

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It was all fun and glitz at the Lagos **itel P65** pop-up store held at the Ikeja City Mall. Guests were treated to exciting times with games and entertainment while many smiled home with phones and other exotic gift items.





## FirstBank awards N29.5 million to 10 Nigerian fintech startups

**F**irstBank Group, one of Nigeria's leading commercial banks, has reaffirmed its commitment to advancing fintech innovation by awarding N29.5 million to 10 exceptional startups at its **First Bank Fintech Summit 6.0**, themed **Banking on Partnerships**.

NearSwipe Limited, a fintech startup offering NFC smart ID cards with integrated payment solutions for university students, emerged as the overall winner, receiving the grand prize of N10 million.

The two-day event, held on Wednesday and Thursday, 13th and 14th November 2024, at the Lagos Continental Hotel, Kofo Abayomi Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, brought together fintech leaders, investors, and industry experts.

Out of 147 applicants, 10 startups were shortlisted for their potential to make significant impacts on financial inclusion and economic development.

These startups showcased solutions ranging from digital thrift platforms to AI-powered business automation tools, aligning with the event's theme of fostering collaboration in the financial ecosystem.

The **FirstBank Group CEO/MD, Olusegun Alebiosu**, highlighted the importance of partnerships in driving change.

He noted, "First Bank Fintech Summit 6.0 is more than a conference. It is a catalyst for change. We aim to foster partnership for change, spark creativity and drive progress."

"By working together, we can unlock new possibilities and create a more inclusive, resilient, and innovative financial system."

On the first day, the summit featured a pitching session where the finalists presented their already-developed solutions to a distinguished panel.

After rigorous deliberation, **NearSwipe Limited** claimed the top prize, while **Middleman**, a startup enabling seamless payments for African e-commerce businesses to suppliers in China, and **Esusu Africa Limited**, a digital thrift and credit banking platform, won N7.5 million and N5 million, respectively.

The seven other finalists each received N1 million to enhance their solutions.

### More insights

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, Lande Atere, Chief Customer Experience Officer at First Bank of Nigeria, highlighted the bank's commitment to collaboration.

She explained, "We are not necessarily competing with fintechs but rather looking for ways to collaborate. By bringing startups into conversations, offering bootcamps, and connecting them with investors, we aim to help them grow their businesses while improving the financial landscape for Nigerians."

The Head of Corporate Transformation, Olayinka Situ, also emphasized that FirstBank's support for fintech goes beyond the summit.

He disclosed that innovators can pitch their ideas on the bank's website, creating opportunities for ongoing partnerships.

FirstBank's proactive stance reflects its dedication to empowering startups and driving digital transformation. With events like the Fintech Summit 6.0, the bank continues to strengthen its role in fostering innovation, collaboration, and growth in Nigeria's financial ecosystem.







## AMAA 2024 OFFICIAL COFFEE TABLE BOOK LAUNCH

### AMAA Launches Second Coffee Book

The Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA) organisers have launched their second coffee table book ahead of the 20th ceremony.

The coffee table book is a hard-covered picture publication that showcases the journey of the prestigious award ceremony over the past two decades.

It is a beautifully crafted compendium of memories, highlighting the award winners and notable moments from each edition of AMAA since its inception.

The unveiling event, held at the Marriott Hotel in Ikeja, Lagos, brought together media personalities, film executives, and members of the Anyiam-Osigwe family to celebrate the milestone. According to Raymond Anyiam-Osigwe, CEO of AMAA, the book is an "iconic" piece that captures the brilliance of African filmmakers and creatives.

"We are not just launching a book but we are celebrating my late sister and founder of AMAA, Peace Marie Ogechi Anyiam-Osigwe, who is no more with us here. The coffee table book has captured all the moments of AMAA in the last 20 years for posterity," he said.

"The coffee table book showcases Africans brilliance in film as well as diasporans and others for the love of creativity and African film."

"It's an iconic book that captures memorable times of AMAA and it's not just a coffee table book but a treasure to hold when African creatives and film practitioners are discussed."

Guests in attendance included Olayinka Gbajabiamila, Anthony Anih, Charles O'Tudor, Cornel Udofia, Bond Emeruwa, Bimbo Manuel, Greg Odutayo, and Francis Onwochie, Kingsley James, Zeb Ejiro, Sunny McDon, Tunde Chado, Angela Lance, Florence Okechukwu, Asiodu Henry, Felix Duke, Queen Blessing Ebigieson, and Bukky Ogunnote were also in attendance.







## PWAN Group Officially Launched In Ghana

**S**helter is a top priority to human existence and Property World Africa Network (PWAN) is set to make home ownership dream a reality for all in Nigeria, Africa and beyond.

The company has been in existence for the past 12 years offering quality service to all clients, continuously giving opportunity to earn founder's bonus, all-expense paid trip across the globe Access to marketing and luxury.

To make Ghanaians benefit from the tremendous gains available in PWAN, Dr. Mrs. Jayne Onwumere the GMD of the company and the team from Nigeria were in Ghana on 12th September, 2024 to

officially launch PWAN Ghana.

In her opening remarks, she said that PWAN has come to Ghana to be a blessing to its citizens urging everyone to identify with the company. Dr. Jayne noted that there are a lot of opportunities available to all. As the first Real Estate network company in the world, many have become empowered financially by identifying with the enormous benefits the company offers.

The event was a beehive of activities as many people won different prizes during the raffle draw organized to spice up the event.

HRM Eze Dr, Amb. Chukwudi Ihenetu, the King of Igbo in Ghana assured that the palace of Ndigbo in Ghana would do all within its limit to support the company.

H.E Amb Moses Adeoye, Ag. Nigerian High Commissioner to Ghana represented by Mrs. Cecilia Eteng pledged the commitment of the Nigerian High Commission to support such investment in Ghana and noted that the door of the High Commission is open at all times.

The company looks forward to having successful business exploits in Ghana.





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