

...NOT IN THISDAY STYLE? THEN YOU'RE NOT IN STYLE

# THISDAY Style

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024



## GAME CHANGERS OF 2024 SHAPING THE FUTURE

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# COVER NOTE



2024 is a year brimming with anticipation, largely due to the foundations laid in 2023. It's a pivotal time for Nigeria and Africa as a whole, with key figures poised to make significant impacts in their respective fields.



## Society

**LUCAS VISAGE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF THE SCAVOLINI BRAND.** Nigeria's leading interior design company Lucas Visage, exclusive partner of Scavolini, a leading Italian designer of Kitchens, bathrooms, wardrobes and living room systems, recently at their world-class showroom celebrated ten years of THE SCAVOLINI in the interior design space NIGERIA.



## Style

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## EDITOR'S LETTER



EXECUTIVE EDITOR

### That Act of Service...

I couldn't help but notice a recurring theme while glancing at the personalities featured on the cover today. Each, in their unique way, has made a significant impact on our world. But what struck me most wasn't their fame or achievements but their commitment to service. Whether it's through keeping us entertained, developing innovative products, or shaping policies to improve our lives, these individuals share a common trait: they are giving a part of themselves to make a difference. This realisation is why I am asking what you are doing this year to make an impact.

You see, making a difference doesn't require being in the spotlight. You don't need to be famous or hold a high office to impact your immediate environment positively. The truth is that every one of us has the potential to make a significant difference in our communities and beyond. It's about owning our voices and giving of ourselves in whatever capacity we can.

Take a moment to consider the many different ways you can contribute. Volunteering or simply just lending a listening ear to someone in need is a good start. I know it might seem small, but surprisingly, it might have the power to create ripples of change that can transform lives.

Please give this some thought. What are your passions? What skills or talents do you possess that could benefit others? How can you use these gifts to serve? Remember, the journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

This year, let's make a conscious effort to do more. Step outside our comfort zones and find ways to contribute to the greater good. It's not about grand gestures but the cumulative effect of many small acts of kindness and service - they all add up. And who knows, your small step today could be the giant leap for someone else tomorrow.

So going forward, let's make it our mission to be a little more giving and helpful. It doesn't take much, just a conscious effort to do a bit more than yesterday.

Give it a thought, will you? And while you're at it, sprinkle a bit of your magic around. Here's to a year of positive impacts, big and small! May it be one where we discover the incredible satisfaction that comes from giving a part of ourselves to make the world a better place. Let's make it one for the books! Love,

Konye

6

10

20

AMG Presents "What The World Needs" 7

Lifestyle & Fashion

Yes, You Can Make The Best Out Of Your Phone Addiction. 8

The Survivors 9

Will Co-ord Still be Trendy in 2024? 10

2024 Goals You Can Actually Achieve 11

Moses Babatope 20

New Year, New You: Wardrobe Refresh Tips 22

How To Achieve The Perfect No-Makeup Makeup Look 23

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# AWARDS CONTENDERS

An inside look at global movies creating the most buzz in the run-up to awards season



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THE  
CROWN  
THE FINAL SEASON

MAY  
DECEMBER



—LAWMEN—  
BASS REEVES

RUSTIN





# LUCAS VISAGE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF THE SCAVOLINI BRAND

Nigeria's leading interior design company Lucas Visage, exclusive partner of Scavolini, a leading Italian designer of Kitchens, bathrooms, wardrobes and living room systems, recently at their world-class showroom celebrated ten years of THE SCAVOLINI in the interior design space NIGERIA. It was a beautiful evening hosting captains of industries and VIP clientele while unveiling a new collection of 40 Scavolini kitchens, bathrooms, wardrobes and living room systems. The consular general of the Italian embassy, Ugo Boni, had the honour of unveiling the collection in a cutting of rope ceremony, which allowed him to address guests, saying the enduring presence of the Italian brand, most especially the line of kitchen in Nigeria clearly indicates the love Nigerians and Italian's have for cooking. Also, CEO Lucas Visage Ayokunle Dina described the celebration as introducing a world-class range of luxury lines of distinct and exclusive products designed with a touch of elegance, modernity, and excellence into the Nigerian market. She stated that 'Lucas Visaage with the Scavolini brand is determined to engender happiness and peace to all its clients. The event was well attended, and guests were treated to Chef Eros's culinary delights, exquisite cocktails and more.



KUNLE & ADEOLA DINA



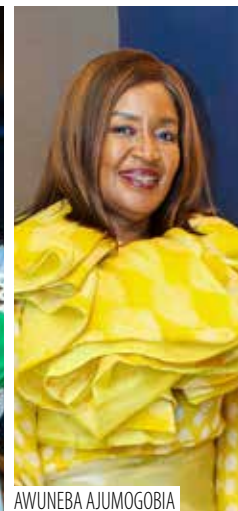
UGO BONI



MR & MRS OTUN



ARINOLA IDOWU



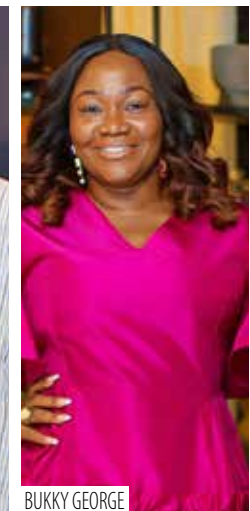
AWUNNEBA AJUMOGOBIA



BUKKY IMOYO



CHEF BENEDICT



BUKKY GEORGE



HENRY SHODUNKE, GUEST, PRINCE ELETU, MUSTAPHA, TUNDE & BIDUN DINA



FEMI AKINSANYA



ANNE RINU



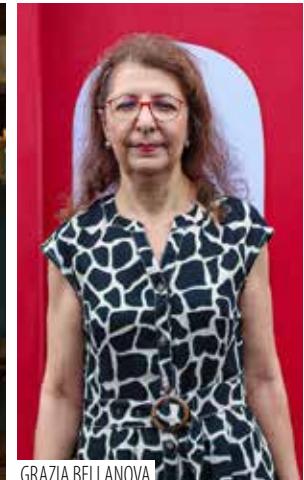
OTUNBA ABIMBOLA



DOTUN SULAIMAN



MR & MRS ADARALEGBÉ & KD



GRAZIA BELLANOVA



CHEF EROS



DOLAPO JOELOMI



ENIOLA, TUNDE FAGBAMIGBE & TOSIN OSUNKOYA



NIYI YUSUF



HENRY OKILIE-ABACH

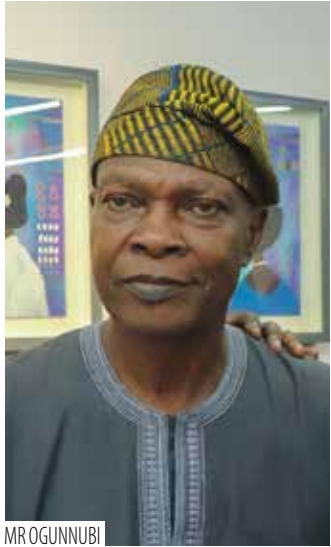
# AMG PRESENTS WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

AMG Projects, a leading contemporary Art gallery in the heart of Lekki Lagos, recently presented a Solo exhibition titled, 'What the World Needs' by rising artist Sadiq Ajibola Williams. The 3weeks exhibition launched with a private viewing, which exhibited an eclectic collection of artworks ranging from paints and sculptures to multimedia installations, all centred around the artist's continuous exploration of the ikigai and Alafia concepts, which are known doctrines of the Yoruba culture and the Japanese. The diverse range of artworks on display inspired dialogue and introspection, encouraging attendees to ponder the actions and changes required to make the world a better place.

Jide Adesanya, founder of AMG Projects, expressed his gratitude at the private viewing, saying he believed that art has the power to inspire change and provoke meaningful conversations, and Williams's works on display featured the opportunity for interactions. The exhibition was well attended by art collectors, art lovers, friends and family of the gallery and the artist.



SADIQ WILLIAMS



MR OGUNNUBI



YETUNDE OGUNNUBI



CHRISTIANA OREDOLA WILLIAMS



MORAYO BARBARA FADIPE



JIDE OGUNSANYA, TITILOLA FAGBEMI



PASTOR ITUA IGODHALO



CHICHE OHIAGU, NGOZI OHIAGU



TOKUNBO ADEOLA



DELE OLADUNJOYE, WOLE RUNSEWE, DELE LAWORE



RUSENWA



SEYI AWOLESI



CYNTHIA ADAXHILAN & PATRICK ADAXHILAN



JASON JOHN BAPTISTE & YULIA DANIELS



AKEPVWE EREFUOMA



MELINDA AKINYEMI



MS ADETOLA



YETUNDE OGUNNUBI



GBENKA ADEWUMI





## YES, YOU CAN MAKE THE BEST OUT OF YOUR PHONE ADDICTION.

Ever caught yourself, phone in hand, plunging down the endless rabbit hole of skits, memes, and Insta-perfection, only to emerge hours later, questioning your life choices? You're not alone. But what if I told you that your phone addiction isn't a one-way ticket to Procrastination Ville? Keep reading to find out how.

### Social Media

Beyond being a scroll-fest, social media can be a learning hub. Follow thought leaders, industry experts, and educational accounts in your field of interest. Congrats, your timeline is now a treasure trove of insights and inspiration!

### There's an App for That

Your phone is like Mary Poppins' bag; it's got more than you think. Explore apps that offer courses (hello, Coursera and Duolingo), brain training (cue Lumosity), or even coding (shoutout to SoloLearn). Learning a new language while waiting for your coffee? Check. Mastering Python during commercials? Double-check.

### Podcasts

Podcasts are like the cool aunt or uncle who knows everything about anything. Whether it's history, science, business, or the arts, there's a podcast out there ready to transform your screen time into learning time. Bonus: they're perfect for multitasking. Cooking + Learning = Efficiency at its finest.

### Networking

Platforms like LinkedIn are at your fingertips, ready to connect you with professionals across the globe. Share your thoughts on industry trends, join professional groups, or slide into DMs (professionally, of course). Your next career opportunity might just be a notification away.

### Digital Creativity

Write a blog, start a vlog, or compose music. With apps for editing, graphic design, and more, your phone is your canvas, studio, and gallery all rolled into one. Who knows, your digital doodles might just be the next viral sensation.

### Mindfulness and Well-being Apps

Ironically, the source of your distraction can also be your peace. Mindfulness apps offer guided meditations, sleep stories, and breathing exercises.



### Your Calendar and Reminders

Use your phone's calendar and reminder features to plan your day, set goals, and keep track of important tasks. It's like having a PA who's always there (and doesn't judge you for your lapses).

### The Power of Audiobooks and E-books

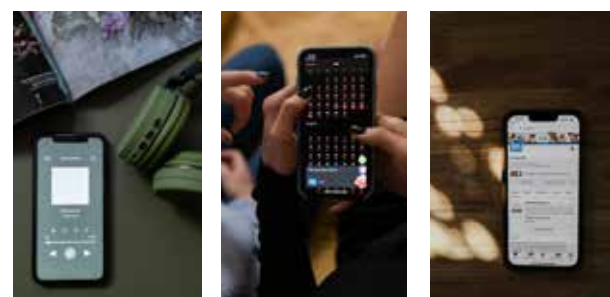
Gone are the days of lugging around a backpack full of books. E-books and audiobooks make reading accessible anywhere, anytime. Whether you're in line at the store or on a treadmill, immerse yourself in a story or learn something new.

### The Fitness Tracker

The trainer who lives in your phone health apps and fitness trackers is like a gym buddy who's always up for a workout. Track your steps, monitor your sleep, or follow along with workout routines. It's fitness at your fingertips.

### Game On

Educational Games aren't just for fun but also for learning. Swap out some of your regular games for ones that challenge your brain or teach you something new. Become a trivia whiz or a master Sudoku.



# THE SURVIVORS

By Dr. Kemi DaSilva-Ibru



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the WARIF Survivor Stories Series, a monthly feature where stories of survivors of rape and sexual violence are shared to motivate and encourage survivors to speak their truth without the fear of judgment or stigmatisation and to educate the public on the sheer magnitude of this problem in our society. The Women at Risk International Foundation (WARIF) is a non-profit organisation set up in response to the extremely high incidence of rape, sexual violence, and human trafficking of young girls and women in our society. WARIF is tackling this issue through a holistic approach that covers health, education, and community service initiatives.

WARIF aids survivors of rape and sexual violence through the WARIF Centre - a haven where trained professionals are present full-time, six days a week, including public holidays, to offer immediate medical care, forensic medical examinations, psycho-social counselling, and welfare services, which include shelter, legal aid, and vocational skills training. These services are provided FREE of charge to any survivor who walks into the Centre.



### BRUISED AND BATTERED

Last December marked a significant turn in my life's narrative; for over three years, I shared an apartment amicably with my friend Esther, a Lagosian. Our harmonious coexistence was marked by mutual support and a joint pursuit of personal development, which significantly contributed to our growth.

During the yuletide season, I journeyed to the vibrant suburb of Lagos to join Esther's family celebration. The occasion was doubly joyful as her cousin, residing in London, tied the knot. The event resonated with pomp and splendour, captivating both local and international relatives. Adorned as the chief bridesmaid, Esther illuminated the festivities, from the engagement to the wedding itself. The celebration remained the talk of the town for several months, boasting a gathering of esteemed individuals from society's upper echelons.

After the wedding, while the newlyweds embarked on their honeymoon in the Maldives, we chose to stay behind, relishing the relaxation until January 2023. Our days were filled with explorations around town, delightful boat cruises, and a euphoric sense of contentment until a tragic incident disrupted our joy.

One evening, as I ventured on a solitary stroll to a nearby village, I inadvertently lost my way on the trail. I stumbled upon some unfinished buildings where street touts loitered, indulging in substances and spirits. Fear gripped me when the apparent

ringleader approached, questioning my presence in their territory. Despite explaining that I was lost, he mockingly referred to me as a 'JJC' (Johnny Just Come) and swiftly ordered his cohorts to escort me to their hideout. Threatened by his dagger and intimidated, I complied. He subjected me to a harrowing ordeal, assaulting me repeatedly, while his cohorts, although interested, were dismissed due to my condition. His menacing threats silenced me, and after the assault, he warned of dire consequences if I dared to speak up, instructing his men to leave me by the main road.

Grateful to be alive, I hailed a taxi, lacking my phone, and pleaded with the driver to take me to Esther's house. Initially hesitant due to fear, the cab driver eventually assisted me out of pity. Surprised by my dishevelled appearance, Esther mistook the cab driver's arrival for an aggressor before comprehending his role. She promptly offered solace, ensuring I received water and urging me to recount my horrific experience. After apologising and compensating the cab driver, she called a family friend, the DPO (Divisional Police Officer), who directed us to the station to provide a statement, subsequently guiding us to the WARIF Centre.

At the Centre, I underwent medical evaluation and treatment and received invaluable psycho-social counselling without charge. The staff's professionalism and dedication at WARIF were commendable. Guided by the in-house counsellor, I learned coping mechanisms to address trauma, understanding that I was not to blame. Additionally, attending the monthly group therapy sessions significantly bolstered my sense of belonging and self-esteem, affirming that I was not alone in my journey to healing.

Over a year has passed, and I can confidently attest that I've found solace mentally, emotionally, and psychologically. I have resumed my work, and in a beautiful turn of events, my partner proposed to me recently. I feel liberated, embracing a newfound sense of optimism and resilience. As for the perpetrators, I commend the diligent efforts of the police, who conducted a thorough search, resulting in the arrest of the touts and dismantling of their den. Legal action has commenced against the perpetrator and his associates, ensuring justice is served for the crimes committed against me.

Eagerly looking ahead, I aspire to become a Gender-based Advocate, advocating for those affected by similar circumstances. My life is transformed, and I'm stepping into a future empowered by resilience and hope.

Many thanks to the WARIF Team!

*\*Real name of the survivor changed for confidentiality*

**Dear survivor, please know that you are not alone and it is not your fault. Help is available. If you have been raped or you know someone who has, please visit us at:**

**The WARIF Centre  
6, Turton Street, off Thorburn Avenue, Sabo, Yaba  
or call our 24-hour confidential helpline on 0800-9210-0009  
For questions or more information please contact: info@warifng.org**



### Why Co-ords Have Remained a Trend

Co-ords have an uncanny ability to simplify the art of dressing up while offering endless possibilities. Their appeal lies in the ease of creating a put-together look with minimal effort. Moreover, the rise of a more conscious approach to fashion sees co-ords as a sustainable choice. By mixing and matching separates, one can create multiple outfits, reducing the need for an extensive wardrobe.

### 2024's Fresh Take on Co-ords

This year, co-ords are all about bold prints, unexpected materials, and versatile pieces. Here are some fresh ways to rock co-ords in 2024:

#### Mixed Prints Madness

Gone are the days of matchy-matchy prints. 2024 is about clashing patterns within your co-ords. Think stripes with florals and polka dots with abstract prints. The key is to choose one dominant colour to tie the look together.

#### Texture Play

Mix textures for a multi-dimensional look. Pair a silky blouse with a ribbed knit skirt, or combine a leather crop top with a cotton maxi skirt. This approach adds depth and interest to your outfit.

#### Oversized and Layered

Oversized co-ords offer comfort without compromising style. Layer them over turtlenecks or sheer long-sleeved tops. It's a chic way to stay stylish.

#### Break It With Denim

Denim is a universal neutral. Break a brightly coloured co-ord set with a denim jacket or jeans. This brings a casual, street-style edge to your ensemble.

#### Accessorise Boldly

The right accessories can transform your co-ord from simple to standout. Think chunky necklaces, oversized sunglasses, or statement belts. Accessories are your playground – have fun with them!

### Unexpected Footwear Choices

Pair your co-ords with unexpected footwear. Think chunky platforms with a floral set or sneakers with a formal trouser suit. It's all about striking a balance between comfort and style.

#### Play With Proportions

Experiment with different lengths and fits—a cropped blazer with high-waisted pants or an oversized boxy top with short shorts. Playing with proportions adds a modern twist to your co-ords.

## WILL CO-ORDS STILL BE TRENDY IN 2024?

Fashion trends continue to evolve, yet some seem to defy the test of time. Among these, co-ords – coordinated clothing sets – have remained a style staple, seamlessly blending versatility with elegance. While co-ords have been a fashion favourite for the past few years, their allure isn't waning; instead, they're being reinvented in exciting new ways.



DAKORE AKANDE



SOLA AKPATA



NKIRU ANUMUDU



UEOMA JIBUNOH



VOLUNTEER REGULARLY - TUNDE ONAKOYA TEACHES THE GAME OF CHESS IN SLUMS



LEARN A NEW SKILL LIKE APPLYING MAKEUP PROPERLY



READ A BOOK

## 2024 GOALS YOU CAN ACTUALLY ACHIEVE

With 2024 now here, we can no longer afford to be complacent. It's time to set goals for a better year ahead of us, just as in years past. Making a commitment to humanity, community service, and a healthy lifestyle are excellent places to start. These activities will enhance your leadership abilities, self-confidence, and physical and mental health. But since we are fallible human beings, we usually find excuses not to follow through on our resolutions. This is typically the result of us setting high standards that get harder to achieve as the days pass. That's why modest, doable goals are essential for bringing about little improvements. If you've given yourself unattainable expectations, it's still possible to adjust them and if you still need to, try these straightforward goals that we know will have a significant impact in 2024.

By Funke Babs Kufeji



GOTO BED EARLY



EAT HEALTHY

### VOLUNTEER REGULARLY

Resolve to volunteer and join a worthy cause frequently in the upcoming year. Your emotional health will improve if you volunteer and contribute to social causes that help the less fortunate. Serving the community and developing your leadership skills are two additional benefits of volunteering. Individuals are pushed to step outside their comfort zone and try new things through random acts of kindness and community service. Once you start appreciating the cause or the service, keeping your New Year's resolve will be enjoyable and straightforward. Additionally, when the task is completed, it provides a satisfying experience.

### LEARN NEW SKILLS OR PASSIONS

Learning a new skill is a great way to start the year since many of us use our resolutions to make significant life changes. From baking to learning to play an instrument to makeup application, the list may include a wide range of skill sets. Take the opportunity to learn a new talent during your free time so that you may see yourself achieving amazing things that you never thought were possible. Aim for realistic goals and reward yourself when you accomplish them. In addition to receiving support in sustaining your overall personal growth.

### READ A BOOK

Many resolutions for the new year aim to improve upon the previous year in several ways. Whatever your interests, reading books may be fulfilling. One of the best ways to keep your mind busy is to cut back on your screen time and experience something completely different. Maintaining this resolution for the New Year is simple. First, choose a book and schedule some time to read it. If you need help deciding what to read, get out and interact with other book enthusiasts by joining book clubs. Developing close social bonds via sharing opinions and ideas, as well as book suggestions, can also help you keep your interest.

### GOTO BED EARLY

A good night's sleep can drastically change your quality of life. A good sleep schedule and appropriate sleep quantity also lower the chance of developing several physical and mental illnesses. Don't worry if you can't get to sleep, though. Here are some tips to get you to sleep more quickly.

- Having a soothing hot bath an hour or two before bed will help increase sleep quality and help you fall asleep around ten minutes quicker.
- Before bed, turn off all electronics a few hours early.
- Read a book and sip on something soothing that will help yield better sleep results.

### EAT HEALTHY

A healthy lifestyle may begin with proper nutrition. All too often, though, we start good eating habits as New Year's resolutions and then give up sooner than expected. But the resolution can still be pursued in another way. By making little dietary adjustments, you may achieve this. Leafy greens will quadruple your fibre intake, aid in better digestion, help you lose weight, and ward off a host of illnesses. It will also assist in reducing junk food intake and increase the consumption of plant-based meals and seasonal fruits.





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# GAME CHANGERS OF 2024

## SHAPING THE FUTURE

2024 is a year brimming with anticipation, largely due to the foundations laid in 2023. It's a pivotal time for Nigeria and Africa as a whole, with key figures poised to make significant impacts in their respective fields. Their roles, established in the previous year, have set the stage for transformative changes. From the finance sector to art and culture, from digital innovation to continental economic development, 2024 is poised to be a year of transformation, led by these remarkable individuals.

### POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE.

**Wale Edun -**  
Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy



**W**ale Edun, the man at the helm of Nigeria's finances, has been dubbed the "poster boy" for Nigeria's economic revival. With the nation grappling with financial woes, Edun's appointment as Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy comes at a critical juncture. He brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise, having served in various capacities within the financial sector.

Edun's career trajectory includes positions at leading financial institutions, international organisations and government. His knowledge of economic policies and financial strategies is expected to be the driving force behind Nigeria's economic recovery. In 2024, the nation looks to him with great expectations, hoping for prudent fiscal management, infrastructure development, and the creation of an enabling environment for businesses to thrive.

**Hannatu Musawa -**  
Minister of Art, Culture and the Creative Economy



**H**annatu Musawa is the first-ever minister to head Nigeria's Art, Culture, and Creative Economy sector. This industry has traditionally thrived without being directly tethered to the country's economic framework. However, her appointment signals a paradigm shift, recognising the immense potential of the creative industry as a driver of economic growth. Musawa is expected to usher in a new era for this sector.

From supporting local artists to promoting cultural tourism, she already shows signs that her vision aligns with the nation's desire for a vibrant and economically significant creative sector.

**Bosun Tijani**  
Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy



**B**osun Tijani's appointment as Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy has garnered significant attention and expectations. His background as a tech entrepreneur and his role in co-founding the Co-Creation Hub (CcHub) in Lagos has solidified his reputation as a pioneer in Nigeria's tech ecosystem. With his deep industry knowledge, Tijani is expected to steer Nigeria towards becoming a tech powerhouse on the African continent, creating jobs, driving policies that foster digital innovation, supporting startups, bridging the digital divide and driving economic growth through the digital economy.

**Benedict Oramah**  
President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank



**B**enedict Oramah, as the President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), holds a key role in shaping the economic landscape not only in Nigeria but across the African continent. We currently look to him to continue driving initiatives that promote intra-African trade, infrastructure development, and industrialisation. His successful tenure at the helm of Afreximbank will contribute to the broader goal of African economic integration and sustainable development.



**Akinwunmi Adesina**  
President of the African Development Bank

**A**kinwunmi Adesina, often described as "Africa's Optimist-in-Chief," is a visionary leader who has been at the forefront of driving Africa's transformation. As the President of the African Development Bank Group, he oversaw a historic capital increase, propelling the institution's general capital from \$93 billion to a staggering \$208 billion. This remarkable achievement marked a turning point in the Bank's history, enabling it to extend its influence and reach across the African continent. Our expectations from Akinwunmi Adesina are nothing short of monumental. We anticipate his continued dedication to fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and sustainable initiatives across Africa. His leadership will be instrumental in addressing the continent's pressing challenges, including climate change, poverty reduction, and healthcare improvements.

### ENTERTAINMENT

**Funke Akindele**



**F**unke Akindele stepped into 2024 with a bang. Her movie "A Tribe Called Judah." This film made history by becoming the first Nollywood title to gross over one billion naira. This success sets a new standard for Nollywood and positions her as a trailblazer in the industry. Her productions currently hold the top three spots for the highest-grossing Nigerian films ever, which is a testament to her talent and business acumen. As the year unfolds, we eagerly anticipate Funke Akindele's continued contributions to Nollywood and her potential to break even more records, further elevating the profile of Nigerian cinema on the global stage.

**Ayra Starr**



**A**yra Starr is undoubtedly one of the most promising female voices in Afrobeats. In 2023, she made waves with songs like "No Love," "Stability," "Stamina," and "Great One," solidifying her position in the industry. Her Grammy nomination in 2023 was also a significant milestone in her career, and it's clear that she's poised for even greater success in 2024 and beyond.

As fans and industry observers, we eagerly await Ayra Starr's continued musical evolution and her potential to become a prominent figure in the global music scene. Her talent and versatility suggest that she has the power to shape the future of Afrobeats.

**Chioma Ude**



**A**leading voice in the African Film industry, Chioma Ude's role transcends the entertainment industry. She is the founder of the Africa International Film Festival (AFRIFF), a venture that has since become Africa's most vibrant film festival experience. Under her leadership, AFRIFF has not only showcased African talent but also provided a platform for international partnerships, fostering a global appreciation for African cinema.

Aside from this, she has been actively partnering with the government to empower creatives, providing opportunities for young talents to shine. In 2024, we will see more of Chioma Ude's continued efforts to uplift African storytellers and filmmakers. Her dedication to promoting African stories on the global stage is essential in shaping the future of the entertainment industry.

**Editi Effiong**



**E**dit Effiong's journey from founding Anakle, a Nigeria-based digital marketing agency, to transitioning into filmmaking is nothing short of remarkable. In 2023, his movie "The Black Book" achieved unprecedented success on Netflix. It became the first Nigerian-made film to reach the global top three on the platform, with an astounding 20 million viewers and a presence on top 10 lists in over 69 countries. His accomplishments in 2023 have set a new standard for quality production in the Nigerian film industry. We expect him to continue pushing boundaries, producing exceptional content, and inspiring a new generation of filmmakers.

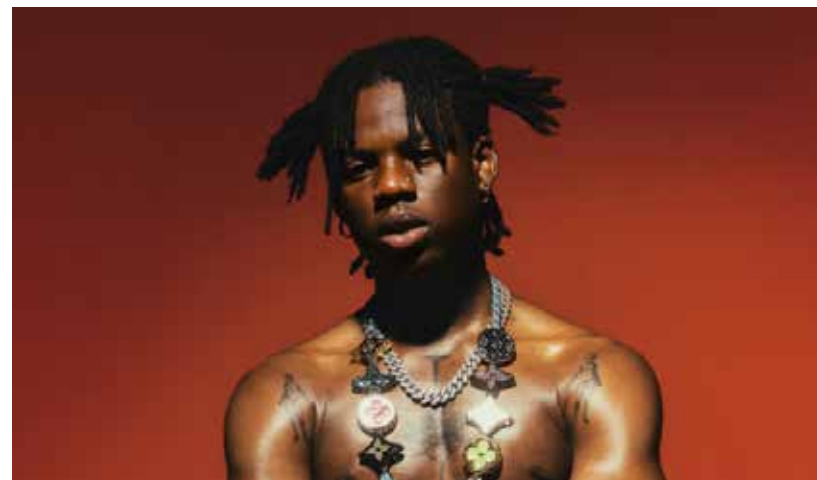


COVER



Burna Boy

Burna Boy's 2023 was marked by sold-out shows, chart-topping hits, and prestigious awards. His global reign as a hitmaker showed no signs of slowing down, and his achievements were nothing short of extraordinary. He secured nominations for Best Global Music Performance and Best Global Music Album for his acclaimed project, "Love, Damini," and received the African Artiste of the Year award at the Soundcity MVP Awards. This year, we expect his meteoric rise to continue. His unmatched talent, creativity, and global appeal are set to keep him at the forefront of the international music scene. Winning the BET Best International Act award for the fourth consecutive time is a testament to his influence, and we anticipate him pushing boundaries and breaking records per usual.



Davido

Davido had a monumental year in 2023, solidifying his position as one of Nigeria's biggest cultural exports. His fourth studio album, "Timeless," topped charts and earned him a Grammy nomination, making it the most streamed Afrobeats album on various platforms. His influence in the global music scene is undeniable, as he successfully integrated the Nigerian sound into mainstream Western music. Davido's continued musical prowess and his role as a cultural ambassador for Nigeria are very expected this year. We also see him maintaining his chart-topping streak, collaborating with international artists and further elevating the Afrobeats genre on the global stage.



Rema

Rema's achievements in 2023 were nothing short of remarkable. He secured titles such as the most streamed African album and song on Spotify, charted on the Billboard Hot 100 for a year, and achieved the highest charting position for a Nigerian song on the Billboard Hot 100 at number 3 with "Calm Down." Additionally, he won the 2023 MTV VMA "Best Afrobeats" award, further solidifying his position as a trailblazer. With each milestone he achieves, he not only cements his place as a pioneer but also paves the way for a new era of African musical excellence. We anticipate Rema to continue breaking records, captivating global audiences, and pushing the boundaries of African music.

TECHNOLOGY



Jennie Nwokoye

In Health Tech, one name stands out prominently - Jennie Nwokoye. The visionary founder of Clafiya, she has redefined healthcare access and management in Nigeria. Clafiya, often likened to the Uber model, is a platform that connects patients with community health workers, streamlining access to Health Maintenance Organisations (HMOs), medical kits, and medicines. Nwokoye's brainchild offers a wide array of services, making healthcare more accessible and efficient for Nigerians. With Clafiya, patients can sign up, schedule appointments, and have the nearest healthcare practitioner dispatched to their location. Whether you need a nurse for primary care or in-person maternity care testing, Clafiya has you covered. Moreover, Clafiya goes beyond just primary care. It provides invaluable services such as consultations, health education, rapid diagnostic tests for diseases like malaria and typhoid, STD testing, and screenings for chronic conditions like hypertension and diabetes. This approach to healthcare is a game-changer, ensuring that Nigerians receive comprehensive care. Jennie Nwokoye is well-positioned to substantially impact healthcare in Nigeria and beyond.

Olugbenga Agboola

When it comes to the world of payment technology, Olugbenga Agboola is a name that resonates across the African continent. As the founder of Flutterwave, a leading payments technology company valued at over \$3 billion, Agboola has transformed the financial landscape of Africa. Flutterwave initially started as a solution for enterprise companies seeking to facilitate cross-border money transfers easily. However, it has evolved into something much more profound - the backbone of e-payment services across Africa. In doing so, Agboola has contributed to the economic growth of numerous countries while also bringing African art and products to new consumers. As digital payments become increasingly integral to our daily lives, Flutterwave's influence is set to grow exponentially. Agboola's vision extends beyond mere financial transactions; he envisions a future where Africa's youth are empowered to become the next generation of business leaders.



CREATIVES



Nasiru Lawal aka Nasboi

Popularly known as Nasboi, Nasiru Lawal is a seasoned social media comedian and musician. With the help of music crooner Wande Coal, he made waves in 2023 with his hit song "Umbrella," which went viral on social media. His dual charm as a comedian and musician began in 2006, with music his first love. As a result of the song's popularity, he is now among the select few Nigerian social media stars to be successful in both comedy and music.

Enioluwa Adeoluwa

Enioluwa Adeoluwa is a Nigerian public speaker, influencer, and brand & communications strategist. He is arguably the most prominent and hardworking Gen Z influencer, having amassed over 4 million social media fans. He is the first influencer from Nigeria to sign a contract with MAC cosmetics and collaborate with high-end businesses like Crocs footwear. Apart from advocating for minority groups, Enioluwa is also winning globally and has not only received awards as proof but also represents global brands.



FASHION ARTS AND LIFESTYLE



Emmanuel Okoro

Emmanuel Okoro is the creative director of Emmy Kasbit, a contemporary fashion brand born out of a passion for dressing unconventional men and women with fierce sartorial choices. In 2023, Okoro took an unexpected yet refreshing turn, experimenting and designing with traditional textiles and prints such as Ukara cloth and Akwete. It was a significant accomplishment for the designer as it set the standard for originality in the following fashion months in Nigeria.

Ife Olowu

Visual artist Ife Olowu, who resides in Lagos, is gaining attention in the art world for his creative use of augmented reality. He is Nigeria's first artist to use augmented reality (AR) in art. His work is also among the few AR commercial use cases in the nation and throughout Africa. One of his AR paintings costs \$10,000, which is about N7.5 million. For an artist who, only a few years ago, could not persuade anyone to purchase his artwork for N10,000, that is a significant leap. We hope to see more such innovations in the art world in Nigeria and Africa.



Titi Ogufere

Titi Ogufere is an award-winning interior designer, and entrepreneur focused on contemporary residential and commercial spaces inspired by African art. She is the creative head at Essential Interior and the founder of Design Week Lagos. In 2007, she founded the Interior Designers Association of Nigeria (IDAN), a body that promotes excellence practices in Nigeria's interior design sector. Last year, she was announced alongside design gallerist Ros-sana Orlandi, interior stylist Colin King, and Dutch architect Ben van Berkel as a prestigious Dezeen Awards 2023 judge. Titi is taking giant strides in the design industry, and we are super chuffed she is our very own

Andrea Dumebi Iyamah

Dumebi Andrea Iyamah is the talented Nigerian-Canadian fashion designer of the eponymous brand Andrea Iyamah. The brand operates out of Canada and Nigeria and last year launched a second store in West Village, New York. The immersive space reflects the brand's DNA with natural textures and vibrant colours. The owner, Andrea Iyamah, also earned a well-deserved spot in the Financial Times ranking: The Americas' Fastest-Growing Companies





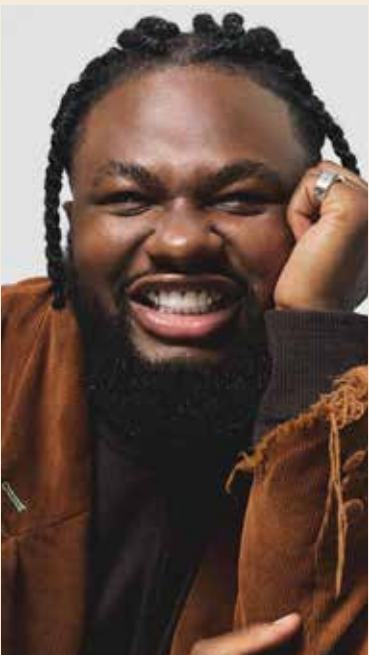


Victor Anate

The founder and creative director of the up-and-coming fashion business Vicnate, Victor Anate, is starting to make a name for himself in the industry. In 2023, he co-designed Naomi Campbell's Pretty Little Thing Collection, which debuted in the main spotlight at New York Fashion Week. Victor's partnership with the brand and supermodel surpassed all expectations, resulting in an unexpectedly stylish product that has elevated his profile internationally and established him as a young designer to watch.

Yinka Ashogbon

Yinka Ashogbon established his business, Ash Luxury, in 2017 and has since been an influential figure in the city's premium retail scene and a pioneer in Nigeria's fast-expanding streetwear industry. He introduced his streetwear line, Ashlux, as a private label at the store the following year. Since then, his brand has developed a cult following and is now seen as a status symbol by hip urban Nigerians and the rest of Africa. In 2023, he made the BoF 500 list, an index of the 500 most influential figures in the global fashion landscape.



Nkwo Onwuka

The founder and creative director of the sustainable brand Nkwo is Nkwo Onwuka. The company has been creating cutting-edge methods ever since its 2012 relaunch, all the while honouring ancient Nigerian textile crafts, including weaving, hand dyeing, and embroidery. Every item of the brand's ready-to-wear is made with customary West African techniques. Over the past ten years, the Nigerian fashion industry has become increasingly environmentally conscious. Onwuka is leading the way in sustainability with her brand by employing the cutting-edge "Dakala" strip weaving process. Every collection includes this hand-loomed, recycled fabric with a very rich texture.

HEALTHCARE



Joke Bakare

Joke Bakare is a pharmacist who is the mastermind behind Medplus, the biggest health and beauty retail chain in Nigeria, with over 100 stores nationwide. Established in 1993, the health and beauty retail outlet revolutionised the drugstore model for over thirty years. In keeping with its mission and corporate values, the brand celebrated its 30th anniversary in October 2023 by launching the "Build to Last Grant," which aims to support female-led businesses and provide free health screenings to 30 towns nationwide. Joke is setting a standard for other pharmacies to follow as she continues to make the communities in which her stores are established feel the impact of the health stores around them.

Fola Laoye

Iwosan Investments Limited, a Health Investments Holding Company committed to investing in healthcare infrastructure in Nigeria, is led by Mrs Fola Laoye, the co-founder and CEO. She has been a significant factor in the healthcare industry for over 20 years and is a founding board member of Hygeia Group Nigeria. She has led the charge in luring development finance organisations and private equity investors into the healthcare industry in Nigeria and Africa. Additionally, she has participated in transactions that have helped raise over \$100 million for the African healthcare industry. The healthcare industry is projected to generate 16 million new employment and be valued at \$259 billion by 2030 as a result of Africa's population increase.

The healthcare industry is one that most requires someone to push for financing access, and Laoye now serves in that capacity.



SPORTS



Asisat Oshoala

Asisat Oshoala has emerged as a formidable force in women's football. Her journey is one of breaking barriers and setting new standards. As a striker for Spanish Liga F club Barcelona and the Nigeria women's national team, she is widely regarded as one of the greatest African female footballers of all time and one of the best in the world. Last year, she secured the CAF Women's Player of the Year for a record sixth time. In 2024, the expectations from Asisat are monumental. She represents not just her team or her country but an entire movement striving for greater recognition and respect for women's football.

We look forward to seeing her spearhead campaigns for more victories and perhaps clinch more titles, further solidifying her status as a sports role model.

Victor Osimhen

Victor Osimhen's name is synonymous with breathtaking athleticism and unyielding determination in the football world. He is a striker for Serie A club Napoli and the Nigeria national team. Considered one of the best strikers in the world, he is known for his elite finishing, pace, strength and athleticism. He rounded off 2023 by winning the CAF African Player of the Year for the first time. We expect him to continue his awe-inspiring performances, breaking records and perhaps leading his team to glorious victories.



Tobi Amusan

Tobi Amusan's journey in athletics is a testament to the power of perseverance. Specialising in the 100-meter hurdles and also competing as a sprinter, Tobi has shattered records and expectations alike.

Amusan became the first ever Nigerian world champion and world record holder in an athletics event when she won the 2022 World Championships 100 m hurdles gold medal, setting the current world record of 12.12 seconds (+0.9m/s) in the semi-final, followed up by 12.06 seconds (+2.5m/s) in the final. She won back-to-back Commonwealth and African titles in 2018 and 2022 in the 100 m hurdles and is also a two-time African Games champion in the event. She is also the current Diamond League champion in the 100-metre hurdles, having won the final in 12.33 seconds (+1.8m/s), achieving a winning streak in 2021, 2022 and 2023. She has etched her name in the annals of track and field history, and now, as 2024 unfolds, all eyes are on her. What will she accomplish next? The answer lies in the pounding of her feet on the track, each stride a story of resilience.





# Road To A Billion Naira For A Nollywood Title

By Yomi Owopo

It's no longer news that Nigeria's film industry is the fastest growing globally. In ten years, the industry leaped from small-budget to big-budget productions, commanding financing from private sector individuals, banks, and venture capitalists. One name that has been consistent throughout this journey is Moses Babatope, a film exec with industry-wide clout and more than a decade's experience in the international and West African cinema business.

A co-founder at FilmHouse Group and the Managing Director of FilmOne Entertainment, Mr Babatope has seen Nollywood's highs, lows and pivots, counting the pandemic as one major ordeal that threatened to obliterate cinema for good. This all changed with the outstanding success of films like Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, which saw the first 1 billion naira in ticket sales for a single title. Several other impressive showings by homegrown movies means the cinema business continues to breathe, providing a livelihood for tens of thousands of people along the value chain.

If people assumed that the billion-naira Wakanda film was a fluke, Funke Akindele's "A Tribe Called Judah," distributed by Babatope's FilmOne, is sure to quiet the naysayers. Mere hours after the record was broken, he was on a live business show, heartily defending the numbers and showing that the unprecedented December cinema figures were indeed accurate, having been authenticated by CinemaScore and the Exhibitors Association. It all points to one thing: Nigerians are increasingly embracing their own stories and would spend their disposable income on local content in the cinema if they think it's worth it. Ms. Akindele's outsized online presence does help in no small way. With more than 30 million followers across platforms, she was simply impossible to ignore, taking the front seat in the promotion of this film, like her life depended on it.



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Records show that the past blockbusters were averaging 20 million to 30 million naira a week. Even Wakanda Forever took eight weeks to hit 1 billion naira, a record that Funke Akindele's film broke in three.



Babatope is quick to point out that we should not lose sight of other Nollywood titles doing impressive numbers at the cinema. "Toyin Abraham's 'Malaika' made 205 million naira in two weeks," he says, "there was a time, not too long ago, when even our biggest international titles were not hitting those numbers within that time frame." Records show that the past blockbusters were averaging 20 million to 30 million naira a week. Even Wakanda Forever took eight weeks to hit 1 billion naira, a record that Funke Akindele's film broke in three. Other Nigerian titles at the cinema continue to hold their own, with "Ada Omo Daddy" and the critically acclaimed "Afamefuna" commanding impressive

numbers in tickets. A clearly enthusiastic Babatope is bullish about the industry, "I believe that Nollywood has entered its golden era," he says, "we can only go higher from here and break even more records." The achievements of the past year signal a shift in Nigerians' taste for foreign films and prove the potential for big bucks extends beyond Hollywood imports. Small wonder why the Nigerian government wants to share in these successes, pledging billions in funding and institutional support. Babatope's conviction is clear: young Nigerian filmmakers are about to make record-breaking a "routine thing," and he wants to be at the forefront, helping to make it happen.

### Nollywood Box Office by the Numbers.

Here are the top-grossing Nigerian films in local cinemas, showcasing the financial success achieved within the English-speaking West African market. The reported revenues exclude income from online streaming and theatrical showings outside West Africa.

|                       |        |                 |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------|
| A Tribe Called Judah  | (2023) | ₦1,171,923,6822 |
| Battle on Buka Street | (2023) | ₦668,423,056    |
| Omo Ghetto: The Saga  | (2020) | ₦636,129,120    |
| The Wedding Party     | (2016) | ₦452,288,605    |
| The Wedding Party 2   | (2017) | ₦433,197,377    |
| Chief Daddy           | (2018) | ₦387,540,749    |
| Brotherhood           | (2022) | ₦328,881,120    |
| King of Thieves       | (2022) | ₦320,805,150    |
| Sugar Rush            | (2019) | ₦287,053,270    |
| Ijakumo               | (2022) | ₦278,496,384    |

Source: CEAN Website



# NEW YEAR, NEW YOU: WARDROBE REFRESH TIPS

As the New Year dawns, it's not just about resolutions that pertain to fitness or finance; it's also a perfect time to revolutionise your wardrobe. Out with the old, in with the new? Yes, but with a twist. Here, we're not just talking about mindlessly following trends or splurging on a shopping spree. It's about a thoughtful, creative approach to redefining your style.



LARA RAWA



IFY OKOYE



OGECHI UKOU



## Wardrobe Auditing

Before you dive into adding new pieces, start with an audit. This isn't your usual "keep or toss" routine. Turn it into a self-discovery session. Try on each piece and ask yourself, "Does this reflect who I am now, or am I holding onto a past version of myself?" Remember, clothes are not just attire; they're expressions of your evolving identity.

## Storytelling through Clothes

Think of your wardrobe as a collection of stories. Each piece should narrate something unique about you. Mix and match items to create new chapters. That vintage jacket paired with your latest sneaker purchase? A perfect plot twist.

## Sustainable Swaps

Sustainability is the future; your wardrobe is a great place to start. Explore eco-friendly brands. It's not just environmentally responsible but also gives you a chance to sport one-of-a-kind pieces.

## Colour Therapy

Introduce colours that you usually shy away from. Colours influence mood and confidence. Chart a new colour journey this year. Maybe it's time to embrace that bright yellow or subtle lavender you've been avoiding.

## Texture Play

Mixing textures can reinvent your style. Combine lace and denim with silk. This sensory exploration can lead to unexpectedly stand-out looks, proving that fashion is more about texture than colour and form.

## Accessorise to Personalise

Accessories are not afterthoughts; they're statement-makers. A bold, chunky necklace or a sleek, minimalist watch can redefine an outfit. Experiment with hats, scarves, and belts – each can add a new dimension to your look.

## Tailoring for Transformation

Sometimes, a slight alteration can make a huge difference. Tailoring isn't just for suits. Adjusting hemlines, nipping in a waist, or changing buttons can bring new life into old clothes.

## Cultural Infusion

Fashion is a global language. Draw inspiration from different cultures and incorporate elements into your wardrobe. This adds diversity and shows appreciation and awareness of global fashion trends.

## The Power of Understated Elegance

In a world where "more is more" seems to be the mantra, dare to embrace minimalism. Sometimes, a well-cut, simple dress speaks volumes more than an overly embellished outfit.

## Fashion as Self-Care

Finally, view fashion as a form of self-care. Dressing well should make you feel good. It's not about impressing others but expressing yourself and boosting your confidence.

# HOW TO ACHIEVE THE PERFECT NO-MAKEUP MAKEUP LOOK

The mantra for this year is 'Clean Girl Aesthetic.' We're on break from festivities, so loud looks can take a little break. It's time to embrace more natural looks; you want to look like you don't have makeup on even though you do have makeup on. Amongst all the trends from the past year, the no-makeup makeup look emerged as a timeless and coveted style. Achieving this subtle and natural appearance requires finesse and a few key techniques. Follow our step-by-step guide to enhance your features while maintaining that fresh-faced glow effortlessly.

By Bukola Amoboye

## 1. Start with Skincare

The foundation of any great makeup look is healthy skin. Begin by cleansing and moisturizing your face to create a smooth canvas. A lightweight, hydrating primer will ensure your makeup adheres seamlessly while giving your skin a dewy finish.

## 2. Choose a Lightweight Foundation

Opt for a sheer or light-coverage foundation to even out your skin tone without masking your natural complexion. Skin tints are also a great substitute when you don't want an actual foundation and are excellent choices for achieving that appearance.

## 3. Concentrated Concealing

Target specific areas with concealer instead of applying it all over. Dab a bit under the eyes on any blemishes or redness for a flawless finish.

## 4. Define Brows Naturally

Enhance your eyebrows with a soft pencil or powder. Aim for a natural arch and use short, feathery strokes to mimic the look of real hair. A clear brow gel can further shape and set them in place.

## 5. Rosy Cheeks

Choose a natural-looking blush in a shade close to your skin tone and lightly apply it to the apples of your cheeks. Cream blushes work well for a more effortless and dewy appearance.

## 6. Simple Eyes

Apply a neutral eyeshadow that complements your skin tone. Stick to matte or subtle shimmer shades and avoid heavy eyeliner. Curl your lashes and apply a coat or two of mascara for a wide-eyed effect.

## 7. Naturally Lips

Opt for a lip balm, tint, or nude lipstick that enhances your natural lip colour. A touch of gloss can add a hint of shine without being too overpowering.

## 8. Finish up with a Setting Spray

Lock in your look with a lightweight setting spray to ensure your makeup lasts all day while maintaining that fresh, dewy appearance.



CONCENTRATED CONCEALER



EYEBROW KIT



BLUSH



EYESHADOW PALETTE



NAS LIP BALM



URBAN DECAY SPRAY



SKIN TINT



BOBBI BROWN LIQUID FOUNDATION



**IT'S A  
WIN WIN  
WIN WIN  
SITUATION**

To qualify for the draw  
**Recharge N50,000  
or more in a month**  
and stand a chance to  
win a business class trip

**Recharge N100,000  
or more in a month**  
and stand a chance to  
win a premium Bungalow  
in Nigeria

The more you recharge,  
the more your chances

**WIN  
PREMIUM  
BUNGALOWS  
IN NIGERIA**

**WIN  
100 BUSINESS  
CLASS TRIPS  
LAGOS- PARIS-  
LONDON- LAGOS**

