

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

MODE

MEN

Style & Simplicity

20

ICONS;
Twenty Nigerians
that shaped the last
Two Decades

Including:

ALIKO DANGOTE
MO ABUDU
JIM OVIA
AMINA MOHAMMED
DON JAZZY

THE ULTIMATE
STYLE GUIDE
FOR SUMMER
2026

JULIUS RONE

*on breaking all the rules
and winning.*

+

SEN. REMI TINUBU
DR. DORIS ANITE
EBUBÈ
NOVA REI

ISSUE 115 APR - JUN 2026

₦ 2500
\$ 5.00
£ 4.00

7949 8630

www.modemenmag.com

FASHION

BUSINESS

SPORTS

TECH

HEALTH

POLITICS

CARS

EVENTS

George Koro

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

MODE

MEN

Style & Simplicity

20

ICONS;

Twenty Nigerians
that shaped the last
Two Decades

Including:

ALIKO DANGOTE
MO ABUDU
JIM OVIA
AMINA MOHAMMED
DON JAZZY

JULIUS RONE

*on breaking all the rules
and winning.*

THE ULTIMATE
STYLE GUIDE
FOR SUMMER
2026

+

SEN. REMI TINUBU
DR. DORIS ANITE
EBUBÈ
NOVA REI

ISSUE 115 APR - JUN 2026
₦ 2500
\$ 5.00
£ 4.00

www.modemenmag.com

FASHION

BUSINESS

SPORTS

TECH

HEALTH

POLITICS

CARS

EVENTS

George Karo

A full-body portrait of a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a grey checkered suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He is sitting on a wooden chair with his hands clasped in his lap. He is wearing a watch on his left wrist and dark brown shoes. The background is a plain, light grey wall. The word "ZEUS" is written in large, white, serif capital letters across the center of the image, partially overlapping the man's suit.

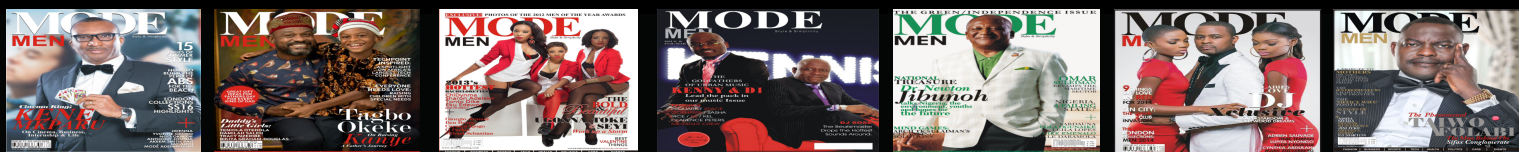
ZEUS





CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF MODEMEN

*The pages ahead introduce a world shaped
by style, ambition, and modern culture
-where first impressions are lasting and
every detail matters.*



Celebrating 20 years of Style & Success



Contents

EDITOR'S PICK; LV TRUNK EDITION

BAGS – MODEMEN highlights the enduring appeal of the Louis Vuitton Trunk Edition bags, drawing from the Maison's iconic 1854 origins. In this issue, we explore how heritage meets modern function through pieces designed with structure, restraint, and longevity in mind. It is a study in quiet luxury, where craftsmanship speaks louder than excess.

M WATCHES – In this issue, MODEMEN curates its definitive watch picks for 2026, spotlighting excellence across horology. From Jaeger-LeCoultre's celestial artistry to Piaget's record breaking innovation, and Vacheron Constantin's legacy driven craftsmanship, each timepiece reflects precision at its highest level. These are not just watches, but enduring symbols of taste and engineering.

M WOMAN; DR DORIS UZOKA ANITE – In this feature, we examine her journey across medicine and public service, capturing a woman whose influence is shaped by intellect, discipline, and vision. Her story is one of purpose driven leadership and evolving impact.

20 NIGERIANS THAT SHAPED THE LAST TWO DECADES

– In this special feature, MODEMEN reflects on the individuals who have defined Nigeria's trajectory over the past twenty years. From cultural pioneers to business leaders and political forces, this list captures those who have not only witnessed change, but driven it. Their legacies continue to shape the present and influence what comes next.

FASHION; THE BEST OF 2026 SUMMER

MENSWEAR – MODEMEN explores the defining trends shaping Summer 2026, from the runways of Paris and Milan to the evolving style language of Lagos. This feature captures a season marked by bold expression, relaxed tailoring, and renewed confidence. Colour, individuality, and movement take center stage in a global conversation on menswear.

MIDAS TOUCH – The resurgence of gold as a defining statement in accessories. Through a curated selection of standout sunglasses, we examine how metallic finishes and sculptural designs are redefining modern luxury. It is a bold return to opulence, executed with precision and intent.

M FRAGRANCE – selection of standout fragrances from Tom Ford, Prada, Initio Parfums Privés, and Chanel. This feature explores compositions that range from deep oud expressions to fresh contemporary blends, each crafted to define presence and It is a study in scent as identity.



RADO

SWITZERLAND



Contents

APRIL-JUNE 2026

COVER STORIES

THE GAS KING JULIUS RONE – MODEMEN presents Julius Rone as this issue's cover figure, examining his rise within Nigeria's gas industry. The story traces a journey defined by strategic vision, resilience, and calculated expansion. It is an in depth look at the man behind the influence, and the mindset shaping his continued ascent.



10 AI APPS TO HELP YOU STAY

ORGANIZED – Ten essential AI driven tools redefining productivity for the modern man. From scheduling to workflow management, this feature explores how technology is enabling smarter, more efficient living. It is a curated guide to staying organized, focused, and in control in an increasingly fast paced world.



FEATURES

REMI TINUBU: THE QUIET POWER BEHIND THE THRONE – MODEMEN explores the enduring influence of Remi Tinubu, highlighting a legacy built on subtlety and strength. This feature reflects on her role within Nigeria's political landscape, offering insight into a form of leadership defined not by noise, but by presence and precision.

PROTECT YOUR GRIND SURVIVAL GUIDE TO THE NEW TAX ERA – In this issue, MODEMEN breaks down the realities of a shifting tax environment and what it means for today's driven professional. This feature offers clarity, strategy, and practical insight into navigating financial responsibility in a changing system. It is a guide designed to help you stay prepared, protected, and ahead.

BEING A MAN – This piece moves beyond outdated expectations, exploring identity, responsibility, and emotional depth as defining traits of the modern man. It is a conversation shaped by nuance, growth, and self awareness.



START YOUR DAY
FRESH AND
COMFORTABLE



Dove
MEN
+CARE

CLEAN
COMFORT

[48h POWERFUL
PROTECTION]

Dove
MEN
+CARE

Contributors



**O'TEGA
BABATUNDE FADINIYI**

With over a decade and a half in the Maritime and Entertainment industry, Tega is a lifestyle enthusiast, art lover, and writer, a man of many talents, and an editor with a passion for all things -fashion, business, wellness, books, cars, events etc. His background spans Military and Commercial Shipping operations, Marine / Land - Business Solutions Providing, Consulting, and Lecturing. He is a contributing editor to MODEMEN Magazine and as well is the Operations designate of the MODEMEN Team.



**DANIEL SETH
BOWMAN**

Daniel S. Bowman is the embodiment of the modern gentleman, an entrepreneurial powerhouse whose decadelong journey marries boardroom savvy with a genuine commitment to men's well-being. As a serial founder, he's mastered the art of elevating brands through razor-sharp marketing, strategic storytelling, and seamless project execution. Off the clock, he channels that same creativity into public-health advocacy and compelling books that speak directly to today's man: ambitious, health-conscious, and unapologetically authentic. It's this blend of innovation, leadership, and narrative finesse that keeps Bowman at the forefront of both business and lifestyle conversations.



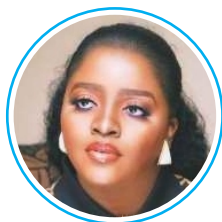
**WALE
OGUNDEKO**

Wale Ogundeko is a Civil Engineer who is specialized in fire safety, design of high rise buildings. He is the founder and CEO of Safety Oracle Limited, a fire safety & engineering consultancy in the UK. (www.safetyoracle.co.uk). Amongst several qualifications, he holds an MBA from the University of Leicester. Wale is an oracle of knowledge both in the building / fire safety space as well as most works of life. Wale is a great listener & speaker who uses his skills to mentor and support individuals professionally and in other spheres of life.



**SUNDAY
YASHIO AUDU**

Sunday is a dynamic individual with a profound passion for Political Science and International Relations. With a diverse background that spans over a decade in banking and finance. His expertise in these fields has allowed him to develop a deep understanding of political affairs and global issues. His combination of knowledge in political affairs and love for football allows him to provide insightful analysis and commentary on the intersection of sports and global affairs.



**VIOLET
AKELEMO**

Violet is a passionate writer, skilled Public Relations practitioner, and creative collaborator. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration and Advertising and has worked at the PR/HR for ENE MAYA LTD, BGM Magazine, and Fotolighthouse LTD. She is a consulting Editor to MODEMEN Magazine and General Manager, MODEMEN Group.



**LANRE
OYEWOLE**

Lanre Oyewole is an agribusiness professional specializing in data-driven solutions for sustainable farming and agribusiness development. With expertise in enhancing productivity and decision-making across the agricultural value chain, he bridges innovation with practical application in agribusiness. Lanre's passion for writing extends to his role at MODEMEN, where he contributes as a member of the editorial team.

MODEMEN TEAM

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
ABUBAKAR TAFAWA-BALEWA

EDITOR AT LARGE
KEVIN KORGBA (UK)
REMI LASH (USA)

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
LANRE OYEWOLE

PERSONAL ASSISTANT
TO THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
SUNDAY AUDU

GENERAL MANAGER
VIOLET AKELEMO

HEAD OF OPERATIONS
OTEGA B. FADINIYI

MARKETING
EMMANUEL ADEJO
TOBI RAPHAEL

GRAPHICS
JOSHUA ADEDAYO

PHOTOGRAPHY
DEJI OLATUNDE
BARETT AKPOKABAYEN
NDUBISI NSOEDO

STAFF WRITERS
EJIRO ORIMOLOYE
GEORGE ONOKPITE
ANITA ISIBOR

DISTRIBUTION CONSULTANTS
ANTODOMSAG

LEGAL PARTNER
EMEKA ODOEMENA & CO.

MODE MEN

Celebrating 20 Years of Style and Simplicity



Website: www.modemenmag.com
Email: info@modemenmag.com
Twitter: @modemenmagazine
Facebook: modemenmagazine
Instagram: @modemenmag

Neo handles business.

Starting from
N999,000*

Offer also includes a 1-year subscription of Microsoft Office 365*



MacBook Neo



Ts & Cs Apply*

Ikeja City Mall
 Shop L62, Ikeja City Mall,
 Alausa, Lagos.

Jabi Lake Mall
 Shop U27, First Floor,
 Jabi Lake Mall Jabi, Abuja.

Novare Lekki Mall
 Shop M03 & M04 Novare Lekki Mall,
 Sangotedo, Lagos.

iStore

istore.com.ng



Editor's Note

When MODEMEN arrived on newsstands in April 2006, it arrived with purpose. There was a gap on the stand; nothing that spoke to the Nigerian man with ambition, style, and substance, and we filled it. We did not arrive timidly. We arrived with conviction, with a clear-eyed belief that the Nigerian man deserved a publication that took him seriously — his dreams, his elegance, his complexity. Our first cover star, Frank Edoho, set a standard that the magazine would chase and surpass with every edition. Jim Iyke graced our seventh issue, which was our first anniversary edition, and it sold out nationwide in under two weeks.

That was then. Two decades on, we are better looking, sharper in thought, and more global in reach. We have watched Nigeria change around us; its economy tested, its culture exported, its young men redefining what ambition looks like on a global stage; and we have reported every chapter with the rigour it deserved. In compiling this milestone edition, we went back, deep into our archives, revisiting groundbreaking images, landmark interviews, and the stories that helped define a generation of Nigerian men. What we found reminded us not just of how far MODEMEN has come, but of how much the men we celebrate have shaped this country's story. Page after page, decade after decade, a portrait emerged; not just of a magazine, but of a nation finding its voice, its stride, its style.

Our cover for this issue belongs to one such man. Julius Rone, entrepreneur, visionary, and the quiet architect of one of Nigeria's most formidable energy companies, embodies everything this anniversary edition stands for. From an idea to a multibillion dollar enterprise, his journey is, in every sense, a MODEMEN story. It is a story of discipline meeting vision, of patience rewarded with scale, of a man who understood that building something that lasts requires more than capital; it requires character. We are honoured to place him on this milestone cover.

Inside, our writers reflect on the figures and forces that have defined the past twenty years and continue to shape the next. We examine tax reforms and governance in 2026, holding a mirror to the policies and the people steering Nigeria's direction. And we turn our gaze, with great warmth, to a special feature on Nigeria's ever gracious First Lady; a



portrait of influence, dignity, and purpose that complements the spirit of this edition beautifully.

Because twenty years is not only a celebration; it is a reckoning. A moment to ask honestly: what did we stand for, and what do we stand for still? The answer, we believe, lives in these pages.

And because we have always believed in looking forward as fiercely as we honour the past, we invited celebrated novelist and poet Abdulkareem, fresh from the launch of his latest collection, to imagine what the next twenty years holds for all of us. His words, as ever, arrive like light through a window you did not know was closed.

To every man who has picked up this magazine over the past two decades; in a barbershop, at an airport, in the quiet of a late evening; this edition is yours. You kept us honest. You kept us relevant. You kept us going. Here is to twenty more.

Barr. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa
Editor in Chief, MODEMEN Magazine

editor@modemenmag.com

Please text your comments to
+234 (0) 805 861 6908 For advert placement,
PLEASE Call: +234 (0) 802 324 0319



@abutafawabalewa
@modemenmagazine



facebook.com/modemenmagazine



editor@modemenmag.com
modemenmagazine@yahoo.com

editor's pick



The Darjeeling Limited Safari Luggage comes to Life at Louis Vuitton

For The Darjeeling Limited, the tale of three brothers who embark on a spiritual journey across India after their father's death, the Academy Award winner worked with Marc Jacobs, then the artistic director of Louis Vuitton, to create a set of luggage central to the story. Anderson's brother, Eric Chase Anderson, provided the illustrations of zebras,

elephants, giraffes, and more from the savanna that leap across each piece. Nearly two decades later, Pharrell Williams revived the baggage for Louis Vuitton's spring-summer 2026 show, its safari print serving as a touchpoint throughout the entire collection. For the first time, the pieces will be widely available for purchase. [View](#)

MODE 2026 Summer Picks



Ralph Lauren vintage Rugby shirt



Valentino Vintage T-shirt



Hermes charging



Louis Vuitton backpack



Dior 'Dracula' tote bag



Jacques Marie Marge sunglasses



Loewe ballet runner shoes



David Yurman 'Fire and water' ring



Cartier Tank watch

Her

The Art of Giving



Fendi Peekaboo handbag



Miss Dior Essence perfume



SELARA limited edition silk scarf



Versace tumbler cup



Louis Vuitton Multi-Shade Make-up Palette

Menswear for Summer 2026

From Paris to Milan and Lagos, every runway trend to bookmark for the hotter months. From a nerdy variation on preppy styles to cargo pants and distinctive details, here are the menswear trends to note. Colour and confidence are back in men's fashion for Spring/Summer 2026. Although the global economic and geopolitical situation is deteriorating by the day, designers broadcast an optimistic message. As temperatures will go crazy in major cities around this summer, designers seemed to have come to terms with the rigours of global warming. They have changed the codes of menswear, making the garments eclectic and versatile by using increasingly lighter fabrics with a strong summer feel. All kinds of deconstructed, airy jackets combined with generously cut, fluid trousers - the more elegant ones with darts, others with straight legs and a skinny fit - with Bermudas or other types of shorts, in looks that always oozed a certain elegance. The emphasis was on lightweight materials stacked in thin layers: Cotton, poplin, gauze, organza and seersucker fabric, the latter making a major come-back, as well as natural fibres such as hemp and the ubiquitous linen.



PROTECT YOUR GRIND

SURVIVAL GUIDE TO THE NEW TAX ERA

By Lanre Oyewole

Your hustle just got a new, silent partner: the 2025 Nigerian Tax Reform. Forget dry policy bulletins. This isn't just a government memo; it's a direct hit on your wallet, your weekend plans, and your five-year vision. Whether you're closing deals in Lagos, running a tech startup from your Abuja apartment, or building a brand online, the rules of the money game have been rewritten overnight. This is how you adapt, thrive, and protect everything you're building. Where the Bill Meets Your Reality.

Let's cut through the legalese. This reform isn't about abstract percentages, it's about the tangible cost of your lifestyle. It's the difference between upgrading your ride this year or next, between that destination wedding being a dream or a plan, and between your side hustle being a passion project or a real, taxable business. The Digital Hustle Gets a Tax Invoice. That podcast revenue, the online

consulting fees from international clients, the income from trading crypto assets? Consider it officially on the radar. The government has finally codified what you already knew: the digital economy is the real economy. For the content creator, the freelance designer, or the e-commerce seller, this means moving from informal cash flow to formal bookkeeping. Your "side income" now demands the same respect (and receipts) as Are you part of the "Japa" wave or building a life across borders? A critical change demands your attention: the strengthened Residency Rules. If you maintain a permanent home, your immediate family, or your primary economic interests in Nigeria, you are likely a tax resident. And as a resident, your worldwide income is now subject to Nigerian tax. This transforms decisions for the diaspora professional sending money home, the investor with foreign assets, or the remote worker enjoying a hybrid Lagos-London life.

Your global grind now has a direct line to the Nigerian tax authority. The High Earner's Squeeze. For the man whose hustle has placed him in the top tier, the reform introduces a subtle but significant squeeze. The new progressive tax brackets culminate in a top rate of 25% for annual taxable income exceeding ₦50 million. While aimed at fairness, for the high-performing executive, successful entrepreneur, or elite professional, it means a more substantial share of your next big bonus or profit windfall will be allocated to the state. Your financial planning just got more complex.

Your New Financial Playbook Compliance is the baseline. Strategy is how you win. Here's your tactical guide to not just surviving but optimizing your position in this new era:

1. FORMALIZE TO CAPITALIZE. If you're a small business owner or solopreneur with turnover under ₦100

million, this is your moment. The reform offers a powerful incentive: full exemption from Companies Income Tax. The message is clear: bring your business into the light, build credit, issue proper invoices, and grow with this significant advantage. The informal hustle is now a strategic liability.

2. DOCUMENT YOUR LIFE.

Your lifestyle expenses can become your tax shield. The new Rent Relief allows you to deduct 20% of your annual rent (capped at ₦500,000) from your taxable income. This isn't a suggestion, it's a mandate to file every tenancy agreement and receipt. Furthermore, maximize every naira of relief on life insurance premiums and pension contributions. Increasing your voluntary pension contribution is a double win: it lowers your tax bill today and secures your freedom tomorrow.

3. RETHINK YOUR ASSETS.

The game around capital gains has changed. It's no longer a flat tax but is now tied to your personal income tax rate. This means the sale of that plot of land, your stock portfolio gains, or the

NRS

NIGERIA REVENUE SERVICE

appreciation of your crypto holdings must be timed and planned with your overall annual income in mind. Spontaneous asset sales could push you into a higher tax bracket, strategic divestment is the new smart move.

The New Rules of Engagement
The tax man has rebranded and upgraded. The Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) is now the Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS), with sharper digital teeth. Large transactions (think ₦25 million or more in a month) will be flagged automatically. This isn't about fear; it's about the reality of a more connected, data-driven system. Your financial life is more transparent than ever.

The Bottom Line for Your Bottom Line
This reform draws a clear line. It offers

a shield for the early grind (with a ₦800,000 annual income exemption) and asks for more from the peak of your success. It recognizes the digital and global nature of modern ambition but demands accountability.

Your response cannot be mere complaint. It must be calculated adaptation. The most successful men in this new fiscal era won't be those who earn the most, but those who keep the most legally, smartly, and strategically. Protect your grind. It's the only one you've got.

This article is based on the Nigeria Tax Act 2025. Tax implications are personal and complex. For a strategy tailored to your specific lifestyle and earnings, consult a qualified tax advisor or financial planner.



Seeing Through Time

Beyond telling time, skeletal watches reveal the soul of horology, exposing the intricate mechanics, delicate movements, and craftsmanship hidden beneath the dial.



JAEGER-LECOULTRE'S Celestial Masterpiece

The Duomètre Sphérotourbillon Moon watch is a testament to Jaeger-LeCoultre's innovative spirit. This platinum timepiece features a breathtaking celestial ballet, with the earth and moon phases harmoniously displayed on the same dial. The Sphérotourbillon mechanism replicates the earth's movement, while the moon phase adds a touch of lunar poetry. Limited to 75 pieces, this watch showcases Jaeger-LeCoultre's pioneering Dual-Wing concept, featuring two independent gear trains working in harmony to guarantee extreme precision. A true masterpiece of fine watchmaking, a rare gem for collectors and connoisseurs.



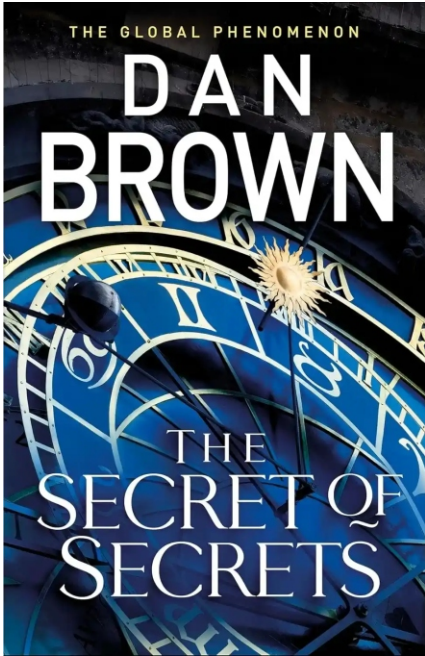
PIAGET'S Record-Breaking Masterpiece

The Altiplano Ultimate Concept watch boasts an astonishing 2mm thickness, one of the world's thinnest mechanical hand-wound watches. This ultrathin marvel features the Manufacture Piaget 900P-UC hand-wound mechanical movement, seamlessly integrated with the case. A testament to Piaget's expertise, this timepiece won the coveted "Aiguille d'Or" award at the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève (GPHG). A true masterpiece of minimalist design and technical prowess.



VACHERON CONSTANTIN'S 270th Anniversary Timepiece

Masterfully crafted, the 2025 Vacheron Constantin Overseas Perpetual Calendar Ultra-Thin Skeleton exemplifies horological excellence through its meticulously skeletonized dial. Enclosed within a refined 41.5 mm white gold case, this extraordinary timepiece presents its perpetual calendar complications with absolute precision. The transparent architecture unveils the intricate movement within—an eloquent testament to Vacheron Constantin's centuries-long devotion to mechanical artistry, technical mastery, and timeless innovation.



THE SECRET OF SECRETS

Dan Brown

Robert Langdon, esteemed professor of symbology, travels to Prague to attend a groundbreaking lecture by Katherine Solomon, a prominent noetic scientist with whom he has recently begun a relationship. Katherine is on the verge of publishing an explosive book that contains startling discoveries about the nature of human consciousness and threatens to disrupt centuries of established belief.

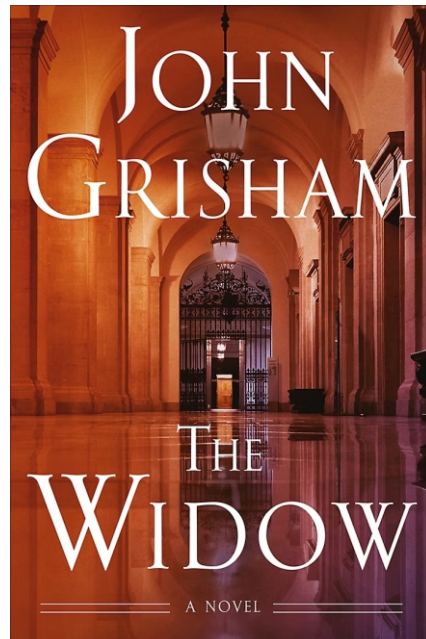
But a brutal murder catapults the trip into chaos, and Katherine suddenly disappears along with her manuscript. Langdon finds himself targeted by a powerful organization and hunted by a chilling assailant sprung from Prague's most ancient mythology.

As the plot expands into London and New York, Langdon desperately searches for Katherine . . . and for answers. In a thrilling race through the dual worlds of futuristic science and mystical lore, he uncovers a shocking truth about a secret project that will forever change the way we think about the human mind.

THE WIDOW

John Grisham

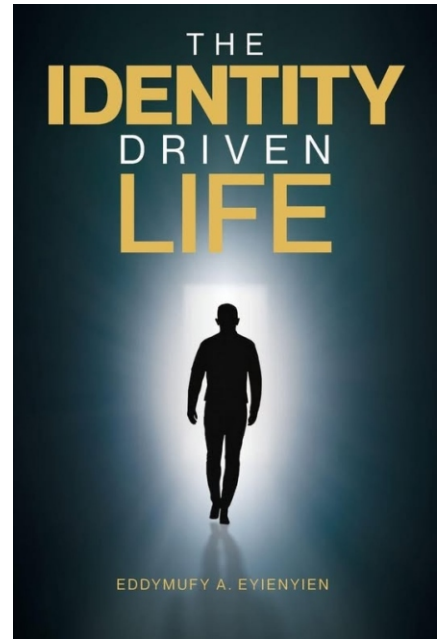
Simon Latch, a cash-strapped lawyer in rural Virginia, gets an unexpected lifeline when widow Eleanor Barnett walks in needing a new will. Her late husband left her a small fortune, but it's a secret. As Simon protects her wealth, the case unravels: a car crash lands Eleanor in hospital, and Simon's accused of murder! With evidence piling up against him, can he prove his innocence and find the real killer?



THE IDENTITY DRIVEN LIFE

Eddymufy A. Eyiennyien

The Identity-Driven Life is a reflective and practical guide that explores how deeply our lives are shaped by the way we see ourselves. At its core, the book examines the power of identity, how knowing who you are influences the choices you make, the relationships you build, and the direction your life takes. Through themes of self-awareness, internal conflict, and societal pressure, the book challenges readers to confront limiting beliefs and inherited expectations that quietly dictate their lives. It argues that many people are not living according to who they are, but according to who they were told to be. By emphasizing alignment with core values, strengths, and purpose, The Identity-Driven Life invites readers to move away from external validation and toward intentional, grounded living. Drawing from personal insights and practical reflections, the book offers a path toward authenticity, confidence, and a life that feels internally consistent rather than performative. Ultimately, it is a call to live from the inside out, where identity becomes the foundation for clarity, fulfillment, and meaningful direction.





THE KEEPERS OF TIME

How Nigeria's Watch Repairers Master Their Craft

By Sunday Audu

In the vibrant heart of Nigeria's markets and on quiet street corners, a distinct class of artisan practices a silent, meticulous trade. These are the local watch repairers, the “watch doctors”, whose skilled hands restore the stalled ticks of cherished timepieces and, in doing so, preserve something far more valuable than the mechanisms themselves. Their training is a unique story of resilience, ingenuity, and an unbroken chain of knowledge passed down entirely outside formal classrooms. It is an education earned in dust and close quarters, shaped by scarcity and sharpened by necessity, and it produces craftsmen of remarkable precision.

THE PATH OF THE APPRENTICE: LEARNING AT THE OGA'S BENCH

For most Nigerian watch repairers, expertise begins not with a textbook or an enrollment form, but with a handshake and an agreement to serve. The traditional apprenticeship system places a young trainee under the guidance of a master craftsman, the Oga, where the real education begins at the most menial level. Sweeping the workshop floor, fetching tools, watching in silence: these are the first lessons.

Over time, the trainee is entrusted with more. He learns to diagnose faults by touch and sound, to source scarce spare parts through networks that stretch from Lagos markets to suppliers in Dubai and China, and to master the quiet art of improvisation when the correct tool is simply unavailable. This hands-on schooling, which typically spans three to five years, culminates not with a certificate or a formal ceremony, but with something rarer: the master's blessing, and the confidence to begin one's own practice.

The master's blessing and the confidence to begin one's own practice — that is the only certificate that matters here.

SELF-TAUGHT SKILLS IN A DIGITAL AGE

A new generation of repairers is supplementing, or in some cases entirely bypassing the traditional apprenticeship path through self-directed learning. Driven by curiosity and constrained by circumstance, these artisans often begin simply by tinkering with broken watches, pulling apart what no longer works to understand what once did. Their most powerful classroom is the internet. Platforms like YouTube offer free, visual access to repair techniques

from watchmakers across the world, turning a phone screen into a window onto Swiss workshops and Japanese ateliers. This informal digital education demands exceptional problem-solving instincts and the patience of someone who understands that competence is built one tiny screw at a time, practising on discarded timepieces, slowly acquiring basic tools, making mistakes in private so that the customer never has to witness them.

BEYOND TECHNICAL SKILL: THE BUSINESS OF TRUST

Technical knowledge, however hard-won, is only one part of what it takes to thrive in this trade. A watch repairer in Nigeria must also become a shrewd business operator and, above all, a trusted figure in his community. He learns to manage a small kiosk with the discipline of a much larger enterprise, price his services with a fairness that keeps customers returning, and navigate the persistent challenge of sourcing reliable components in a supply chain that was never designed with him in mind.

Reputation, in this trade, is everything. Watch repairers deal in heirlooms and status symbols, a father's old Seiko, a graduation gift, a piece worn at a



training to use them is rarely structured or accessible.

And yet the outlook holds genuine promise. There is a growing appreciation, both in Nigeria and globally, for craftsmanship and the preservation of heritage objects. The watch repairer who once sat unnoticed at the edge of a market is increasingly recognised as a specialist, someone who holds a particular kind of knowledge that cannot be downloaded or mass-produced. Opportunities exist for more formalised skill-development programmes, for mentorship networks that bridge the traditional apprenticeship and the digital age, and for a new generation of specialists capable of servicing the finest timepieces in the world.

Ultimately, these artisans are more than technicians. They are guardians of personal history, ensuring that the stories held inside every watch, a graduation gift, a father's legacy, a quiet symbol of hard-won success — continue to move forward. One precise repair at a time.

The next time you place a faulty watch into the hands of that craftsman in the market, remember: you are entrusting it to a graduate of one of Nigeria's most rigorous and resilient informal schools of precision.

wedding. The person who hands over such an object is extending a form of trust that no invoice can fully capture. A repairer earns that trust through clear communication, honest assessment, and the kind of transparency that reassures a nervous customer that the watch will return as it left, or better.

The trade is not without its difficulties. The influx of cheap, disposable watches has eroded the culture of repair in some quarters. Access to formal certification for luxury timepieces, the kind that would allow a skilled Nigerian repairer to service a Rolex or an IWC with manufacturer backing, remains largely out of reach. The tools required for high-end work are expensive, and the



The Renaissance of the Slow Jam:

EBUBÉ

The Voice R&B Has Been Waiting For

In an era of hyper-fast TikTok loops and disposable hooks, the art of the "slow jam" felt like it was slipping into the archives. Then came Ebubé. The 23-year-old London-based artist didn't just enter the R&B scene; he is reconstructing it. With a background that spans the hallowed halls of Eton College to the viral heights of social media, Ebubé has become the genre's most intriguing new architect. So, what is he doing that feels so radically classic yet utterly new? In a genre often chasing the same synthetic templates, Ebubé's method is a return to musicianship as emotional language. His work is defined by three rare techniques:

First, The Orchestral Intimacy. His classical training is no mere trivia; it's

his primary instrument. He approaches songwriting like a composer, weaving violin melodies not as hooks, but as heartstrings, the aching counter-melody in "Foresight" doesn't just accompany the vocal, it completes its thought. The piano isn't just chord progressions; it's a foundational architecture, using rich, jazz-inflected harmonies that create spaces of profound depth and warmth, demanding you lean in and listen closer.

Second, The Heritage Pulse. His Nigerian, Igbo heritage informs the very soul of his rhythm and flow. It's heard in the subtle, polyrhythmic sway of his phrasing, a natural, conversation cadence that avoids rigid, quantized patterns. There's a tonal richness to his vocal runs that feels linguistic, a melodic storytelling that connects to a

lineage far deeper than contemporary R&B. He blends this with the pristine, 2000s-inspired slow-jam aesthetic, creating a sound that is globally sophisticated yet intimately rooted.

Third, The Lyrical Safety. In an age of performative chaos and toxic grandstanding, Ebubé trades shock value for shared truth. His songcraft is an exercise in vulnerable clarity. Tracks like "Lay With Me" are masterclasses in confident, direct yearning, no games, just emotion, articulated with a poetic precision that makes the personal feel universal. He builds a space of emotional safety, not drama. This unique alchemy of discipline, heritage, and intention is why his trajectory is not a question of if, but how high. AM

NOVA REI

is Turning Soft Power into Momentum

A buja-based Afropusion artist NOVA Rei is in her precision era. After last year's BujHustles Mixtape, where she experimented with different vocal textures and tonal identities, she's stepped into a sharper, more cinematic run - three new singles now on Spotify, each one a chapter in a connected storyworld. The breakout record is "Birdie," a sleek Afropop/Afrobeats release with a dancehall edge - confident, bass-forward, and undeniably female-led. As of press time, "Birdie" has crossed 140,000 streams in one month, and NOVA Rei is now averaging about 70,000 monthly listeners, signaling a rise that feels engineered by clarity, not chance. Her current arc - Catch Flights → Birdie → Ileke—reads like world-building; freedom, flight, and femme power, delivered with silky melodies and sharp songwriting that turns emotion into control. NOVA Rei isn't simply releasing songs; she's releasing identity - cinematic, self-possessed, and ready for larger rooms. **MM**



Sound & Style: Audio State of Mind

Great sound is no longer a luxury, it is part of how we live, work, and express ourselves. From design and comfort to clarity and performance, today's headphones sit at the intersection of technology and personal style. Modemen reviews the devices shaping the listening experience, exploring how form meets function and how the right sound can elevate everyday moments.



● **Bowers & Wilkins Px8**

Luxury, refined. British craftsmanship meets cutting-edge noise cancellation and enduring battery life.

● **Focal Bathys MG**

Wireless fidelity, perfected. Exclusive magnesium drivers deliver pure, precise sound in a portable design.



● **Sony Signature Series Z1R**

The flagship standard. Uncompromised sound quality and peerless craftsmanship.

• **HiFiMan Shangri-La**

Audiophile nirvana. An electrostatic masterpiece for the purist seeking ethereal detail.



• **Bang & Olufsen Beoplay H100**

Immersive elegance. Optimized for Dolby Atmos, built with titanium drivers and timeless Danish design.



• **Sennheiser HD 660S2**

Open-back brilliance. A refined, natural soundstage from a legendary audio lineage.



• **Audeze LCD-5**

Planar magnetic perfection. The reference-standard headphone celebrated for breathtaking clarity.



Grilled Salmon with Avocado Salsa

Grilled salmon is a powerhouse of protein and omega-3 fatty acids. The combination with avocado salsa adds a creamy, rich texture that's hard to resist. Plus, it's a dish that's both elegant and easy to prepare, making it perfect for a night in or a dinner party.

Health Benefits:

1. **High in Omega-3s:** Salmon is rich in omega-3 fatty acids, which support heart health, reduce inflammation, and promote brain function. 2. **Protein Powerhouse:** Salmon is an excellent source of protein, essential for muscle growth and repair. 3. **Avocado's Healthy Fats:** Avocados are rich in healthy fats, fiber, and various vitamins and minerals, supporting heart health and digestion.

Features: Golf course, luxurious amenities, fine dining, recreational activities, wildlife viewing Why go there: Leopard Creek Country Club is a great destination for golf enthusiasts looking for a unique golfing experience that combines golf with wildlife and stunning views. The club's beautiful golf course, luxurious amenities, and breathtaking views make it an ideal spot for golfers of all levels.

How to Prepare:

GRILLED SALMON:

1. Preheat your grill to medium-high heat.
2. Season 4 salmon fillets (6 oz each) with salt, pepper, and your favorite herbs (e.g., dill, parsley).
3. Brush the grill with olive oil to

prevent sticking.

4. Grill the salmon for 4-6 minutes per side, or until cooked through.

AVOCADO SALSA:

1. Dice 2 ripe avocados and 1 red onion.
2. Juice 1 lime and mix with the avocado and onion.
3. Add 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro, salt, and pepper to taste.
4. Mix well and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Tips and Variations: - Add some heat to your salsa with diced jalapeños or red pepper flakes. - Serve with a side of quinoa or brown rice for a filling meal. - Experiment with different herbs and spices on your salmon, like paprika or garlic powder.

OREO CHOCOLATE DRINK

Who doesn't love the classic combination of Oreos and chocolate? The Oreo Chocolate Drink is a rich, creamy, and indulgent treat that's perfect for satisfying your sweet tooth. In this article, we'll explore how to prepare it, its health benefits, and why men should give it a try.

HEALTH BENEFITS: While the Oreo Chocolate Drink is an indulgent treat, it does offer some health benefits:

- **Calcium Content:** Milk provides essential calcium for bone health. help improve mood.
- **Antioxidants:** Dark chocolate, in particular, contains antioxidants that can help protect against cell damage.
- **Mood Boost:** Chocolate contains phenylethylamine, a compound that can help improve mood.



RJ4 x CHANEL

An evening of luxury and refinement as RJ4 collaborates with Maison CHANEL to unveil new fragrances, beauty essentials and skincare innovations to Nigeria's discerning lifestyle community.





EVENT M





The Dreamer ...
The Magician ...
The Special One ...

JULIUS RONIE

on Rising to the top
& still aiming for the SKY.

In this candid conversation with MODEMEN's Editor-in-Chief, Barr. Abubakar Tafawa-Balewa, he opens up about defining moments in his life, the leadership principles that shape his decisions, and the discipline required to build enduring success. He also reflects on the challenges he has faced along the way, and the profound lessons inherited from his father, lessons that continue to influence his philosophy, sharpen his perspective, and anchor his remarkable rise.

Photography by George Okoro



Julius Rone can best be described as composed, affable, and quietly brilliant qualities not typically associated with the conventional image of a Nigerian billionaire. Yet, he defies convention. He is diligent and intensely driven, with a meticulous eye for detail and a refined instinct that has consistently guided both his personal and professional decisions. Beneath his calm exterior lies an unwavering ambition one that has enabled him to build, expand, and sustain ventures across some of the most demanding sectors of the economy.

Known among friends as “The Gas King,” and often called JR a nickname reminiscent of the famous character from Dallas, he is the founder of UTM Offshore Limited. Through the UTM Group, he has developed interests across oil and gas, construction, and security, becoming a strong and respected name in Nigeria’s industrial space. His leadership style is simple but effective calm, thoughtful, and intentional and it has positioned him as one of the notable indigenous voices in Africa’s growing energy sector.

What really stands out about him is his clarity. He doesn’t just think big he thinks ahead. From investing in major gas infrastructure to playing a role in Nigeria’s energy transition, Julius has shown a consistent ability to look beyond the moment and plan for the future. His journey reflects patience, smart risk-taking, and a strong belief in building something that lasts.

In this conversation with MODEMEN’s Editor-in-Chief, Abubakar Tafawa-Balewa, he shares key moments from his life, the principles that guide his decisions, and the discipline it takes to build lasting success. He also speaks about challenges he has faced and the lessons from his father that still shape how he thinks and leads today.



Julius Rone grew up in Warri in the 70s and 80s, and from early on, there was already a sense that he was different. He is one of twenty-five children, and his father often told him he was “special.” He recalls how he used to be corrected for writing with his left hand (ambidextrous) something that wasn’t widely accepted at the time. But one day, a family friend simply said, “Everyone has their own destiny from God,” and that shifted everything. From then on, he was allowed to be himself.

Physically, Julius has a strong presence about five foot eleven, solidly built, with a serious gaze that softens quickly when he smiles. As the conversation unfolds, you begin to see more of who he is beyond business: his love for God, gospel music, and his deep connection to family.

Sitting in his Maitama office on a warm afternoon, he is relaxed and welcoming. He’s dressed in a well-fitted caftan, paired with Hermès sneakers, a refined

watch, and a gold bracelet with a detailed wedding band. He offers refreshments with ease while his assistant sits quietly nearby.

One of the first things you notice up close are his tribal marks. They tell a story. As a child, he was often ill , so much so that there were moments his family feared the worst. They tried everything, traditional methods and hospitals. At one point, it was even believed he had passed and returned.



The marks, a cultural practice at the time, were given as a form of protection, a sign that he was meant for more evident in his achievements and life. He was raised mainly by his grandmother, who played a huge role in shaping his character. He followed her to the creeks, helping with daily tasks like fetching water, gathering firewood, and picking periwinkles. It wasn't an easy upbringing, but it built discipline and focus. Unlike the typical idea of being pampered by a grandparent, his experience was rooted in structure and responsibility.

Growing up in the Niger Delta, he also witnessed environmental damage

firsthand. Clean water turning brown, communities being affected, it left an impression. "It pushes you to want more, to dream," he says. "Nothing comes easy, you have to work for it."

From a young age, he was intentional about what he wanted. "You have to decide early where you're going," he explains. "And then keep working towards it through school and beyond. Learning never really stops." He remembers passing through GRA as a boy, seeing the houses and cars, and imagining that kind of life for himself.

At some point, he realized that one of the people he admired worked in the

marine sector, providing services to oil and gas companies. That moment stuck with him. "I told myself, when the chance comes, this is what I'll do."

After secondary school, he continued his education, earning both a diploma and an advanced diploma. He then moved to Port Harcourt, where he started working with OMPADEC, which later became NDDC. His first role was as a Protocol Assistant, and he approached it with full commitment.

"I made sure I gave my best at every level," he says. "I was working closely with top executives, and I treated every opportunity seriously."

“

You don't abandon a system because it is imperfect, you improve it. And in doing so, you position yourself not just as a participant, but as a contributor to something larger.

”

MM: You have secured major engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contracts over the years. In a sector historically dominated by expatriate firms, what was the biggest lesson you had to learn the hard way about project execution on Nigerian soil, and how did you adapt to stay competitive?

JR: From an early age, I've always embraced challenges; they shape you, they refine you, and ultimately, they prepare you for bigger responsibilities. In business, particularly in oil and gas, competition is not something to avoid; it is essential. It forces you to raise your standards and consistently deliver your best.

In a sector historically dominated by international firms, one of the hardest lessons is this: competence is non-negotiable. In this industry, influence or access alone will not win you contracts, your technical and commercial capability will. International oil companies operate with very clear expectations around professionalism, precision, and execution. If you cannot meet those standards, you simply will not be considered.

We learned early on, that success in EPC contracting starts with preparation. Every tender must be approached with absolute rigor, ensuring that our submissions are fully compliant, technically sound, and commercially competitive. It's not just about pricing; it's about credibility. Clients must trust that you can deliver, at scale, and without compromise.

Beyond that, execution comes down to leadership and discipline. At our level, there is no room for excuses. We operate with a culture of precision and accountability, if a meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., the team is ready 8:45. These may seem like small details, but they reflect a broader mindset. In a

business where we handle multi-billion-dollar projects, consistency and attention to detail are everything.

Ultimately, what has sustained our competitiveness is a combination of integrity, focus, and the strength of our team. You need people who understand the vision, align with it, and are committed to delivering results. When that alignment exists, execution becomes seamless.

At the end of the day, success is measured on two fronts: delivering value to the client and delivering returns to the business. When both are achieved, you've done the job properly.

MM: What are the key things you look for in people when hiring?

JR: I look beyond qualifications. For me, it's about mindset, capacity, and adaptability. Even when candidates come highly recommended, I prefer to engage with them personally, it's important to understand how they think and how they approach problems. Passion and willingness to learn are critical. In our industry, many of the most important skills are developed on the job, not in the classroom. So I look for people who are curious, disciplined, and ready to grow. Those are the individuals who ultimately create the most value.

MM: If you had to pick one project that best represents the 'UTM Standard' of quality, which one would it be and why?

JR: One of our most defining projects was a ferry service contract with Total. On the surface, it appears small, but it demanded a high level of precision, discipline, and consistency.

That experience reinforced a key principle for us: if you can execute smaller projects with excellence, you are better positioned to handle larger, more

complex ones. It helped shape our operational standards and laid the foundation for the quality we are known for today.

MM: What does a typical 'day off' look like for Julius Rone? Are you able to truly switch off, or is the phone always within arm's reach?

JR: I start my day very early, typically around 3:30 a.m. That quiet period allows me to think clearly, review priorities, and plan effectively. Discipline and structure are important to me, so even on a day off, I maintain a routine. That said, I do make time to rest and recharge. Staying mentally and physically sharp is essential, especially in a role that demands constant decision-making.

MM: How do you relax?

JR: I keep it simple. I enjoy music, mostly gospel, but also some R&B and softer, more reflective sounds. Gospel music, in particular, helps me unwind. It creates a sense of calm, and I often have it playing in the background throughout the day. It allows me to relax and reset.

MM: Who is the one businessman, dead or alive, Nigerian or foreign, whose biography you have read and whose business tactics you emulate?

JR: I have a great deal of respect for Jeff Bezos, particularly for his resilience and long-term vision. What stands out to me is not just what he built, but what he endured in the process. At the early stages of Amazon, there was significant skepticism; many people simply did not believe in the model & scale of his ambition.

I find that journey relatable. When you are pursuing something unconventional, just like developing large-scale energy infrastructure as an indigenous

company, you will inevitably face doubt. People question your capacity, especially when similar projects have historically been executed by international players.

What Bezos' story reinforces for me is the importance of conviction. He started small, remained focused, and stayed committed despite resistance. That same mindset, staying the course, even when others don't fully understand your vision, is what continues to drive us today.

MM: You have amassed significant wealth. How has your relationship with money changed over time? Does it feel like a scorecard, a tool, or a burden?

JR: To me, wealth is not defined by possession, but by purpose. It is about being in a position to contribute meaningfully and to serve as a channel of value to others.

As an entrepreneur, the happiest day of my life is always the end of the month when salaries are paid. That's the moment that gives me the most satisfaction. Because every single person that is gainfully employed carries responsibility beyond themselves. It doesn't stop with them.

Sometimes I say this to people: even if you pay one person, that income is already touching multiple lives. It supports a family, it moves through a household, it reaches places you may never see. Now multiply that across hundreds of employees, you begin to understand the scale of that impact. That ripple effect is real.

And for me, one thing I'm proud of is this: over the years, we have never failed to meet that responsibility. Not once. Salaries are paid as and when due. No excuses. That consistency, being able to show up for people month after month, that, to me, is what I call wealth.

“

... there is a natural desire for material things, but over time, you begin to understand that fulfillment comes from something deeper. It's about the lives you touch, the opportunities you create, and the difference you make, often for people you may never meet.

”

Early on, there is a natural desire for material things, but over time, you begin to understand that fulfillment comes from something deeper. It's about the lives you touch, the opportunities you create, and the difference you make, often for people you may never meet.

MM: Looking back at your 20s, what is the one piece of bad advice you are glad you ignored?

JR: Looking back, one piece of advice I'm glad I ignored was from a friend who encouraged me to start smoking. I refused. Even at that age, I was clear about what I wanted and what I didn't. That experience shaped my belief that no one can truly influence you unless you allow it. If your values and goals are clear, you can walk away from anything that doesn't align. That discipline has stayed with me and guided my journey.

MM: As the global energy system moves toward decarbonisation, and considering UTM Group's strong foundation in hydrocarbons, should the FLNG project be viewed as a long-term

bet on sustained global demand for Nigerian gas, or as part of a broader transition strategy within the evolving energy landscape?

JR: I would say it is both, but fundamentally, it aligns with the global energy transition.

The reality today is that gas has been clearly recognised as a transition fuel. Frameworks like the 'Paris Agreement' acknowledge its role in bridging the gap between traditional fossil fuels and cleaner energy sources. While renewables such as solar continue to evolve, gas remains, for now, the most reliable and scalable option for powering industrial growth, particularly in developing economies.

For us, the UTM FLNG project is not just a commercial venture; it is a strategic response to that transition. It positions Nigeria to monetise its gas resources responsibly, while also contributing to cleaner energy adoption.

One of the most immediate impacts will be on the domestic front. The project will produce LPG for cooking, reducing deforestation and promoting cleaner energy use in homes. This will also improve health outcomes, particularly for women who rely on firewood. At the same time, the broader economic value is substantial. The project will generate revenue for the country, create jobs, and reduce Nigeria's reliance on imported LPG, which currently accounts for a significant portion of domestic consumption. From this single project, we expect to contribute meaningfully to local supply, with the potential for even greater self-sufficiency as similar initiatives come on stream.

So, in essence, it is a long-term play on gas, but one that is fully aligned with the realities and responsibilities of the evolving global energy landscape.





“

In many developed markets, systems are already mature and highly competitive. But in Nigeria, and across Africa, there is still room to build, to create, and to grow something meaningful.

”

MM: You have interests across oil, construction, and security. In a diversified portfolio like yours, which sector do you wake up thinking about most these days?

JR: Security carries a unique weight of responsibility. When you are dealing with the protection of critical assets and, more importantly, lives, there is no margin for complacency.

It demands constant vigilance, strong systems, and a mindset that is always prepared. You cannot afford to relax, because the moment you do, you create exposure.

So while each sector is important in its own right, security is one area that requires you to stay consistently alert. It's not just operational; it's deeply consequential.

MM: You are a product of Nigeria. You stayed, you built. When you see the trend of young skilled Nigerians emigrating in large numbers, how does it make you feel? And what is your message to them about returning home to build?

JR: The “Japa” trend is understandable, but I always say this, there is no place like home. Nigeria remains one of the most opportunity-rich environments anywhere in the world.

In many developed markets, systems are already mature and highly competitive. But in Nigeria, and across Africa, there is still room to build, to create, and to grow something meaningful.

That said, I don't dismiss the challenges. You have to be resilient to succeed here. It requires patience, discipline, and the ability to endure. But with that comes a level of opportunity that is difficult to replicate elsewhere.

My message to young Nigerians is simple: there is immense potential here. If you choose to study or gain exposure abroad, that's fine, but bring that knowledge back and apply it where it



can make the most impact. With a population of over 200 million people, demand exists across every sector; food, infrastructure, services, technology. The opportunities are real.

I also think there is sometimes a sense of urgency to succeed quickly, without fully appreciating the process. But building anything meaningful takes time. You have to go through the stages, develop capacity, and grow into it. At the end of the day, this is our country. If we don't build it, no one else will.

MM: You employ engineers, project managers, and

technicians. Are you struggling to find competent local talent, or is the issue less about quality and more about retaining them?

JR: I don't think competence is the problem. Nigeria has a strong pool of talented professionals across engineering, project management, and technical fields. We see it firsthand in our operations, many of the projects we execute at scale are driven by Nigerian professionals, from engineers to legal teams and beyond.

MM: There is also the issue of brain drain, particularly among doctors and other skilled professionals. What, in your view, needs to be done to retain that level of talent within Nigeria?

JR: Ultimately, it comes down to a combination of structure and personal choice.

On one hand, there is a clear need to improve compensation and working conditions, especially in critical sectors like healthcare. These are highly trained professionals, and remuneration must reflect both the value they bring and the realities of today's cost of living. That is an area where more needs to be done.

At the same time, I also believe there are still opportunities within Nigeria for those who are willing to think out-of-the-box. The environment here allows flexibility, a professional, for instance, can structure their time across multiple engagements, build additional income streams, and expand their capacity.

MM: If you were a 25-year-old engineer today, looking at Nigeria's infrastructure deficit and erratic power supply, what would be your rational argument to yourself to stay and build here rather than leave for Houston or Dubai?

JR: The power situation in Nigeria has been a long-standing challenge, and there's no denying that. Successive efforts have been made over the years to address it, and while progress may feel slow, new approaches continue to emerge. It's a complex issue, but it is not unique to Nigeria, energy challenges exist in different forms across the world.

For me, the key point is this: challenges should not automatically translate into exit. They should also present opportunities for innovation.

Today, there are alternatives. We are seeing increasing adoption of solar solutions, flexible financing models, and decentralised energy systems. Financial institutions are beginning to support these transitions, making it more accessible for individuals and businesses to generate their own power. When you look closely, you realise that with the right planning, you can build systems that support your work and your lifestyle.

So the question becomes one of mindset. Do you see the problem and walk away, or do you see the gap and decide to solve it?

If I were 25 today, I would see Nigeria not just for its limitations, but for its possibilities. Infrastructure deficits, in many ways, represent untapped opportunity. This is where engineers, innovators, and builders are needed the most.

You don't abandon a system because it is imperfect, you improve it. And in doing so, you position yourself not just as a participant, but as a contributor to something larger.

MM: You deal with NNPC Limited, regulators, and ministries. In your over two decades of business, has the government become an easier partner to deal with, or has the

M

COVER STORY

“
wealth is not
defined by
possession, but by
purpose. It is about
being in a position
to contribute
meaningfully and to
serve as a channel
of value to others.

”

bureaucracy simply evolved and grown more complex?

JR: Government is not an easy partner to work with, particularly in a system as layered as Nigeria's. But it is also an essential stakeholder, and that's the mindset you have to adopt. Over time, I've come to see engagement with government as a core part of business strategy. It requires structured stakeholder management, understanding priorities, navigating processes, and aligning expectations. You cannot afford to ignore that dynamic, because government remains one of the most significant participants in the economy.

Take institutions like NNPC Limited or Nigeria LNG, these are major players with government participation, and they are central to the industry. So the question is not whether government is complex; it is whether you have the capacity to engage effectively within that complexity.

Once you understand how to manage that relationship professionally and consistently, it becomes less about difficulty and more about discipline. It is simply part of doing business at scale in Nigeria.

MM: If you had the Minister of Petroleum in this chair right now, what is the one regulatory change you would demand tonight that would unlock the most value for indigenous contractors like yourself?

JR: The single most important issue is the speed of doing business.

That is where the greatest value can be unlocked. Historically, one of the major challenges in the sector has been the length of contracting cycles. You could initiate a process and it takes several years to conclude. By the time approvals come through, project costs have

changed, and the entire commercial framework is affected.

What we need is a more time-bound, efficient system. There are already encouraging signs in that direction, efforts to streamline processes, reduce bottlenecks, and create clearer timelines for contract approvals.

For instance, increasing approval thresholds for operators would significantly reduce unnecessary delays. Not every contract needs to go through an extended, multi-layered process. Similarly, longer contract tenures would provide more stability and allow companies to plan and execute more effectively, rather than constantly re-entering lengthy procurement cycles.

The focus should be on efficiency, clarity, and predictability. When those elements are in place, you not only improve project delivery, you also create an environment where indigenous companies can compete, grow, and deliver at scale.

There is a growing recognition of this within government, and the ongoing reforms aimed at improving ease of doing business are steps in the right direction.

MM: Looking ahead two decades, what keeps you awake at night? Not competition, but the existential threat to your industry, your region, or your country that you hope smarter men than you are solving right now.

JR: Nigeria, to me, remains a country of immense potential. We have the resources, the talent, and the scale to be truly great. My major concern is leadership.

We are a nation of over 200 million people today, and projections suggest that number could rise significantly in the coming decades. That kind of

growth comes with responsibility. It means we must begin to think, very deliberately, about how to provide opportunities, create jobs, and build systems that can sustain such a large and youthful population.

For me, it comes down to foresight. You have to plan today for the Nigeria of tomorrow.

That includes industrialisation, food security, and, critically, security itself. You cannot separate development from stability. When people are displaced from their communities or unable to work, it has a direct impact on productivity, on food supply, and ultimately on national wellbeing. These are interconnected challenges that require coordinated solutions.

At the same time, the world is moving quickly, technology, artificial intelligence, new energy systems. Nigeria cannot afford to fall behind. We need to position ourselves to participate meaningfully in that future.

But above all, I think about leadership more. Every nation's progress is shaped by the quality of its leadership. The current generation has played its part in laying a foundation, but the question is: who takes it forward?

We need a new generation of leaders who can build on that foundation, leaders with the vision, discipline, and capacity to move the country to the next level.

Because ultimately, if we get leadership right over the next 10 to 20 years, I believe Nigeria can become a fully industrialised and globally competitive nation. But if we don't, then the scale of our challenges will only grow.

That, for me, is what demands the most attention.



The Polymath Powerhouse

DR. DORIS UZOKA-ANITE

By Daniel Bowman

Her most defining impact emerged during her tenure as Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, where she transformed policy from abstract legislation into measurable economic momentum. Under her leadership, Nigeria attracted over \$30 billion in investment commitments, while strategic frameworks such as the National Talent Export Programme (NATEP) reimagined how the nation positions its human capital on the global stage. Rather than administering policy, she engineered ecosystems — aligning institutions, investors, and innovation toward scalable growth. Now entrusted with shaping the nation's financial direction as Minister of State for Finance, Dr. Doris Uzoka-Anite brings a rare convergence of disciplines to the table: the diagnostic precision of a physician, the analytical rigor of a Chartered Financial Analyst, and the structured foresight of a seasoned strategist. Her approach to governance is neither rhetorical nor symbolic; it is systemic. She interrogates inefficiencies, rebuilds frameworks, and insists on sustainability over spectacle. Her trajectory is defined by deliberate pivots — each bold, each calculated, each yielding tangible results. Beginning her career in medicine, she cultivated a

foundation in problem-solving rooted in science and human care. She later mastered finance, rising to the role of Group Treasurer at Zenith Bank, where she managed complex financial structures with institutional discipline. That financial expertise became the bedrock of her transition into public service. As Commissioner for Finance in Imo State, she spearheaded fiscal reforms, strengthened revenue architecture, and modernized financial governance mechanisms. From healing patients to stabilizing economies, Dr. Uzoka-Anite embodies the synthesis of intellect and execution. She does not merely cross disciplines; she integrates them. In doing so, she challenges conventional career trajectories and redefines what multidimensional leadership looks like in modern Africa. She is not simply breaking barriers — she is constructing new institutional blueprints. And in an era demanding leaders who can navigate complexity with clarity, she stands as a compelling symbol of modern, multifaceted authority.

From healing patients to healing economies, Dr. Doris Uzoka-Anite defies convention. Nigeria's Minister of State for Finance is a rare fusion of disciplines: a medical doctor, a

Chartered Financial Analyst, and a political force whose career is a masterclass in strategic transformation

Her trajectory is marked by audacious pivots and undeniable results. After beginning in medicine, she mastered finance, rising to become Group Treasurer at Zenith Bank. This expertise propelled her into public service, where as Commissioner for Finance in Imo State, she drove critical fiscal reforms and modernization.

Her most prominent impact came as Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, where she translated policy into tangible growth, attracting over \$30 billion in investments and launching foundational initiatives like the National Talent Export Programme (NATEP).

Now at the helm of the nation's financial strategy, she brings a diagnostician's precision, a banker's acumen, and a strategist's vision to bear on Nigeria's economic future. Dr. Uzoka-Anite isn't just breaking barriers; she is building new frameworks for success, proving that true excellence lies in the powerful synthesis of knowledge across fields. She stands as a definitive icon of modern, multifaceted leadership.

The Big Boys Perfumes



L'EXCLUSIF:

like the other two, Bleu scents was crafted by Chanel's in-house master perfumer Olivier Polge. But unlike them, it offers a much more nuanced and intimate wearing experience. You can smell the earlier iterations coming from a mile away, with all their ambery, cedar notes leaving a distinct sillage—the aroma that lingers in the air after someone wearing a strong fragrance leaves the room. But while L'Exclusif is powerful, Imits subtle. Its makeup includes leathery, resinous notes of cistus labdanum, the rockrose bush native to the Mediterranean region and northern Africa; a distinct dose of amber, which gives the Bleu line continuity; and perhaps its most important ingredient, sandalwood sourced from Maré, an island in the archipelago of New Caledonia, off the eastern coast of Australia. This is definitely the best from the range.



Paradigme Prada

Aromatic floral fragrance that captures the essence of modern duality, refined yet expressive, subtle yet distinctive. Prada Paradoxe is crafted to evolve on the skin, revealing layers that celebrate individuality and timeless elegance. More than a scent, it is a sensorial signature designed to mirror the complexity of identity.



LOUD VOYAGER BY TOM FORD

Explores the intersection of oud with intensely floral notes, highlighting the vibrant hues of geranium and peony. The fragrance features a unique floral oud tri-distillate, developed exclusively for Tom Ford, which combines rare oud with red floral notes. Geranium absolute introduces a fresh, rosy character, while cardamom and saffron add warmth. Citrus and pink pepper provide a lively opening, and a red peony accord, captured through headspace technology, brings a velvety floral nuance. The composition is anchored by oud, with earthy undertones of patchouli, vetiver, cypriol, and musk.



POWER SELF

A unisex woody floral fragrance that creates an alluring and comforting sillage that resonates with your true self. A unique formula scientifically designed to positively boost mental and emotional strength through targeted olfactory stimulation. More than a fragrance, POWER SELF is a functional composition that empowers you to be the best version of yourself. This is the best gift you can get yourself for 2026.

**STAY FRESH AND
COMFORTABLE
AT GYM OR WORK**



Dove
**MEN
+ CARE**

BIOCERAMIC
MOONSWATCH
COLLECTION

MISSION ON EARTH



Ω
OMEGA
X
swatch+

20 PEOPLE WHO SHAPED THE LAST 2 DECADES

Over the past two decades, Nigeria has evolved through challenge, resilience, and ambition. Industries expanded, institutions were tested, and new possibilities emerged across business, policy, and culture.

Yet, progress is rarely driven by systems alone, it is driven by people. This is a recognition of individuals who did more than succeed. They built where others hesitated, led where others followed, and shaped ideas, industries, and institutions that continue to define modern Nigeria.

From Aliko Dangote driving industrial transformation, to Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala influencing global economic policy, to Mo Abudu and Tony Elumelu expanding the reach of African stories and enterprise, their impact reflects a shared principle: true scale is measured not by size, but by lasting influence. This is not a ranking. It is a record of impact of individuals whose work, over time, has helped shape the direction of a nation, and continues to influence what comes next.

- MODEMEN Editorial Team

There was a time when Nigeria imported almost everything it consumed; cement, sugar, even refined fuel. It was an economy built more on movement than on making. Aliko Dangote understood that system intimately because he thrived in it. By the mid-2000s, Dangote was already one of the most formidable traders in West Africa. His business empire moved commodities at scale; rice, sugar, flour, cement, leveraging volume, access, and an instinct for market gaps. It was efficient, profitable, and, for its time, dominant. But it had limits. Trading, no matter how successful, is ultimately dependent on external supply. It creates wealth, but not always control. And somewhere along that trajectory, Dangote made a decision that would redefine not just his business, but Nigeria's industrial direction: He would stop importing what Africa could produce. That decision is the thread that connects everything that followed.

What exists today as the Dangote Group is not an extension of that early trading empire, it is a complete departure from it. Cement plants replaced import terminals. Fertilizer complexes replaced distribution networks. And in Lekki, on the edge of Lagos, a refinery of almost improbable scale emerged from what was once just a stretch of coastline. The numbers only begin to tell the story.

The Dangote Refinery, with a capacity of 650,000 barrels per day, is the largest single-train refinery in the world, built at a cost estimated at nearly \$20 billion. It is designed not just to meet Nigeria's fuel demand, but to export refined products across continents.

His cement operations, spread across more than 10 African countries, produce tens of millions of metric tonnes annually, turning Nigeria from a net importer into a net exporter within a decade. In fertilizer, his urea plant ranks among the largest globally, feeding both domestic agriculture and international markets. This is scale with intention.

At various points, analysts have estimated that Dangote's businesses directly and indirectly account for a significant share of Nigeria's economic activity, influencing sectors as fundamental as construction, agriculture, and energy. His companies employ tens of thousands and sustain many more through supply chains that stretch across the continent. But the deeper shift is philosophical. Dangote did not just grow bigger, he changed what his business represents. The trader who once relied on global supply chains became the industrialist building local ones. The businessman who moved goods became the one producing them. And in doing so, he moved from participating in the economy to shaping its structure. His investments are not quick cycles, they are



Aliko Dangote -
Industrial Africa Builder

long bets. The refinery took nearly a decade to complete. His expansion strategy is no longer Nigeria-first, but Africa-wide, with a clear ambition to compete on a global industrial stage. Even his philanthropy reflects this evolution. Through the Dangote Foundation, billions of naira have been directed toward health, education, and nutrition, including a \$100 million commitment to combating malnutrition in Nigeria. Yet, as with his business, the emphasis is less on relief and more on systems that endure. There is a certain consistency to his thinking now, an understanding that real influence lies not in accumulation, but in infrastructure. In building things that outlast cycles, governments, and even markets. Two decades ago, Dangote mastered the art of trade. Today, he is engaged in something far more difficult: the construction of industrial permanence. His current ambitions reflect that scale of thinking, expanding refining capacity, deepening fertilizer production, and pushing toward a vision of a \$100 billion enterprise built largely on African soil. It is an audacious idea, but then again, so was everything that came before it.

What makes Dangote's journey remarkable is not just that he became Africa's richest man. It is that he redefined what that position could mean, not just wealth, but weight. Not just success, but structure.



Femi Otedola

Master of Reinvention

There is a moment in every great business career that rarely gets talked about—the moment when staying becomes more dangerous than leaving. For Femi Otedola, that moment came after he had already “won.” By the late 2000s, Otedola had built Zenon Petroleum into one of Nigeria’s most powerful diesel supply companies. At a time when the country ran on generators and telecom towers consumed millions of litres daily, diesel was not just fuel—it was infrastructure. Zenon sat right at the centre of that demand, supplying major industrial players and quietly becoming indispensable. The numbers were staggering. At its peak, Zenon controlled a significant share of Nigeria’s diesel distribution market, moving volumes that translated into billions of naira in annual turnover. It was a classic high-cash-flow business—fast, aggressive, and deeply exposed to policy. And that exposure would define the next phase.

The oil and gas downstream sector in Nigeria has never been for the faint-hearted. Between subsidy politics, regulatory shifts, and currency pressures, fortunes can be made quickly—and erased just as fast. Otedola saw that reality up close. The fuel subsidy crisis of the early 2010s, public scrutiny, and market instability created a turning point. What followed is what separates him from many of his peers. He stepped back. Not abruptly, not loudly—but decisively. Over the next decade, Otedola began to reposition himself away from trading and into structured assets. His acquisition

and eventual control of Geregu Power Plc marked a philosophical shift: from moving products to generating value at the source. Geregu is not a speculative play. It is a long-term infrastructure asset, tied directly to Nigeria’s power grid—one of the most critical constraints on the country’s economic growth. By 2026, Geregu has a generation capacity of over 400MW, with expansion plans that place it firmly within Nigeria’s energy future. This is a different kind of wealth. Less visible. More durable. His recent re-entry into banking—taking significant stakes in major financial institutions—further underscores a pattern: Otedola is no longer chasing opportunity; he is positioning within systems that shape the economy itself. And then there is the quieter side of his story.

His philanthropy, often understated, has ranged from multimillion-naira donations to education and healthcare, to deeply personal acts of giving that rarely make headlines. There is a growing sense that legacy, not just liquidity, now drives his decisions. What makes Otedola compelling is not that he made money in oil—that story is familiar. It is that he understood when the rules of his own game were changing, and had the discipline to evolve with them. Many build fortunes. Fewer know when to redesign them. Femi Otedola’s real genius was not in playing the game—it was in knowing when to change it.

Abdul Samad Rabiu – Quiet Industrial Force

In a country where visibility is often mistaken for influence, Abdul Samad Rabiu built one of Africa's largest industrial empires by doing the opposite. He stayed quiet. There were no defining media moments, no grand declarations, no cultivated persona. And yet, over the last two decades, Rabiu has executed one of the most precise expansions in Nigerian business history.

To understand the scale of what he has built, you have to look at the numbers, not the noise. BUA Group today operates across cement, sugar, and infrastructure, with cement production capacity exceeding 11 million metric tonnes per annum, placing it among the top producers on the continent. Its sugar refinery is one of the largest in sub-Saharan Africa, with refining capacity in the hundreds of thousands of tonnes annually. None of this happened suddenly.

In the mid-2000s, BUA was still largely a trading business, importing rice, sugar, and other commodities. It was profitable, but structurally limited. Trading depends on margins. Industry depends on control. Rabiu chose control. The transition into manufacturing was deliberate and, at times, difficult. Building cement plants in Nigeria is capital-

intensive, logistically complex, and politically sensitive. It requires long-term thinking in an environment that often rewards short-term gains. But that is precisely where Rabiu thrives. While others competed loudly, he competed structurally—investing in capacity, securing supply chains, and scaling operations with discipline. By the time the market fully recognized BUA's presence, the foundation had already been laid. What makes his journey particularly interesting is timing. Rabiu expanded aggressively during periods when others were cautious. He built during uncertainty. He invested when visibility was low. And in doing so, he positioned BUA not just as a competitor, but as a counterweight in key industries.

In recent years, his philanthropic activities have begun to mirror the scale of his business. Through the BUA Foundation, he has committed billions of naira to healthcare, education, and disaster relief, intervening in areas where infrastructure gaps are most visible. Yet, even in philanthropy, the pattern holds: impact over attention.

Rabiu represents a different archetype of power, the kind that does not announce itself, but becomes impossible to ignore. From a relatively unknown trader to a central figure in Nigeria's industrial landscape, his story is less about transformation and more about accumulation of capacity, of influence, of intent.



**Bola Ahmed Tinubu –
Political Strategist Architect**

Power, in its most effective form, is rarely sudden. It is built patiently, strategically, and often out of public view. For Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the last two decades have been less about emergence and more about consolidation. By 2006, Tinubu had already served as Governor of Lagos State, leaving office in 2007 after two terms that would later be regarded as foundational. At the time, Lagos was grappling with structural inefficiencies, limited internally generated revenue, weak institutional frameworks, and a rapidly expanding population.

The reforms initiated during and after his tenure would change that trajectory. Lagos’ internally generated revenue grew from roughly ₦600 million monthly in 1999 to over ₦7 billion by 2007, laying the groundwork for what has now become a multi-hundred-billion-naira annual revenue system. The significance of that shift cannot be overstated, it redefined how subnational governments in Nigeria think about fiscal independence. But Tinubu’s influence did not end with governance. If anything, it expanded. Over the next decade, he became one of the central figures in Nigeria’s political realignment, playing a key role in the coalition that led to the formation of the All Progressives Congress (APC)

and the eventual defeat of an incumbent government in 2015. It was a moment that altered Nigeria’s political landscape and demonstrated the power of coalition-building at scale.

His political capital was not just in elections, but in talent identification and network construction, mentoring and supporting a generation of political actors who would go on to occupy key offices across the country. By the time he assumed office as President in 2023, Tinubu was not stepping into power, he was stepping into a system he had helped shape. His early decisions in office signalled a willingness to take on structural challenges. The removal of fuel subsidies, long considered politically untouchable, marked a significant shift in fiscal policy, freeing up government revenue while simultaneously triggering short-term economic pain. It was a decision that reflected a governing philosophy rooted in long-term recalibration rather than short-term comfort.

Tinubu’s story over the last 20 years is not one of linear progression, it is one of layered influence. Governance, party politics, economic reform, and institutional shaping all intersect within his trajectory. He is not simply a political figure; he is an architect of political systems. Whether viewed through the lens of policy or power, his impact lies in his ability to think beyond cycles, to operate within timelines that stretch far beyond immediate outcomes.





Tony Elumelu – Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Builder

Some businessmen build companies. A few attempt something far more ambitious, they try to shape the future of an entire continent. Tony Elumelu belongs firmly in the latter category. His early success is well documented. By his early 40s, he had already transformed United Bank for Africa into a pan-African institution, expanding operations across more than 20 countries and redefining what a Nigerian bank could become. It was a bold, almost improbable expansion, executed at a time when many institutions were still inward-looking. But banking, it turns out, was only the foundation.

Elumelu's real influence began after he stepped away from executive banking. Through Heirs Holdings, he began assembling a portfolio that reads less like a collection of businesses and more like a map of Africa's economic pressure points: power generation, financial services, hospitality, healthcare. These are not accidental choices, they are sectors that determine whether economies function or stall.

Transcorp Power alone has become one of Nigeria's leading electricity producers, contributing significantly to the national grid. In a country where power deficits constrain

GDP growth, that is not just business, it is intervention. Yet, for all his corporate success, Elumelu's most radical idea is philosophical. He called it Africapitalism.

At its core is a simple but demanding belief: that Africa's private sector must take responsibility for the continent's development, not as charity, but as strategy. Profit and progress, in his view, are not opposites; they are intertwined. It is an idea he has funded personally. Through the Tony Elumelu Foundation, he committed \$100 million to identify, train, mentor, and fund African entrepreneurs. By 2026, the foundation has supported over 15,000 entrepreneurs across all 54 African countries, creating hundreds of thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

This is scale of a different kind. Not factories. Not plants. But people. He has effectively built one of the largest entrepreneurial pipelines on the continent, democratizing access to capital and mentorship in a way few private individuals ever have. Elumelu's journey, then, is not just about growth. It is about multiplication. He has moved from building wealth for himself to enabling others to build theirs at scale, across borders, and across industries.

In doing so, he has quietly redefined what it means to be a successful African businessman in the 21st century.



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala – Global Economic Authority

In a country often defined by institutional fragility, credibility becomes a form of power. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala has spent the better part of four decades building it. Long before she became a global figure, she had already established herself within the World Bank, rising to the position of Managing Director, a role that placed her at the centre of international development finance. But it was her return to Nigeria as Finance Minister that would define her public legacy.

Her first tenure in the mid-2000s coincided with one of Nigeria’s most significant economic milestones: the negotiation of \$18 billion in debt relief from the Paris Club.



It was a complex, high-stakes process that required not just technical expertise, but diplomatic precision. The result reshaped Nigeria’s fiscal position. Her second tenure, years later, came under far more difficult conditions, declining oil prices, political resistance, and structural inefficiencies. Yet, she pushed through

reforms in public finance management, including the introduction of the Treasury Single Account, aimed at improving transparency and reducing leakages. These are not headline-grabbing achievements, but they are system-defining. In 2021, her appointment as Director-General of the World Trade Organization marked another historic moment, the first woman and the first African to lead the institution. It was both symbolic and substantive, placing her at the centre of global trade negotiations at a time of increasing economic fragmentation.

Her leadership at the WTO has focused on restoring functionality to a system under strain, addressing issues from vaccine equity during the pandemic to reforming trade dispute mechanisms. What distinguishes Okonjo-Iweala is not charisma or visibility, it is trust. Across governments, institutions, and markets, she represents a rare combination of technical competence and moral authority. That trust has allowed her to operate effectively in environments where consensus is difficult and stakes are high.

Over the last two decades, her influence has moved from national policy to global governance, expanding in scope without losing depth. In a world where credibility is often in short supply, she has made it her defining asset.





**Mo Abudu –
African Storytelling Pioneer**

Before Mo Abudu ever pointed a camera at anyone else, she understood something fundamental: visibility is power. Her early career in corporate consulting, particularly in human resources, placed her in rooms where decisions were made, but not always where narratives were shaped. That distinction would become the pivot. When *Moments with Mo* launched in the late 2000s, it did more than introduce a new talk show—it introduced a new tone. Nigerian television, at the time, was functional but rarely aspirational. Abudu’s production brought polish, structure, and a certain global sensibility that subtly redefined expectations. But television, for her, was never the destination. It was a test. The real play was EbonyLife Media!

What Abudu built over the next decade was not just a production company, but a content ecosystem; film, television, distribution, and increasingly, international partnerships. At a time when Nollywood was often defined by speed and volume, she pushed in the opposite direction: quality, scale, and global access. The numbers tell part of the story. EbonyLife productions have secured distribution deals with major international platforms, placing African stories in front of audiences that were previously inaccessible. Films like *The Wedding Party* didn’t just perform commercially, they shifted perceptions of what Nigerian cinema could look like at the box office. But the deeper impact is structural.

Abudu has helped move Nollywood from an informal industry into a more institutionalised creative economy, one

that attracts investment, talent development, and global collaboration. Her EbonyLife Creative Academy is part of that long game, training a new generation of filmmakers with both local context and international standards.

There is also a strategic clarity to her work that often goes unnoticed. She is not just telling stories, she is controlling how those stories travel. In a global media landscape where distribution determines influence, Abudu has positioned herself not just as a creator, but as a gatekeeper of African narratives. That distinction matters. From corporate executive to cultural architect, her journey over the last two decades reflects a deliberate expansion, not just in scale, but in impact. She did not wait for global platforms to discover Africa. She built something they could not ignore.





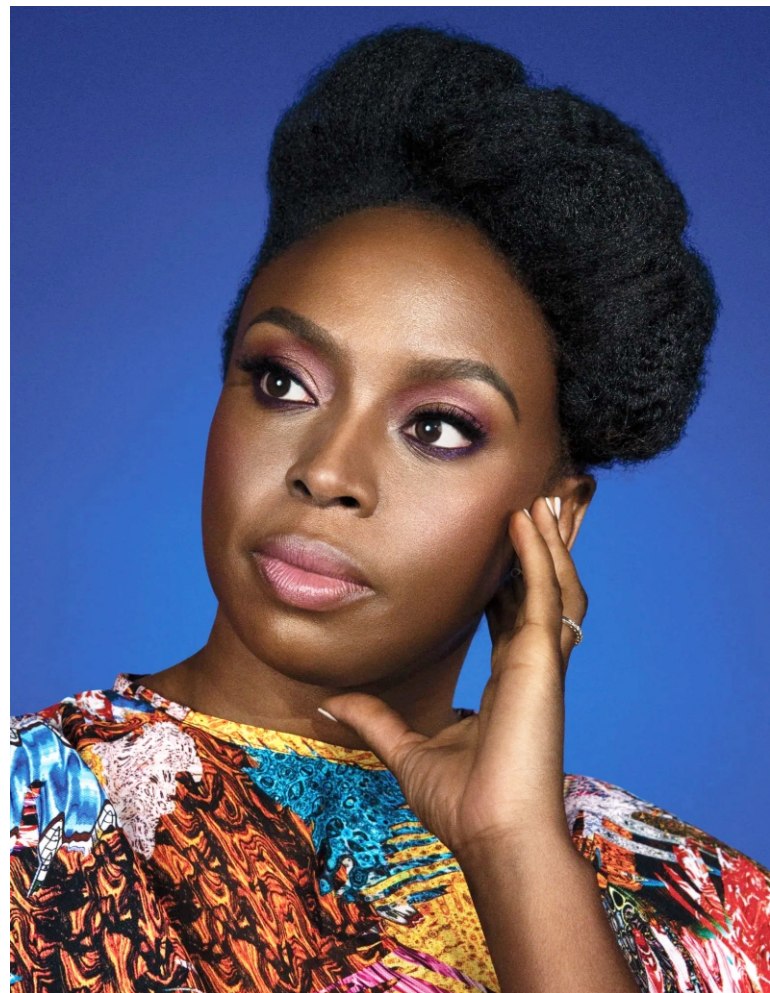
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – Global Literary Voice

There are writers who succeed, and then there are writers who shift the centre of conversation. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie belongs firmly in the latter category. By the mid-2000s, she had already announced herself with *Purple Hibiscus*, a debut that carried unusual emotional precision. But it was *Half of a Yellow Sun* that established her as a serious literary force, one capable of handling history, memory, and identity with both intimacy and scale. What followed was not just a successful writing career, but a sustained period of cultural influence.

Her work has sold millions of copies globally, been translated into over 30 languages, and studied in classrooms across continents. *Americanah*, in particular, became a defining novel of migration and identity in the 21st century, capturing the quiet negotiations of race, belonging, and self-perception in a way that resonated far beyond literature. But Adichie's impact cannot be measured by book sales alone.

Her 2012 TED Talk, *We Should All Be Feminists*, reached a different kind of audience, one that extended into policy, pop culture, and global discourse. It was sampled by Beyoncé, distributed in schools, and translated into multiple languages. Few writers manage to cross that boundary between literature and mass consciousness so effectively. What makes Adichie's journey compelling is her consistency of voice. In an era where public figures often adapt to shifting expectations, she has remained intellectually independent, even when it invites controversy. She writes and speaks with a clarity that resists simplification, insisting on nuance in conversations that often demand easy answers.

Over the last two decades, she has moved from promising novelist to global public intellectual, a role that carries both influence and responsibility. Her contributions to national and global identity are subtle but profound. She has helped redefine how Nigeria and Africa more broadly is represented in literature, moving beyond stereotypes into something more layered, more human, and more honest.





**Akinwumi Adesina –
Agricultural Transformation Leader**

There is a particular kind of optimism that is not naive, but strategic, the kind that sees potential not as a slogan, but as an investment thesis.

Akinwumi Adesina has spent his career operating within that framework. Trained as an agricultural economist, his early work focused on one of Africa’s most persistent challenges: food security. But even then, his approach was different. He did not see agriculture as subsistence, he saw it as business.

As Nigeria’s Minister of Agriculture between 2011 and 2015, he introduced reforms that aimed to restructure the sector, reducing corruption in fertilizer distribution through an electronic wallet system that reached millions of farmers directly. It was a simple idea with far-reaching implications: cut out intermediaries, empower producers. The results were measurable. Increased access to inputs, improved yields, and a shift in how agricultural policy was executed. But his most significant platform came in 2015, when he was elected President of the African Development Bank. Since then, Adesina has overseen tens of billions of dollars in development financing, channelled into infrastructure, energy, agriculture, and industrialisation across the continent. Under his leadership, the AfDB launched the “High 5” priorities, Light Up and Power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialize Africa, Integrate Africa, and Improve the Quality of Life. These are not abstract goals, they are operational frameworks tied to funding, implementation, and measurable outcomes.

By 2026, AfDB-financed projects have impacted hundreds of millions of Africans, through improved access to electricity, transportation networks, and agricultural productivity. The scale is continental, but the execution is granular. Adesina’s strength lies in his ability to translate vision into financing. He understands that development is not just about ideas, it is about capital, and where that capital is directed. In that sense, his role is less about advocacy and more about allocation.

Over the last two decades, he has moved from national reformer to continental strategist, operating at a scale where decisions influence not just countries, but regions.



A portrait of Mike Adenuga, a man with glasses and a goatee, wearing a dark blue patterned shirt. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a colorful stained glass window with abstract patterns in shades of blue, yellow, and purple. A gold circular graphic element is positioned above the text box.

Mike Adenuga – Silent Infrastructure Builder

There is a certain kind of wealth that announces itself, and another that operates almost entirely out of sight. Mike Adenuga has always preferred the latter. By the mid-2000s, Adenuga had already achieved what few had in Nigeria's private sector: he had built successful ventures in both oil and telecommunications. Conoil Producing was an established player in Nigeria's upstream oil industry, while Globacom launched in 2003 had begun to disrupt the telecom space. Globacom entered the market as a challenger to existing operators, introducing per-second billing, a move that fundamentally altered pricing structures and forced competitors to adapt. It was a simple innovation with massive implications, suddenly, telecom access became more affordable for millions of Nigerians. From there, the growth was exponential.

By 2026, Globacom serves tens of millions of subscribers across Nigeria and other African markets, supported by extensive infrastructure investments, including submarine cables that have improved data connectivity across the region. These are not just business milestones, they are

infrastructure contributions. Adenuga's oil business, through Conoil, has also maintained a steady presence in Nigeria's energy sector, navigating a complex and often volatile industry with a level of consistency that reflects long-term positioning rather than opportunistic play. Yet, for all his success, Adenuga remains one of the most private figures on this list. He rarely grants interviews. He avoids public appearances. His influence is felt more through systems than through statements. This deliberate distance has created a different kind of mystique, one that reinforces his identity as a builder rather than a personality.

His philanthropic efforts, though less publicised, have supported education, culture, and national initiatives, often without the visibility that typically accompanies such contributions.

Over the last two decades, Adenuga has demonstrated that scale does not require spectacle. He has built across sectors, across borders, and across economic cycles, quietly embedding himself in the foundational layers of Nigeria's economy.



**Amina J. Mohammed –
Global Development Diplomat**

Global influence often requires a delicate balance between idealism and pragmatism, the ability to imagine a better future while navigating the realities of the present. Amina J Mohammed has spent her career operating within that balance. Her early work in Nigeria, particularly in environmental planning and sustainable development, positioned her at the intersection of policy and implementation. She was not just designing frameworks, she was working within communities, understanding how policy translates into lived experience.

As Nigeria’s Minister of Environment, she played a key role in advancing climate policy and sustainability initiatives at a time when environmental issues were gaining urgency both locally and globally. But it was her transition to the United Nations that expanded her platform significantly. Appointed as Deputy Secretary-General in 2017, Mohammed became one of the highest-ranking African officials in the UN system. In this role, she has been central to the

implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) a global framework aimed at addressing poverty, inequality, climate change, and economic development. The scale of that mandate is immense.

It involves coordinating across countries, institutions, and sectors aligning priorities that often compete with one another. It requires diplomacy, negotiation, and an ability to maintain momentum in a system that can easily stall.

Mohammed’s leadership has been defined by bridge-building. Between developed and developing nations. Between policy and practice. Between ambition and execution. She has also been a strong advocate for gender equality and youth empowerment, consistently emphasising the importance of inclusion in development processes. What makes her journey particularly compelling is its global-local continuity. Even at the highest levels of international governance, her work remains connected to the realities of communities, whether through climate resilience initiatives, education programs, or economic inclusion strategies. Over the last two decades, she has moved from national policy spaces to global leadership, without losing the clarity of purpose that defined her early work.





Folorunsho Alakija –
Faith-driven Empire Builder

Fortune, especially in volatile environments, often depends as much on endurance as it does on opportunity. Folorunsho Alakija embodies that principle. Her early career began in fashion, where she built a successful brand that catered to Nigeria’s elite. It was a space defined by creativity, relationships, and cultural influence. But her transition into oil and gas would redefine both her trajectory and her scale.

Through Famfa Oil, Alakija secured a stake in OML 127, a lucrative offshore oil block that would become one of Nigeria’s most valuable assets. The journey, however, was far from straightforward. Legal battles over ownership and

rights stretched over years, testing both financial resilience and strategic patience. At various points, the outcome was uncertain. She persisted. By the time those disputes were resolved, the asset had proven its value, positioning her as one of the richest women in Africa. The scale of that transformation, from fashion entrepreneur to oil magnate is rare, even in a country known for dramatic business stories. But Alakija’s influence extends beyond wealth.

Her philanthropic work, particularly through the Rose of Sharon Foundation, has focused on empowering widows and orphans, providing financial support, education, and vocational training. It is a form of giving rooted in community impact rather than visibility. Her personal narrative, often shaped by faith, also plays a central role in how she approaches both business and philanthropy. It informs her resilience, her decision-making, and her long-term outlook.

Over the last two decades, Alakija has demonstrated that success is not always linear. It can involve reinvention, legal battles, and prolonged uncertainty. What matters is the ability to stay the course. In an environment where many fortunes are short-lived, her longevity is as significant as her scale.





Jim Ovia –
Banking Systems Architect

Before Nigeria’s banking sector became what it is today, digitised, expansive, and systemically significant, it required builders who understood both finance and institution-making. Jim Ovia was one of them. As the founder of Zenith Bank in 1990, Ovia had already laid the groundwork well before the 20-year window we are examining. But it is within the last two decades that the bank’s true scale and influence have become evident. By the mid-2000s, Nigeria’s banking consolidation policy forced institutions to either scale up or disappear. Zenith Bank not only survived, it emerged as one of the strongest players, consistently ranking among the most profitable and well-governed banks in the country.

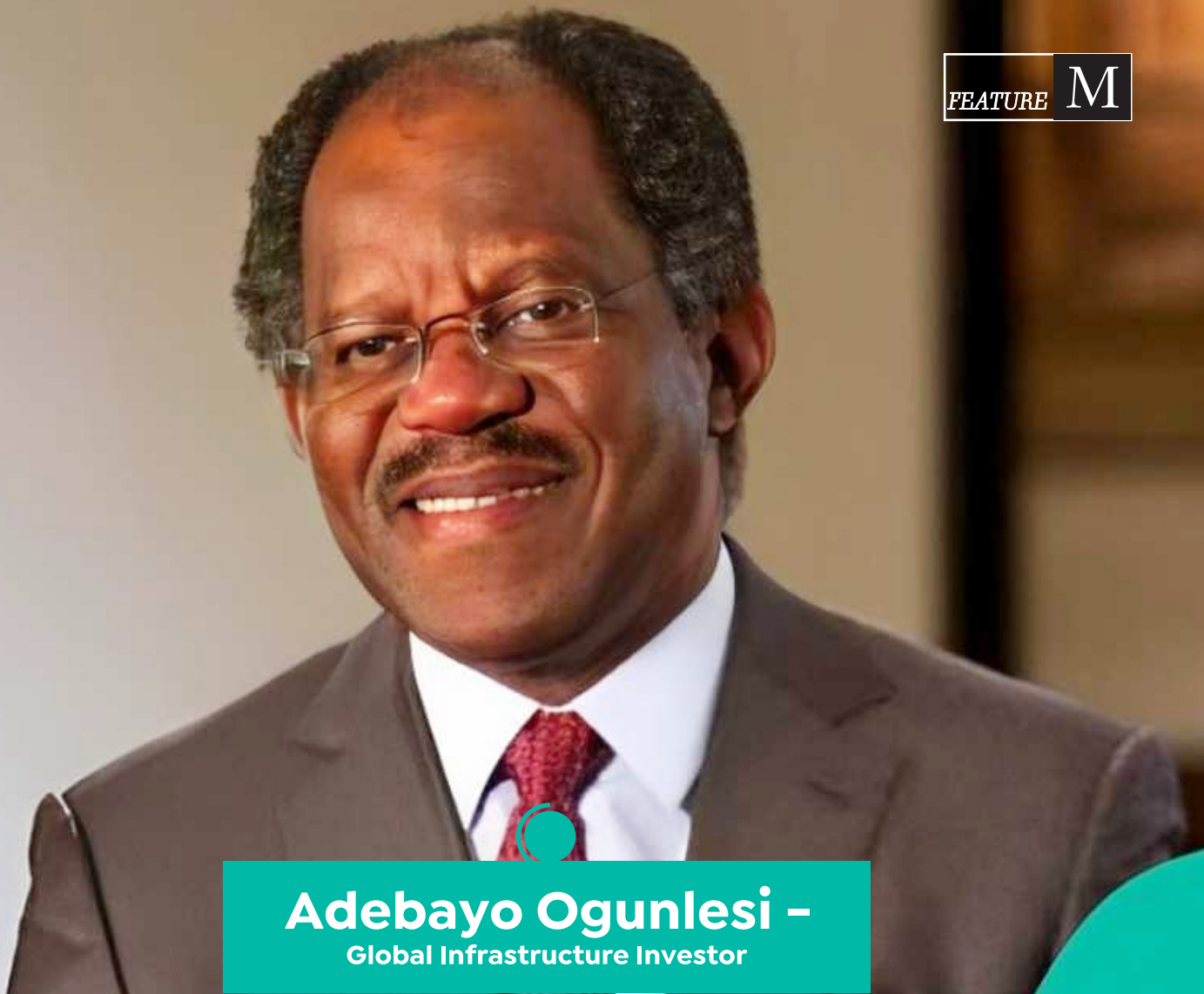
Its financial metrics tell a story of discipline:

- Strong capital adequacy ratios
- Consistent profitability across economic cycles
- A reputation for corporate governance that attracts both local and international investors

By 2026, Zenith Bank’s total assets run into trillions of naira, with operations extending beyond Nigeria into other markets. But numbers alone do not capture Ovia’s contribution. He helped institutionalise a culture of professional banking, where systems, not personalities, drive performance. In a sector historically vulnerable to instability, that focus on structure has been critical. His influence also extends into education and thought leadership. Through initiatives like the Jim Ovia Foundation, he has supported scholarships and educational development, investing in the human capital that sustains the financial system. Ovia represents a generation of builders who understood that sustainable success in finance requires more than capital, it requires trust, governance, and continuity.

Over the last two decades, his role has evolved from operator to elder statesman, guiding, influencing, and maintaining the standards that define the institution he built.





Adebayo Ogunlesi – Global Infrastructure Investor

There is a certain level of finance where money stops chasing returns and starts acquiring control over systems. Adebayo Ogunlesi operates at that level. His early career followed a familiar path of elite formation, Oxford, Harvard Law, Harvard Business School, then a rise through global finance at Credit Suisse. By the mid-2000s, he was already a senior figure in investment banking, advising on complex, high-value transactions. It was a position of influence. But influence, in that form, is often indirect. Ogunlesi's defining move came when he stepped away from traditional banking to focus on something more tangible: infrastructure as an asset class.

Through Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP), the firm he co-founded in 2006, he began acquiring and managing large-scale infrastructure assets, airports, seaports, energy facilities. These are not speculative investments. They are long-term, capital-intensive, and deeply embedded in how economies function. The scale is staggering. GIP has managed assets worth over \$80 billion, including stakes in major global airports like London Gatwick and energy infrastructure

across multiple continents. These are the arteries of global commerce, places where goods, people, and capital move.

What makes his trajectory particularly interesting is its distance from home, and its impact on how African capital is perceived globally. He represents a class of Nigerian professionals who have not just succeeded abroad, but have shaped global financial architecture. His work is largely invisible to the average observer. There are no retail products, no consumer-facing brands. Yet, millions of people pass through assets his firm controls every day. That is a different kind of influence.

In recent years, his role has expanded further, with GIP becoming one of the most respected infrastructure investment firms in the world, attracting institutional investors, sovereign wealth funds, and pension capital. Ogunlesi's career is a study in scale, not loud, not performative, but deeply embedded in systems that outlast news cycles. He did not build a company people interact with. He built the platforms they move through.





M FEATURE



Charles Soludo –
Financial Reform Strategist

As an academic, he built a reputation as one of Nigeria’s leading economists. But it was his tenure as Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria in the mid-2000s that brought theory into practice. His most defining policy, the banking consolidation exercise reduced the number of Nigerian banks from 89 to 25, forcing institutions to recapitalise and scale or exit the market. It was controversial, disruptive, and ultimately transformative. The Nigerian banking sector that exists today is, in many ways, a product of that reform. Years later, as Governor of Anambra State, Soludo found himself in a different kind of arena, one where economic ideas meet political reality. Governance at the state level is less about models and more about execution, negotiation, and adaptation. His approach has reflected that shift, focusing on infrastructure, digital governance, and attempts to formalise parts of the state’s economy.

What makes Soludo’s journey compelling is the continuity between his roles. Whether at the central bank or in state government, his focus remains on systems, how they are structured, how they function, and how they can be improved. He represents a rare bridge between academia and governance, between theory and practice. And in a country where that bridge is often missing, his career offers a different template.



Herbert Wigwe –
Modern Banking Visionary

As the co-founder and Group CEO of Access Bank, Wigwe helped transform what was once a mid-tier financial institution into one of Africa’s largest banking groups. The expansion was deliberate, acquisitions, regional growth, and a clear ambition to move beyond Nigeria into a truly pan-African footprint. By the early 2020s, Access Bank had operations in over a dozen countries, with millions of customers and a balance sheet running into trillions of naira. But Wigwe was never just building a bank. He was building an ecosystem. His interests extended into education, technology, and creative industries, most notably through the development of Wigwe University, a project that aimed to rethink higher education in Nigeria. It was ambitious, forward-looking, and reflective of a belief that institutions must evolve alongside the economies they serve.

His sudden passing in 2024 marked a profound loss, not just for the financial sector, but for a generation of leaders who saw in him a model of what modern African leadership could look like: globally aware, structurally focused, and unafraid to think beyond traditional boundaries. What remains is not just Access Bank, but a set of ideas about scale, ambition, and possibility. Wigwe understood that banking, at its best, is not just about money, it is about enabling movement: of people, businesses, and ideas. In that sense, his legacy is still unfolding.



Don Jazzy
Afrobeats Culture Shaper

Some industries grow gradually. Others arrive in moments, loud, undeniable, and impossible to ignore. When Mo'Hits Records began to shape the soundscape of Nigerian pop in the mid-to-late 2000s, it did more than produce hits, it created a sonic identity. The music was polished but accessible, local but global in aspiration. It carried a confidence that signalled a shift: Nigerian music was no longer just surviving, it was ready to travel. At the heart of that shift was Don Jazzy's production. His approach was deceptively simple, clean arrangements, memorable hooks, and an instinct for rhythm that translated across audiences. But behind that simplicity was a deep understanding of what makes music stick.

After the Mo'Hits era, many expected a slowdown. Instead, there was reinvention. With Mavin Records, Don Jazzy built something more structured, a label that didn't just produce stars, but developed them. From Tiwa Savage to Rema and Ayra Starr, Mavin became a pipeline for talent that could compete globally. The numbers tell one story, billions of streams, international chart entries, global collaborations.

Don Jazzy helped transform Afrobeats from a local genre into a global export. He operated at the intersection of creativity and structure, balancing artistry with business in a way that allowed the industry to scale.

In recent years, his role has expanded further into digital influence and entrepreneurship, building a presence that connects directly with audiences beyond music. He is no longer just producing songs, he is shaping culture.



Ike Chioke -
Capital Markets Architect

Markets are often judged by their visibility; stock prices, headlines, public offerings. But behind that visibility are individuals who focus on something less obvious: structure. Ike Chioke has spent his career in that space. As the Group Managing Director of Afrinvest West Africa, Dr Ike operates within the mechanics of capital, advising on transactions, structuring deals, and helping businesses navigate the complexities of growth and financing. It is not a role that attracts public attention, but it is one that shapes outcomes.

Over the last two decades, Afrinvest has been involved in capital market activities that support corporate expansion, government financing, and investment flows within Nigeria's economy. These are the underlying movements that allow businesses to scale and institutions to function. Dr Ike's strength lies in understanding that capital, when properly structured, becomes more than money, it becomes momentum.

His work has contributed to the gradual deepening of Nigeria's financial markets, supporting a shift from informal capital flows to more organised, transparent systems.



Kelechi Amadi-Obi

Visual Identity Creator

Before the rise of high-definition cameras and social media aesthetics, there were image-makers who understood that photography could do more than document, it could define perception. Trained originally as a lawyer, his transition into photography was not just a career shift, it was a reorientation toward storytelling through visuals. At a time when Nigerian media imagery was often functional, Amadi-Obi introduced a level of intentionality and polish that elevated the craft. His portraits of celebrities, public figures, and everyday subjects, carried a distinct quality: they were composed, deliberate, and often cinematic. Lighting, posture, expression, nothing was accidental.

Over time, his work began to shape how Nigerians saw themselves. Magazine covers, advertising campaigns, editorial spreads, his images became part of the visual language of modern Nigerian identity. He didn't just take photographs; he constructed representations. Beyond his personal work, Amadi-Obi has contributed to the professionalization of photography in Nigeria, mentoring, setting standards, and demonstrating that the field could be both artistic and commercially viable.



Deola Sagoe –

Fashion Heritage Innovator

Before Nigerian fashion became globally visible, it required designers who treated it not just as clothing, but as cultural expression. Deola Sagoe was one of the earliest to do so at scale. Her work has always drawn deeply from tradition, textiles, techniques, and narratives that reflect Nigeria's heritage, while presenting them in forms that resonate globally. It is a balance that is difficult to achieve, and even harder to sustain. She was among the first Nigerian designers to show on international runways, long before "African fashion" became a global category. In doing so, she helped open doors, not just for herself, but for an entire generation of designers who would follow.

Her influence extends beyond collections. It is visible in how Nigerian fashion is perceived: not as costume, but as craft. Not as local, but as globally relevant. Over the last two decades, as the industry has expanded, Sagoe's role has shifted from pioneer to reference point, a standard against which others are measured.




FRAGRANCE
DU BOIS
OUD NOIR
INTENSE
PARFUM



CASCADES
LUXURY



Jaques Marie Mage
Lockheed Aviator

The Midas Touch

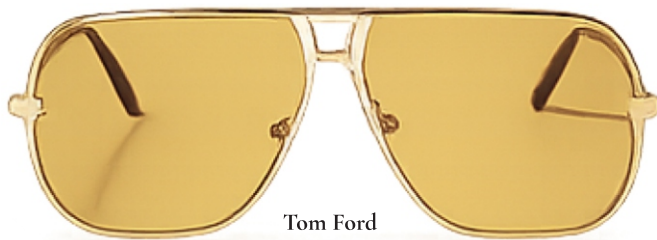
The hottest gold sunglasses to own this year



Dolce & Gabana
DG2166 Aviator



Dior
Monsieur 1 Aviator



Tom Ford
Stravos Aviator



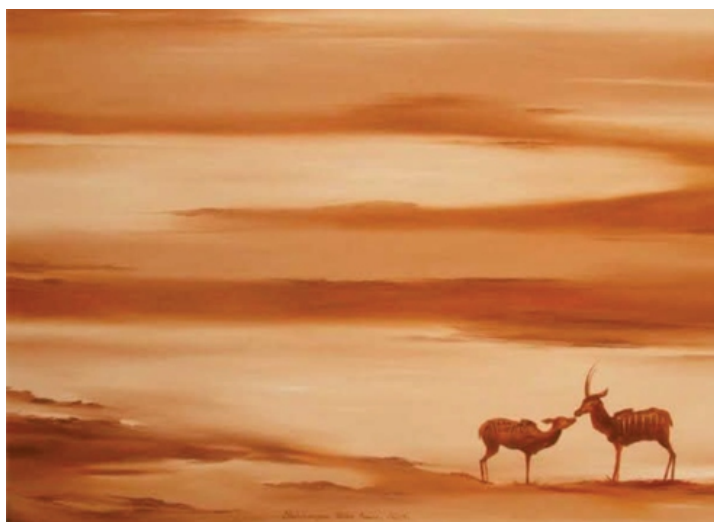
Versace
Ve255



Dolce & Gabana
Dg2302



Bottega Veneta
Classic oversized Aviator



LOST & FOUND
(Oil on canvas by Abdulkareem Baba-Aminu - 4ft x 6ft)



THE FIVE
(Oil on Canvas 4ft x 4ft)



DESTINY HAWKERS
(Acrylic on canvas by Robertson - 9ft x 12ft)



LOKOJA LANDSCAPE
(by Abdulkareem Baba-Aminu - 5ft x 3ft)



NO FACE
(Oil on Canvas by Ali Mohammed
10ft by 14 ft)



THE MARKET PLACE
(Oil on canvas by Robertson 6ft x 12 ft)



WEIGHT OF FLIGHT
(Acrylic on Canvas
by Tosin Toromade 4ft x 5ft)

10 AI Apps to Help You Stay Organised

Time, for the modern executive, is no longer measured in hours, it is measured in decisions.

By Daniel Bowman

Between boardrooms, flights, calls, and the constant blizzard of digital noise, staying organised has become less about discipline and more about the systems operating quietly behind the scenes. The difference between a productive week and a chaotic one often comes down to how well those systems work without you having to think about them. Artificial intelligence is quietly redefining that advantage. Not as a gimmick, not as a novelty for the tech-obsessed, but as infrastructure. Tools that think, sort, remind, summarise, and structure your day before you have even fully registered that you need it.

For the MODEMEN reader, the CEO, the senior executive, the policymaker, the entrepreneur with three time zones and a full calendar, these are not simply apps. They are decision-support systems. Here are ten that stand out.



– Your Second Brain

The central command centre for the organised executive

Notion has evolved steadily from a clean note-taking tool into something altogether more powerful: a full organisational operating system. With AI layered in, it becomes a genuine thinking partner. You can turn rough meeting notes into structured action points within seconds, generate coherent summaries from sprawling documents, and build dashboards that cover everything from company strategy to travel itineraries. For a CEO managing multiple verticals simultaneously, Notion AI functions as the connective tissue between all of it, searchable, structured, and always at hand.



Otter.ai

– Never Lose the Thread

A memory extension for the meeting-heavy

Meetings are information-dense, and detail has a habit of evaporating the moment you move to the next one. Otter records and transcribes conversations in real time, then surfaces key points, generates summaries, and allows you to search the full transcript at any stage. For executives running back-to-back sessions across the working week, it functions as an extension of memory, the kind that does not fade by Friday afternoon.



– Precision in Communication

Because clarity, at the top, is currency

At senior levels, the way you communicate is inseparable from how you are perceived. Grammarly goes far beyond spell-check territory. Its AI refines tone, tightens structure, and sharpens intent, whether you are drafting a board communication, a policy brief, or a note to investors. It ensures that every message leaving your name carries the weight and precision your authority requires, and catches the small errors that have a habit of surfacing at the worst possible moments.



Motion – The Calendar That Plans Your Day

Your schedule, intelligently managed

Most executives use calendars. Very few use them effectively. Motion does not simply schedule meetings, it decides when things should happen. The app automatically prioritises tasks, reschedules work that gets bumped, and allocates time blocks based on urgency and approaching deadlines. For someone who spends half the day in meetings and still needs space for deep, concentrated work, Motion quietly removes the mental load of constantly reorganising your afternoon. "The goal is not to do more. It is to think clearer, decide faster, and operate with control."



– Simplicity That Scales

Task management without the clutter

Not every tool needs complexity to be powerful. Todoist pairs a clean, uncluttered interface with AI-driven suggestions that help you break large goals into manageable steps, set reminders that account for your actual patterns, and track how your productivity shifts across the week. It is, above all, a tool for leaders who want absolute clarity on what needs doing next without the noise of a system that demands as much maintenance as the tasks themselves.



– Thinking, Drafting, Structuring

From idea to execution, faster

Artificial intelligence, used properly, is not simply about automation. It is about augmentation, extending what you are already capable of. ChatGPT allows you to draft reports and speeches, work through complex problems from multiple angles, and map out project strategies at a pace that was not possible before. Used well, it functions as a thinking assistant rather than a shortcut: compressing the time between having an idea and doing something meaningful with it.



– Structured Memory

A well-indexed archive for the information-heavy

Evernote remains one of the more reliable tools available for organising high volumes of information. With AI now built in, it suggests how to categorise notes, automatically sorts incoming material, and makes retrieval considerably faster and more intuitive. For executives who deal in information professionally, and that is most of them, it behaves like a well-maintained archive rather than a drawer that things get lost in.



– The Invisible Organiser

Working in the background so you do not have to

The most effective tools are often the least visible. Google Assistant integrates across devices and platforms to set reminders instantly by voice, manage your schedule on the move, and surface information in real time without requiring you to stop and search for it. It operates in the background of a working day, quietly ensuring that nothing slips through the gaps that even the best systems sometimes leave.



– Protecting Your Time

Intentions on the calendar, not just commitments

Time blocking is one of the most effective habits an executive can build, and also one of the first to collapse under the weight of a busy week. Reclaim.ai works inside your existing calendar to automatically schedule personal habits like exercise, reading, and thinking time, protect dedicated focus hours, and adjust meetings around what actually matters most. The result is a calendar that reflects not just where you are needed, but where you have chosen to be.



– Organising Conversations

Less noise. More signal.

Communication is often precisely where organisation begins to break down. Slack's AI features now summarise long message threads, highlight the decisions that were actually made, and help you catch up on hours of conversation in a matter of minutes. For leaders managing distributed teams across multiple locations, it reduces the ambient noise of a busy organisation and surfaces what genuinely requires your attention, which is rarely the same as what is simply the most recent.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MEN'S SKIN

Men's skin is biologically different from women's. Due to hormones like testosterone, it tends to be thicker, oilier, and more prone to congestion.

This often results in:

- Increased sweat production
- More clogged pores
- A higher tendency for acne

Ignoring skincare does not solve these problems – it amplifies them.



Glow4mula Vitamin C Serum (Morning Use Only)

Formulated with 20% pure ascorbic acid, this serum helps reduce visible signs of aging by boosting collagen production, improving skin firmness, smoothing fine lines, and fading dark spots. Its antioxidant properties protect against environmental damage and sun-induced skin stress.



Glow4mula Niacinamide Serum (Brightening Serum)

A potent blend of niacinamide, arbutin, tranexamic acid, and zinc designed to target hyperpigmentation, acne scars, and uneven skin tone. It controls excess oil, reduces inflammation, and strengthens the skin barrier for a clearer, more refined complexion. Suitable for both morning and night use.



Glow4mula Copper Peptide Serum

A powerful anti-aging treatment with a combination of copper peptides, Argireline, and Matrixyl 3000 which creates a comprehensive anti-aging regimen that targets wrinkles from multiple angles: muscle relaxation, collagen stimulation, and cellular repair. Suitable for night use only.



Glow4mula Ceramide Moisturizer

Strengthens and repairs the skin barrier, locks in hydration, prevents transepidermal water loss (TEWL), and protects against environmental stressors. Suitable for both morning and night use.



Glow4mula Invisible SPF 50 Sunscreen

Provides high broad-spectrum protection without leaving a white cast – perfect for all skin tones, especially melanin-rich skin. Daily use is non-negotiable, even on cloudy days.

Fact 1:

Washing your face is not enough

Using only water or regular soap is not proper skincare. A structured routine is essential for healthy skin.

A Complete Routine Includes:

A Foaming Gel Cleanser Effectively removes dirt, excess oil, and impurities without stripping the skin.

Fact 2:

Sun damage is real

Skipping sunscreen exposes the skin to:

- * Dark spots and hyperpigmentation
- * Premature aging
- * Long-term skin damage

SPF is not optional—it is daily protection.

Fact 3:

Shaving impacts your skin

Regular shaving can lead to:

- * Razor bumps
- * Skin irritation
- * Ingrown hairs

Using a proper shaving cream and following up with Glow4mula Ceramide Moisturizer helps calm, repair, and protect the skin.

Fact 4:

Skincare is not “unmanly”

Skincare is about discipline, hygiene, and self-respect. The outdated belief that men should neglect their appearance has no place in modern living.

Final Thought

Men's skincare does not need to be complicated—it needs to be consistent. A simple daily routine will always outperform occasional use of expensive products.

Taking care of your

skin today means:

- * Fewer breakouts
- * Healthier, more refined skin
- * Increased confidence

The revolution in men's grooming is not about vanity—it is about self-care, discipline, and long-term health.

And that's the truth



glow4mula

- Glow
- Brightening
- Anti-Aging

**CATCH
THE GLOW**
Beautiful Skin
starts here.

**TRY
TODAY**



☎ +234 704 804 3265 @Glow4mula 🎵 Glow4mula

📍 RETAILS AT SHADREMY BEAUTY,
Duplex 13 Wuye Ultra Modern Market, Goldcat Spa in Johnwood hotel

Being 'THE MAN' Means Your Needs Come Last

On silence, sacrifice, and
the quiet cost of being the provider

By Otega Fadiniyi

"WE CAN'T COMPLAIN."
A simple phrase. A heavy sentence.

It is not a statement of contentment. It is a resignation, a quiet acknowledgement of the unspoken rule that a man's needs are the first to be sacrificed on the altar of family survival. Not with anger. Not with ceremony. Just quietly, and often without anyone noticing, least of all him.

Today, the pressure is not simply about providing. It is about disappearing from your own budget. Between the relentless demands of rent, school fees, and soaring food prices, a man's income becomes a public utility, flowing outward to everyone and everything except the person generating it. That pair of shoes stays in the shop window. The favourite cologne is swapped for a basic roll-on. The dream purchase is indefinitely postponed, not by choice, but by a duty that leaves very little room for personal joy.

THE BUDGET THAT HAS NO LINE FOR YOU

Break it down and the pattern is brutally predictable. A typical salary is devoured in a fixed, ruthless order. First come the non-negotiables: rent, which landlords raise without apology; school fees, a mountain that grows taller every term; utilities and transport. These are the absolutes, the expenses that cannot be negotiated or delayed.

Next come the family essentials, food, clothing for fast-growing children, healthcare. The needs of the wife and children are visible, urgent, and entirely justified. No reasonable man disputes them.

And then there is the third category. You. By the time the cascade of obligations has finished, what remains is rarely enough to matter. The personal fund, for grooming, for a hobby, for the smallest treat, simply evaporates. Self-care becomes a luxury, and luxury

becomes guilt.

He copes by telling himself that wanting more for himself is a distraction from his primary role as a provider.

This financial sequence reinforces a harsh reality: in the hierarchy of household needs, the man's personal wants sit firmly at the bottom. So he internalises it. He tells himself the sacrifice is noble. And slowly, quietly, he stops asking.

THE EMOTIONAL COST OF 'I'M FINE'

The coping mechanism is a performance. "We can't complain" is the script. Admitting strain feels like admitting failure, so the mask of the unshakeable patriarch goes on, even while he is quietly calculating how to stretch the last fifty thousand naira across a fortnight. The stress becomes a

private burden: sleepless nights, low-level anxiety, the constant mental arithmetic of a man trying to make a finite income cover an infinite set of needs. All of it hidden behind a calm exterior.

The cultural script still runs deep. While more households are finding their footing through genuine financial partnership between spouses, and those partnerships are a real lifeline, the ultimate responsibility, and the accompanying shame if it goes unmet, continues to rest most heavily on the man's shoulders. This is precisely what makes talking about it feel not just weak, but ungrateful. As if naming the difficulty is a betrayal of the help he does receive.

When a man constantly defers his own desires, something subtler begins to happen. The person who never gets to invest in something that makes him feel good can start to feel less like an individual and more like a function, a mechanism for household sustenance rather than a human being with his own interior life. The joy of providing becomes shadowed by the slow fading of one's own identity.

BEYOND SILENT SUFFERING

So how are we really coping? The honest answer is that resilience in these times may require a quiet rewrite of some of the old rules.

The strongest thing a man can do might be to gently lift the veil. Saying to a trusted friend, "This economy is squeezing everyone, how are you managing?" does something important: it breaks the isolation. It transforms a private struggle into a shared one, and there is dignity in that. It does not diminish you; it connects you to others carrying the same weight in silence.

A burnt-out, depleted provider is not sustainable. You cannot pour from an empty cup, even if society expects you to try.

We also need to redefine what provision actually means. A burnt-out, depleted provider serves no one well. Investing in a reasonable personal need, a quality pair of shoes that will last three years, a perfume that gives you confidence walking into an important room, is not frivolous. It is maintenance. The man who takes care of himself is better equipped to take care of everyone else.

You cannot pour from an empty cup, even when the world expects you to try. If your partner is willing and able to share the financial load, receive that not as a threat to your identity, but as a strategic partnership for the family's welfare. The goal was never to carry the burden alone. The goal is the family's stability and flourishing. Those are not the same thing.

THE CURRENCIES INFLATION CANNOT TOUCH

Coping also means finding pride and genuine joy in what cannot be measured in naira. The strength visible in your resilience. The respect in your children's eyes. The quiet satisfaction of a well-managed home, of a family that is safe and fed and moving forward despite everything working against it. These are

real currencies. They do not lose value when the exchange rate shifts.

FROM 'CAN'T COMPLAIN' TO 'WE'RE ADAPTING'

That shift, from resignation to adaptation, is the sound of a generation of Nigerian men bearing a heavy weight with dignity and intelligence. This is not merely about cutting costs. It is about wisely redefining what it means to be a man, a partner, and a provider in present-day Nigeria.

It means understanding that providing for a family necessarily includes preserving the wellbeing, and yes, the occasional small joy, of the provider himself. It means recognising that your worth is not measured by how much you deny yourself, but by the strength, wisdom, and collaborative spirit you bring to navigating the storm for everyone you love.

The silent struggle is real. But it does not have to remain silent suffering. Acknowledge it. Talk about it with someone who will understand. And remember: a man who knows his own limits is not weaker for knowing them. He is, in fact, the most useful kind.





SENATOR OLUREMI TINUBU

Grace Leading, Purpose Serving

In the world of leadership, where ambition meets pressure and vision is constantly tested, some figures bring a steady sense of calm and balance to the journey. In Nigeria today, Oluremi Tinubu reflects that presence with quiet dignity.

As the wife of Bola Ahmed Tinubu and the First Lady of the Federal Republic, Senator Oluremi Tinubu carries herself with a grounded blend of grace, discipline, and commitment to service.

Her public life reflects consistency, purpose, and a clear sense of responsibility.

Long before the presidency, there was a shared journey shaped by belief, resilience, and commitment to a common direction. Through different seasons of public life, she has remained a steady support system, calm, present, and composed.

Her years in the Senate showed her

understanding of governance and public service. Today, she continues to serve in ways that focus on impact, using her platform for advocacy and social development without unnecessary noise.

In a time where leadership is often loud, her approach stands out for being measured and intentional. It is a reminder that influence does not always have to be loud to be effective, it can also be steady, consistent, and rooted in purpose. **MS**





Beyond Romance

By Lanre Oyewole

In the grind of traffic, work pressures, and rising costs, our greatest survival tool isn't just resilience, it's human connection: someone to talk to. While society celebrates grand gestures, the quiet hero of mental well-being is the daily debrief. That moment at the end of a long day to unpack frustrations, share small victories, and feel heard can be a lifeline for those in relationships, and a glaring absence for those navigating life solo. Carrying stress alone amplifies it, but sharing it with a trusted friend or partner transforms a silent burden into a manageable challenge.

“

... this 'relationship' doesn't have to be romantic. Its function is safe, consistent, and reciprocal listening.

”

Neuroscience shows that verbalizing stress helps regulate the nervous system, moving anxiety from reactive to logical parts of the brain. Saying “My boss added three more tasks as I was leaving” to a sympathetic listener doesn't change the workload but changes your relationship to it, releasing frustration before it festers into insomnia or mood swings. For couples, this can be a daily pressure valve. For singles, silence can amplify stress: a frustrating commute, tense interactions, or worrying bills held alone become an echo chamber for anxiety. The struggle isn't just romantic loneliness, it's a deficit of consistent emotional logistics. Single people must be intentional in seeking connection, often relying on friends with their own obligations or scrolling through social media, which can intensify isolation. This extra effort can entrench worrying cycles, increasing anxiety and depression. The single person isn't just managing stress, they're managing the metastress of managing it alone.

The key takeaway: this 'relationship' doesn't have to be romantic. Its function is safe, consistent, and reciprocal listening. Single individuals can designate a 'Debrief Buddy,' join hobby or community groups, or see a professional listener. People in relationships should practice active listening, resist the urge to fix, and check in on single friends with simple gestures like “Want to vent?”

In a country that prizes toughness, we must champion the strength of softness, the courage to share a burden and hold space for another. Relaying your day is not a luxury; it's essential for mental health. Building and nurturing talk-based relationships distributes the weight of life, making the load lighter, paths clearer, and resilience stronger.

The person we talk to isn't just listening, they're helping us carry our stress, proving that the heaviest burdens are never meant to be borne alone. [M](#)

Driving Nigeria's Progress Through Diversified Excellence

From energy and infrastructure to agriculture and real estate, our specialized subsidiaries deliver transformative solutions across Nigeria's most pivotal sectors



Our Services



Ailes Energies



FOSL Upstream Limited



Ailes Agro & Flour Mills



Infra-Ailes Construction



Trans-Ailes Freight & Logistics



Ailes Capital & Investment Ltd

Get In Touch For More Info



Plot 999D Danmole Street, Idejo, off Adeola Odeku, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria



Info@ailsgroup.com



(234) 916 – 000 – 4023
(234) 1 – 454 – 3769



www.ailsgroup.com



FRAGRANCE
DU BOIS
LUCIUS
PARFUM



CASCADES
LUXURY