

# HABITAT

A Bi-monthly Lifestyle and Real Estate Magazine

ISSUE 2024



*Valentine Edition*

Lifestyle &  
Real Estate



**GREAT  
RANGE  
OF  
EXCLUSIVE  
BESPOKE  
FURNITURE  
FOR YOU**

**LEGACY** BY  **Peter Raphael**



✉ f t i legacy



Phone: +234 915 555 4133  
Email: [legacy@peterraphaeltd.com](mailto:legacy@peterraphaeltd.com)  
Website: [www.peterraphaeltd.com](http://www.peterraphaeltd.com)





## Welcome to THE ALLURA

by Cubiq costruzioni

The Allura is a premium block of five terrace duplexes located at Kaura District, close to Games Village in Abuja. Each unit is a four-bedroom duplex with an attached service quarter that offers comfort, convince and quality. Each unit is designed with an option for a private lift, very

### PRICE:

A unit is selling for;  
Custom - N85m

For sales info and to schedule an inspection: Call or send a WhatsApp message to 08033212022

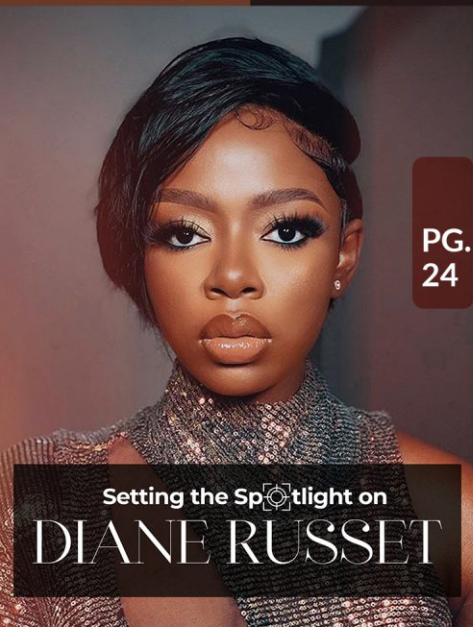


# Table of CONTENT

|                                                                      |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Cover Page                                                           | 1  |
| Legacy                                                               | 2  |
| The Allura                                                           | 3  |
| Table of Content                                                     | 4  |
| Editorial and Team                                                   | 5  |
| What you should Know before investing in Real Estate in 2024         | 6  |
| Hotel 2020                                                           | 8  |
| kanko Court Karasana                                                 | 10 |
| 5 units of all en-suite 5 bedroom fully detached houses              | 11 |
| Must Literature Always Be A Bullet                                   | 12 |
| Is self Love A Lie?                                                  | 13 |
| Review: Four Palm                                                    | 14 |
| 7 Factors to consider if you want to sell out your next project fast | 16 |
| Here lived a great sweeper                                           | 20 |
| Maishai Coffee                                                       | 22 |
| Setting the spotlight on Daine Russet                                | 24 |
| Review: Habil Cafe, Abuja                                            | 26 |
| Spotlight Ogwa Iwaeze's                                              | 28 |
| Mohbad: Dead Or Murdered                                             | 32 |
| Makeup 360                                                           | 35 |
| When Life Shows you Pepper                                           | 36 |
| Season of surprises: Twist and Turns in BBNaija Season 8             | 38 |
| Review: The Movie, A tribe called Judah                              | 41 |
| Legend Hotel                                                         | 44 |



## REVIEW ON





It is our delight to bring you our first edition of Habitat, which is also our Valentine edition. We have been publishing the magazine under Pedia magazine, a lifestyle and real estate magazine, for more than a year. It has now become absolutely necessary to rebrand and reposition the magazine to be more holistic in its approach in addressing every aspect of the human habitat.

The Habitat magazine will cover interior design, construction, real estate, furniture production, hospitality and lifestyle.

In this edition, we have featured interesting stories and reviews for your entertainment.

The finale of the last Big Brother House took place on October 1, 2023 and in this edition, we bring you highlights and a review of the All Stars Big Brother edition. Talking about Big Brother, we are shining a spotlight on Diane Russet, an ex-housemate of the Big Brother House, who is also a businesswoman, producer and actress. We are taking a dive into her journey and revealing things you may not know about this superstar.

Furthermore, we have taken the initiative to feature a thought-provoking article on the life and death of the sensational musician, Mohbad, drawing pointers to key details and raising deep questions to which we are all still seeking answers.

Another key feature in this edition is a review of Funke Akindele's record-breaking movie, A Tribe Called Judah. The movie, which currently stands as the highest grossing Nollywood movie, is a blockbuster that we will not forget soon.

We have included reviews on some of the best cafés in the city of Abuja, as well as interviews with some of the most relevant people in the city.

We have featured various articles to entertain you and stir up your creativity, and have included various real estate listings for you to either purchase or feast your eyes on.

Habitat is more than ready to become your No. 1 real estate and lifestyle magazine—our first edition reaffirms this readiness.

We hope you flip each page over with delight as you read through and await the next edition with all eagerness.

Best wishes,  
**PETER ALEOGENA,**  
**PUBLISHER**



## OUR TEAM

### Publisher

Peter Aleogena

### Editor

Tomisin Juliet Faoye

### Contributors

Joy Idoko

Lerato Okoro

Toyosi Faoye

Julchit Dadi

Alfredo Oveimeh-Brown

Tomisin Juliet Faoye

### Proofreader

Abimbola Osodi

### Design and Layout

Prince Ikpeoha

### Official Partners

- Four Palms
- Hotel 2020
- Legacy Residences

### Publishers



Suit 307, 3rd Floor Millennium Plaza  
Herbert Macaulay Way,  
Central Business District,  
Abuja FCT, Nigeria.

+234 (803) 321 2022







Thus, whilst some might consider leaving their property empty to avoid the hassles of dealing with tenants, repairs and other demands, this is actually doing quite some harm to what the achievable value will be (as well as what it currently is) on the active market.

Rather, hire a professional property management team that understands business, your need for additional income and continued value appreciation, such that they manage the property on your behalf with tenants that currently need the space to live and/or work in.

Options for co-living include renting out. It is especially recommended that en-suite rooms are rented to semi-permanent residents who are visiting and/or need a place closer to work or simply just need to downsize their living quarters. Options for co-working would require that your

clients are getting office spaces and as against the current method of co-working which provides a desk and chair for the clients, you could consider just giving out the serviced space while they bring in their furniture.

And this could work in both instances, where advantages for doing this include being able to offer more competitive pricing, not forcing them to do away with their existing hardware and giving your property the opportunity to be rented out quicker.

## 2. For those who want to start to invest, **think co-investing.**

This is a time-validated way of getting things done. With real estate, it's a prominently growing strategy for those who don't want to be asset heavy by ownership but want to earn the dividends of investing in real estate.

By co-investing, chances are that you are not even in the same state or locality, but are keyed into the opportunistic elements with a property manager in place.

Attraction points for you as a co-investor should include the use of the property, the rates of appreciation and what your exit strategy could be. Just like in the business world, where global coaches and business advocates advise us to collaborate, partner up and work with people to move ahead faster, the same now also applies with real estate investing. And this is a business we should take as seriously as it truly is most especially now when our currency is not leveling up to its former value while simple things such as the cost of living are soaring at alarming rates. Have you noticed how the price for a decent meal might not have changed but there is a drastic reduction in the size?

The reality of our situations and economy are calling for age-old principles to be modernized and adapted for sustainable wealth creation. It is no longer a luxury to invest in real estate as a means of income; it is now becoming a necessity.



# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE INVESTING IN REAL ESTATE IN 2024

*Owning property is not all there is to real estate investing*

By LERATO OKORO

Whilst real estate investing is identified as one of the surest ways to create wealth, the secret to its success lies in how it is implemented. And given that the decision to do this is unequal parts of human nature, financial and aspirational goal settings, as there is no textbook theory that will stick forever even though the general principles do.

If asked, about seven out of ten Nigerians would tell you that they need to own it to feel like they have invested in real estate. Herein lies the problem that is continually widening the gap between who can invest in real estate and who should.

Let's start with these questions and their answers:

**1. Question:** Who should invest in real estate?

**Answer:** Anyone who wants to build and create sustainable wealth through ownership of tangible assets.

**2. Question:** Who can invest in real estate?

**Answer:** Anyone who can afford to buy the real estate assets as are on offer.

With that clearly defined, who are those you think we are going to keep seeing turn out as investors in real estate assets?

I doubt that I need to mention this categorically anymore, but I will—Those who can yield the money.

When people say that real estate investing is for the rich (with the definition of “rich” as the ones who have the financial muscles to invest there), this is actually an idea that needs to be reviewed. However, if you have come to a point where your financial status is causing you to make smart and more efficient decisions regarding your investment opportunities in real estate, then here are some ways that you can consider to invest in real estate and/or have your real estate assets used to ensure they don't stay dormant and financially unproductive.

**1.** For those of you who have existing assets like houses and buildings that are yet unoccupied or unsold, think **co-living and co-working**.

Aside from value appreciation, rent from the use of your property is how you tend to make money but one thing that many don't tell you is that a building left unused for long periods of time has the tendency of losing value not just by price, but also by how much you are able to realize.





Are you looking for a hotel with a perfect blend for leisure and business? Hotel 2020 exceeds all your expectations with its exquisite interior design and exceptional service.

Hotel 2020 is located at Plot 1796, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala Way, Wuyi, Abuja.

## Hotel 2020 offers:

- *35 tastefully furnished rooms and suites*
- *24-hour restaurant and pastry corner*
- *VIP lounge*
- *Exquisite pool/pool bar facility*
- *Laundry and valet services*
- *Salon*
- *Banquet hall*
- *Gym and Spa*
- *Minimart*

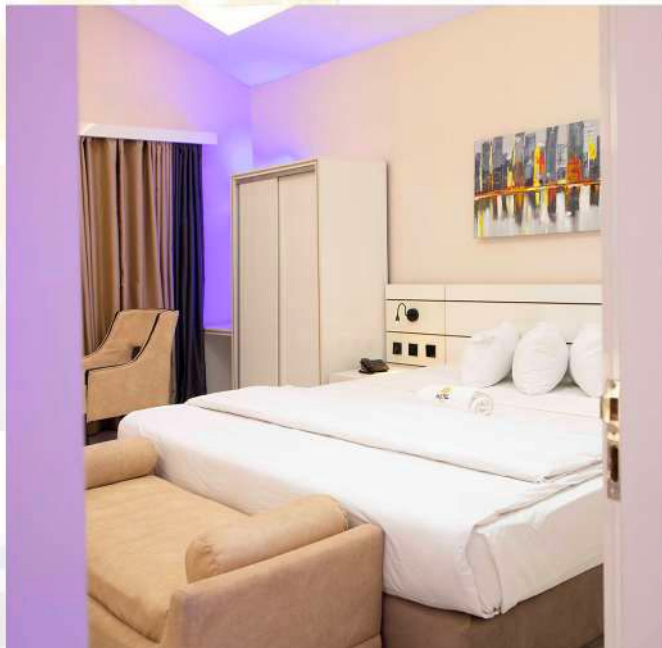
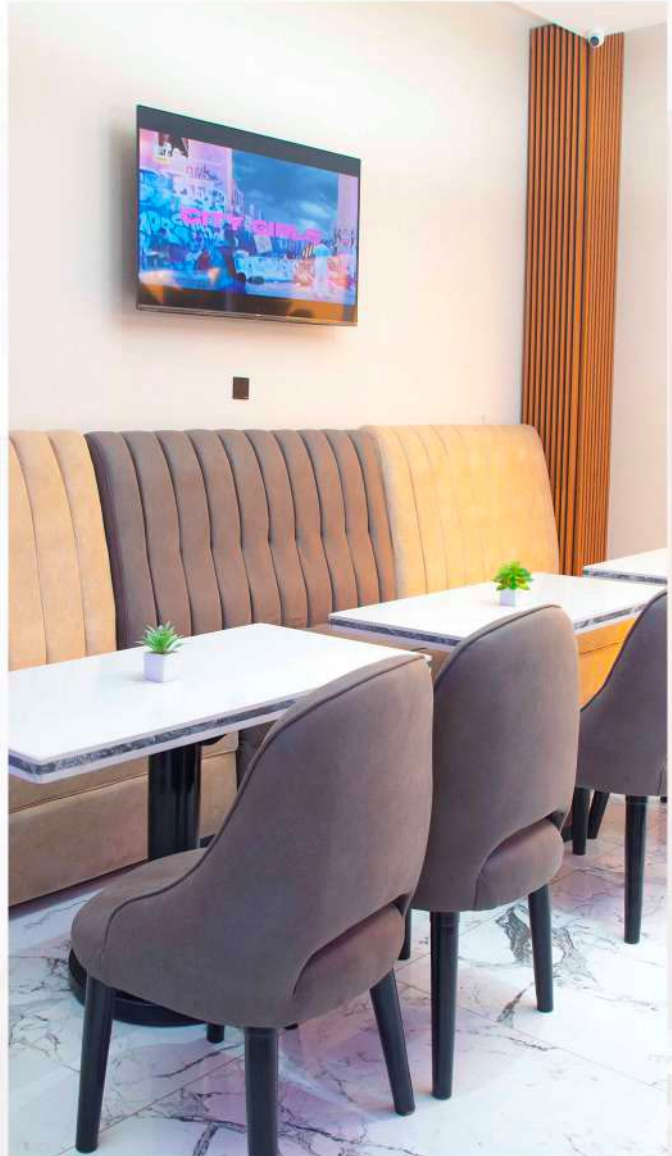
For bookings /reservations, contact:

Email: [reservations@hotel2020.com](mailto:reservations@hotel2020.com)

Tel: +2349123509193









# KANKO COURT KARSANA



## FACILITIES

- Gated Community
- Swimming Pool
- Gym
- Solar Lightening
- Constant Water Supply
- Illuminated Street
- Proximal Supermarkets
- Proximal School

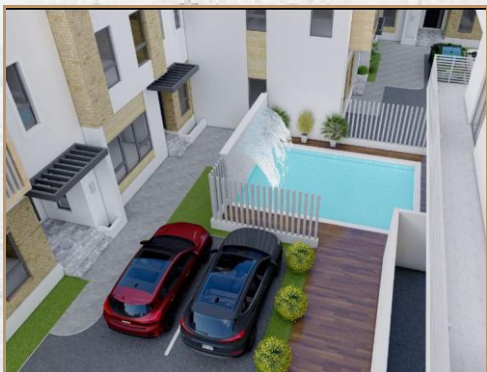
**PAYMENT  
PLAN  
AVAILABLE**

## AVAILABLE ASSETS

**4** **BEDROOM**  
TERRACE  
DUPLEX

**2** **BEDROOM**  
TERRACE  
DUPLEX

WITH BQ



## YOUR IDEAL HOME IS A CALL AWAY

For sales info and to schedule an inspection: Call or send a WhatsApp message to **08033212022**



# 5 UNITS OF ALL EN-SUITE 5 BEDROOMS FULLY DETACHED TOWNHOUSES



## FEATURES

- A GYM
- A MINI CINEMA
- 2 BEDROOM BQ
- LAUNDRY ROOM
- BOX ROOM
- SWIMMING POOL
- 2 LIVING ROOMS
- 1 DINNING AREA
- FULLY FITTED KITCHEN
- WARDROBES

**ALL ON A 400SQMS  
LAND SPACE**

For sales info and to schedule an inspection:  
Call or send a WhatsApp message to **08033212022**

**GOVERNOR'S  
CONSENT**

**PRICE #700M**



**LEKKI PHASE 1**



# MUST LITERATURE

## ALWAYS BE A BULLET?

By **Tomisin Juliet Faoye**

During a random conversation with a friend sometime last year, she mentioned that it was almost impossible to pick up a Nigerian literary work, especially prose, and not feel like it was written to support or counter one cause or the other. Thinking about it months later, I cannot help but agree.

Nigerian literature has greatly evolved over the past decades. Old themes are fading away and giving rise to new ones. But in the midst of this evolution, one thing remains constant—like Cristiano Ronaldo or David Beckham on the football field, our literary works remain attackers.

In the times before the '60s, almost every work of literature was aimed at resisting the colonial masters and their wiles. Those that came after 1960 were mostly focused on the disillusionment which had become the post-independent reality. From the late '60s to the early '70s, the Biafran war engulfed the nation, so the works that followed that unfortunate period were centered on the war and its impact. The '80s and '90s saw literary works based on military rule and the festering wound in the nation's belly, caused by corruption. From the 2000s until now, most literary works agitate for gender equality, preach feminism, attack corruption governments or lament the poor state of the nation.

My friend also opined that one could hardly pick up a Nigerian romance novel and not see traces of anti-tribalism campaigns, feminist agitations or some other cause.

To quite a number of readers and all-round literature lovers, this trend may pose a problem. Possibly because reading such works puts them in a position of making a choice or taking a stand regarding issues they would rather remain

apathetic about.

However, I believe Nigerian writers write the way they do because their stories, poems and plays are born out of the inspiration they draw from their immediate environment. Many of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's novels are set in the University of Nigeria, Nsuka because she grew up in that very environment. She writes about university staff and student protests because such things characterized her childhood.

As a fiction writer, I cannot write a beautiful story of love and triumph set in Nigeria without drawing pointers to the poverty and bad leadership ravaging through the country. I cannot tell a Nigerian story set in the late 1900s without making reference to the war, corruption and countless military coups that characterized the era. Neither can I write a novel set in the present day Nigeria without mentioning the End SARS protests of 2020, the mindless killings in Kaduna, the incessant kidnappings and the poor state of the nation's economy.

"Why is this so?" you may ask. It is because every writer is a warrior carrying a weapon. Some of us, such as the late Christopher Okigbo, may choose to drop the pen, pick up a sword, and fight a physical battle for what we believe in. But as for those of us who may not be so gifted with the sword, we will fight with our pens. With these pens we will write of injustices and failures, we will write of brutality and death. But we will also write of love and of triumphs, of hope and of bright futures. We will write in truth. We will write with an undying hope that there will be light at the end of the tunnel. Because the pen, they say, is mightier than the sword.





# IS SELF-LOVE A LIE

When it comes to love, it's usually about everyone making up their own conclusions as they go.

But let's focus a little bit on the term "self-love", shall we?

It's been touted by different groups as much as it is highly searched for by young people.

In my opinion—and everyone has one—the majority of people who scream self-love don't understand it fully. This is because loving yourself includes not beating yourself up, not entering depression or misery, not doubting you and so much more, yet too many of those claiming to be practicing self-love still do these things to themselves.

I would boldly say that the reason we have wars, hunger and suffering in our world today is that, contrary to our assertions, we really don't understand what self-love is truly all about.

After all, if we truly love ourselves, we would treat ourselves and other people better.

Love isn't selfish. You actually can't hide or restrain it. Just like the sea, it is vast. And when you are in the company of someone who really loves themselves, you become an extension of the love they already have.

The problem with the modern idea of self-love is that it's not well understood.

So, what is this self-love?

Self-love comes from knowing who you really are at the core.

You must have heard this common saying, "Man, know thyself."

When you begin to ask questions about yourself, where you came from, how you got here, and WHY you are here, you start to get a glimpse into who you are. That understanding is what helps you develop love for self, that is, self-love. When you truly love you, that love bubbles and literally FLOWS out of you.

Anyone who comes around you will "feel" that love. Everything you do will be in accordance with the love that's already inside of you.

So, I think what people call self-love today is just the tip of the iceberg. There is a lot more to delve into and it begins with you knowing yourself. Hence, my words to you are, "Man/woman, know thyself."

**AUTHOR:  
JULCHIT DADI**





# REVIEW

# Four Palm

I walked into the reception of Four Palms and it instantly felt like I was in a resort somewhere in the heart of eastern Africa.

The creativity behind its design is absolutely breathtaking. If you are an ardent lover of nature like me, you would love this beautiful home away from home. With a rich and elaborate touch of Africa, every inch of the premises feels like it is telling the story of Africa's rich heritage. Situated in the heart of Wuse 2 Abuja, Four Palms is a boutique hotel with great architecture, ambience and service.

The lobby bar is built around a natural décor of palms, paintings and sculptures. I walked in and I felt inspired; something about its energy resonated with the creative in me. If you are looking for a getaway not too far from home or a place to recharge, you are sure to find that Four Palms has got all you need.

One of the favourite parts of my experience was the food and the zenith of it all was the buffets. You should try out their weekend buffets by the pool; the spread is simply amazing.

Amongst other interesting features Four Palms holds are their beautiful spa and poolside bar. Four Palms is the perfect destination for an amazing getaway, so try this enthralling place and thank me later.











7

**FACTORS TO CONSIDER  
IF YOU WANT TO SELL OUT  
YOUR NEXT PROJECT FAST.  
EVEN BEFORE IT IS COMPLETED.**





Have you ever wondered why some residential units rent, lease or sell out fast while others remain perpetually in the market?

Why do we have so many unoccupied buildings laying waste, yet we continue to lament about housing deficit in Nigeria?

It appears as though those who rent or sell out their apartments fast have the Midas Touch or some unfair advantage.

Developers who lease or sell out their properties faster understand the demands of the market and meet those demands. Prospects and investors are becoming more aware and are demanding higher standards. It takes the prospect or investor only a few minutes to decide if they want to rent, lease or buy any apartment.

In this article, we have highlighted seven factors developers should pay attention to in order to create effective housing solutions, such that sell out even before they are completed.

## 1 LOCATION

### **Pay attention to the location.**

The following are factors to consider when selecting a location:

a. Security: How safe is the neighbourhood? Is it safe for children, outdoor excises and for those who enjoy night life?

b. Views and appearance: This refers to the look and feel of the neighbourhood. The landscape, gardens, community spaces, and whether the neighbourhood is purely residential, commercial or mixed in nature.

c. Access and proximity to amenities and public transportation system: These are elements of comfort and convenience such as roads, running water, electricity, drainage system, gas stations, places of worship, schools, daycare, movie theatre and shopping centres. If these amenities are a distance from your estate development, provide them within your estate.

Investors know that when they are ready to sell, location is most likely to make the process faster and more profitable.



## 2 AESTHETICS

This refers to the exterior appearance of the building. People generally love to show off their houses—they want to be proud to bring guests to their home.

Investors also consider the structural integrity of the building, how durable and well-constructed the building appears.

## 3 SIZE

Is there enough room for the prospect and his or her family? Are there enough bedrooms and bathrooms? Are the sizes of the rooms, toilets and kitchen adequate? Are there adequate parking and outdoor spaces?

Prospects want adequate spaces to accommodate their family size, furniture and cars. Some prospects or investors have other specific needs such as library, home office, laundry, cinema and service quarters.

A proper understanding of your prospect's demographic or customer profile and lifestyle will help you provide better and more adequate spaces that meet their specific needs.

## 4 STORAGE

As commuting in urban cities becomes more challenging, most people prefer to stock food and other supplies they consume frequently or to store items they do not use frequently such as boxes, cleaning items and utensils.

They also need storage for items they use around the house, such as clothes, books and decorative items.

## 5 INTERIOR FINISH

This is a combination of quality materials and craftsmanship. The higher the price point, the higher the expectation for quality interior finish which includes, but not limited to, the placement and installation of fittings and features, flooring, and the quality of joineries.

## 6 FUNCTIONALITY

This refers to the layout of the spaces. The convenience and flow of circulation, how effective and efficient the design is, cross ventilation, quality of lighting, kitchen and





## 7 PRICE

If you have all the boxes above checked, it is easier to lease or sell. However, even if all the boxes are ticked but the price is not competitive, prospects may pass over your property. The price is usually influenced by a verity of factors—source and cost of funding, cost of construction, cost of land, and profit margins. To enjoy good profit margins and remain competitive, you have to keep the cost of other variables low.

For the investor, the profit is made at the purchase. Hence, every investor is looking to buy at the best price possible.

Don't just build what you want and expect people to buy; build what people want to buy.

Innovating to provide remarkable housing solutions that meet market demands is the surest way to succeeding as a real estate developer. If you do not want to compete solely on price or spend heavily on advertising, then you must take into consideration ways to innovate to so as to provide remarkable housing solutions.

We strongly believe that housing should not only solve shelter problem, but it should also improve the life of the occupants. If your project meets the requirements discussed in this article, you can be sure it will sell itself.



*"If marketing is communicating to the consumer that you have solved their problem, marketing is in fact to solve their problem."*

*- Seth Godin*



# HERE LIVED A GREAT SWEEPER!

TOMISIN JULIET FAOYE

**DANIEL AKANBI** hated his job at the radio station and everybody knew it. It was obvious in the heavy frown he wore to work everyday, and in the grim way he spoke to his colleagues. He barely smiled and often wore dark sun glasses, even within the studio. And when he'd finish his shift and return to his office, he'd lock the door, and only open it again around six in the evening when he was ready to return to his apartment in the suburbs.

He was never excited, nor depressed. He simply wore a blank look, rid of any expression. Nothing fascinated him. Nothing other than Annette Amaha and her strange ways.

Annette was a simple woman. Small, with a simple personality. She was mostly cheerful, related with everyone at the station, and was so loved by the rest of the staff that if one didn't know better, they'd think she was something more than a mere secretary. Annette came to work with a big smile and went back home with the same. She knew every single co worker by name and always had a compliment to pull out for everyone she met. She walked with rhythm in her steps and hummed happy songs all the time

Daniel Akanbi often found himself watching her, wondering what it was that consistently kept her happy, because he was certain it wasn't the meager salary she took home at the end of every month.

He'd been wanting to ask her about it but was certain she would find it much too strange. But today, as he sat in his car in the drive way, watching her step out of the Taxi that had dropped her off. He decided to feed his curiosity.

"Hey!" He called out to her as he stepped out of the black Mercedes.

Annette froze as she saw him. He expression somewhat confused.

"Me?" She asked.

He nodded and she walked over, greeting him nervously.

"How do you do it?" He asked blatantly, with that same grim expression.

"Do what?" She asked with a faint nervous smile, hoping there was someone else in the parking lot who could come to her aid in case the psychopath tried to attack her.

"Stay happy." Daniel said and shrugged. "You're never sad or upset. You're always in the mood to laugh to a joke, or give someone a compliment. Don't you think that's stupid."

Annette burst out laughing loudly. She laughed so much that tears started to fall from her eyes. In all this time, Daniel remained expressionless.

"Oh Mr Daniel!" She finally said. "It's crazy because I've been meaning to ask you the same question, but from the opposite end." She looked him in the eyes. "Why are you never happy? Why do you never give compliments or laugh at jokes? Don't you think that's sad?"





"No. I don't." He answered plainly. "I simply live as the situation dictates. Nothing about this jobs excites me. I spend the entire day discussing politics and the sour state of the nation. That doesn't excite me. Now I don't know what about your job excites you. Maybe it's the coffee you serve, the messages you deliver, or the papers you photocopy."

Annette Amaha smiled and spoke with full conviction "Mr Daniel, it is said that a person needs only three things to be happy in life. Someone to love, something to do, and something to hope for. In my case I have something to do. I have a job. It's like Steve Jobs once said. 'Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be satisfied is to do what you believe to be great work, and the only way to do great work, is to love what you do.'"

He raised his brows and asked sardonically. "Is that so?" "Yes." She said and smiled. "So I live my life doing exactly what Martin Luther King Junior advised. He wisely said that 'If you're a street sweeper, then go out there and sweep the streets like Michaelangelo painted pictures. Sweep streets like Handel and Beethoven composed music. Sweep streets like Shakespeare wrote poetry. Sweep the streets so well that all the hosts of heaven and earth will have to pause and say 'here lived a great sweeper who did his job well.'"

"She paused and smiled. "I want to be the greatest secretary that ever lived."

Daniel Akanbi stared at her for a what seemed like an eternity. Finally, he smiled. "So you don't only walk around giving compliments, you throw around motivational quotes as well."

Annette gave out a charming laughter. "They could come in handy sometimes."

Daniel Akanbi smiled again. "You should use them more often. They are way more meaningful than your compliments."

"OK boss." She said and smiled.

"You have a nice smile." Daniel said as he walked away. It was not until a caller told him later that day, that he sounded like he'd woken up on the right side of the bed for the first time ever, did he realize that Annette Amaha's wise quotes had actually shone some light into the darkness he'd chosen to live in.





MAI SHAYI

COFFEE

ESTD 1981







The first time I heard about Mai Shayi Coffee Roasters, I couldn't contain my excitement. The name fascinated me so much that I raced to their Instagram handle, explored their page, clicked on the 'follow' option, and started to rave to my friends about the coolest 'Mai Shayi' place in Abuja even before I got to visit it.

I'm not exactly a coffee person, but this place literally made me fall in love with the concept of brewing the beverage. I wanted to try their special coffee, and see with my own eyes the magic I saw on their page. But I must say, that my experience there was indeed beyond magic.

The first thing I noticed when I stepped into the café was the relaxing atmosphere. The café is one of those places where you cannot help but sit back and chill. More so because they do not allow people to come in with laptops or other possible working gadgets. Yes! They want to prevent certain individuals from turning a nice coffee date into a work meeting. Lol.

Another thing that I found to be very creative was the fact that the surface of the tables were designed with coffee beans trapped in spotless glass. I hadn't seen such a unique furniture design anywhere before so I must say, it was very eye-catching.

If you haven't been to Dubai before, and you're looking to go there someday, or maybe you have and want to relive the experience, then Mai Shayi Coffee Roasters simply has to be your next stop.

This Dubai themed café has the ambience, the feel, and the look of a café in the beautiful Arabian city. In fact, their staff uniforms are just as stylish as those of the air hostesses on U.A.E. flights. No kidding!

Beyond being stylishly dressed, the staff at Mai Shayi Coffee Roasters are very efficient. One visit to the place and I could tell that they were all very well trained in their field. They had lovely countenances, spoke politely, and ensured that the orders were timely.

Beyond offering an exquisite coffee experience, Mai Shayi Coffee Roasters offers a menu with a wide range of local and international food and drinks. From Zobo juices to cocktails, from masa dishes to barbeque ribs and mac and cheese, the cafe proves to be a great place to have coffee, a nice cold drinks, or even a full meal.

The place is designed with beautiful works of art. And adding a touch of mystery, is the grand coffee brown shelf that holds what I can only describe as beautiful coffee ornaments, and a couple of closed boxes that make you wonder what treasures they could contain.

Both the three year old Lagos branch, and the newborn Abuja branch of the cafe are simply a must see for not just coffee lovers, but for everyone who likes to visit beautiful places. I'm sure you're in that category! So pick a date and visit the most amazing "Mai Shayi place" in Nigeria. I promise you'll absolutely fall in love with it. Don't take my word for it though. Go see for yourself!





Setting the Sp[🎯]light on  
DIANE RUSSET



# SETTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON DIANE RUSSET

Born on the 28th of February, 1996, Precious Yunana Yashim—popularly known as Diane Russet—is an actress, model, influencer, entrepreneur, and former Big Brother Naija housemate.

After spending her childhood and adolescent years in Kaduna, where she hails from, Russet proceeded to the University of Debrecen in Hungary, where she took a foundational course and then went on to pursue a bachelor's degree in molecular biology and genetics at the Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus.

Diane Russet rose to fame in 2019, when she participated in the popular Big Brother Naija reality TV show. In spite of not emerging as the winner of the show, Diane leveraged the fame awarded her via the show and stepped powerfully into the Nollywood arena, starring in movies such as Record, Bayi, Storm, The Therapist and Trailer.

Beyond being an entertainer, Russet owns and manages several businesses alongside her thriving modeling and acting careers. She is the owner and professional chef at Russet's Kitchen, an online service that provides customers with a wide variety of continental dishes and pastries. She also owns Russet TV, which produced the drama series, Ricordi. Ricordi bagged the award for best drama series at the 2023 AMVCA awards.

As a filmmaker, media personality and influencer, Russet's achievements in the various industries she is involved in, and her remarkable social media following, serve as proof of her drive, determination and consistency in the pursuit of her goals.

=At this pace, Russet is headed for the peak of greatness in Africa and the world at large. We can't wait to see the wonders she'll perform next!







*Review*  
**Habil Cafe, Abuja**  
By Tomisin Juliet Faoye





Habil café is one place in Abuja which truly gives you that warm feeling. The serenity you feel when you step into this place is just so surreal.

One thing that truly impressed me is how much the café was able to blend the company you enjoy in public places, with the privacy you get in your own personal space.

Another very fascinating feature of the café are the lights. The beautiful kettle shaped lamps which hang by chains from the ceiling is just so amazing. Strangely it reminds me so much of the Yoruba creation mythology which tells of how Odudua climbed down from heaven by a chain.

The café offers enticing breakfast, brunch and lunch options. Desert and drinks too. It would be a crime for me not to mention the delicious carrot cake, and the exquisitely prepared Thai noodles. I recommend the noodles to all my fellow foodies.

At Habil café, you can enjoy a casual date, observe some much needed alone time, dine and chill with friends, or even get some work done. It definitely beats any office space.

With a relaxing atmosphere, subtle music, the most comfortable furniture, and inspiring coffee quotes at every corner, Habil café definitely beats the bar. I recommend it to you. 100%!!!





# OGWA IWAEZE'S

Spotlight

**FINANCIAL LITERACY  
EXPERT**

**FASHION ICON**



As you know, this edition is aimed at celebrating excellence in every ramification. So in the light of this, we caught up with someone who truly has an aura of excellence. She is a content creator, fashion icon, financial literacy expert and influencer. She is the beautiful Ogwa Iwaeze.

**1. You are a fashion entrepreneur, content creator, and influencer. What motivates you to do all you do?**

First of all, I believe in finding what you love, and doing those things. I personally love everything I do and I find joy in doing these things. Aside from earning a living from them, they are things that really excite me. For example, creating new content is always a joy for me because I like to see how effective it would be and how people receive it. And the same thing goes for fashion. I've always loved fashion, I've always liked dressing up. It comes naturally to me so regardless of how I feel, these are things that will always be part of who I am.

**2. You own a women's wear brand, DYZN. What was the inspiration behind it?**

DYZN was inspired by first of all, finding something to do, and obviously, like I said, having that innate love for dressing up. And then also, seeing how amazing it was to dress people and the sort of feedback I would get from them and how they felt. When I see how people's faces light up when they wear something they really like and they feel good, it's almost like you're selling confidence or you're selling some kind of pride and self esteem. It's an amazing feeling and that's one of the things that have kept me going with the brand

**3. What inspires your personal fashion choices?**

My personal fashion choices are very much inspired by how I feel. I'm an extrovert. I definitely like to network. I like to socialize, I like to go out, and I like to stand out. So a lot of the things I wear are either experiments which I just try, or trends that I like, colours that I like. Sometimes I just decide to try something based off of how I think it would look because it comes to me in my head and I think 'Ok, this would look nice' and I try it on and yeah. I think it is very important to find your personality when it comes to fashion and find what makes you feel good when you wear it.

It may not be the same thing for the next person but I'm very very in touch with what I like as an individual and that's what I choose to wear.

**4. Literally every single one of your Instagram posts has one inspiring caption or the other. How do you manage to always stay so motivated, and motivate others?**

My Instagram captions, OK. So first of all, I'm one who really goes by instinct. Gut feeling, energy. Many times when I'm doing a post, I feel a certain way. I think about certain things and get inspired to read up on things, find inspiring quotes. I love quotes. They are one of the things I really like, and if you were on my page, you would notice that I draw a lot of inspiration from quotes because I feel like people's experiences help us. They are there to teach us things so most of my captions come from that. Sometimes, it's just the way I feel at the time. Other times it's the video that gives me inspiration to write the caption. Sometimes it's just me feeling like I need to send a message.

Also, I'm always inspired by people who respond to these messages saying 'This touched me' or 'Thanks. This helped me today.' It really pushes me to keep putting out what I feel. So most of the time, if a quote really inspires me, I might save it on my phone. I might google and read up on stuff, then take a quote from there and post, all depending on how I feel. And to be honest, I always say this with most of my videos, content creation is not something you do everyday.

One might see a series of videos on my page and feel or think that this is me on a daily basis. But no. Sometimes it's just a collection of saved content that I put out over time and then I find time to create more of those types of things so it's archived and I can use it as time goes on because I always say to people, you will not always feel like creating content. Sometimes you feel a bit overwhelmed, sometimes you feel you're too busy so you create based on the time that you have and you take advantage of when you feel very inspired and create as much as you can at that time, and then you spread it, and you go on.

**5. You visit a lot of great places within and outside the capital city. Do you believe Abuja has the tendency or potential to become a major tourist attraction?**



Absolutely! I strongly believe that with any city, proper planning, and being intentional about how the city is packaged and put out there would definitely make a difference. So for example, the way Abuja is, there is still a lot of potential. You know, with things that are coming up, if its put out properly, and people see the right message, then yeah, it definitely has potential to attract a good audience. You often hear people say I've never been to Nigeria, I've only been to Lagos. And sometimes you feel like maybe this place doesn't really have anything because they haven't really heard or seen anything.

So if someone says to me "Oh, by looking at your page, I see there are a lot of good spots I can visit when I'm here", then that's good cause it means the message they read from my page is sending the right signal for them to come and explore the city. Abuja definitely has amazing spots. I visited one resort, there's another one I want to go to, we have the zoo, we have restaurants, hang out spots, and new things are coming up everyday. So Abuja can absolutely become a very good tourist destination. Absolutely!

#### **6. Financial literacy is one area that you are quite interested in. What fuels this interest?**

Financial literacy for me, is one of those things that once you discover, you cannot keep quiet about. The reason why its so important is because without this, you would end up living your life in a circle. You'd keep going round and round and doing the same things and you realize that over years which you can't get back, you haven't actually made much progress. So you need to understand certain principles. You need to open your eyes to see how the wealthy make money and sustain their wealth. Because its not just about making money.

It's about sustaining the money you make. How do you make it continue to work for you? So these things are quite important and since I discovered certain principles that work for me, it is key to share it amongst other people. The more people who can at least take advantage and listen to these principles, the more amazing it would be. You'd have more people achieving their lives' goals, because money is very important and it helps in every situation so its definitely something that more people need to take advantage of. One of the major things in financial literacy is understand the power of compounding. That alone is a game changer, and for most people, they do not understand it, or they

just don't want to. Or maybe they haven't put their minds in the right place. Another thing is making your money work for you. Because whether or not you are active, if you have money working for you, you would always have more money. So yes, its really, really important to me and I pray that more people can learn and achieve financial freedom

#### **7. What is your number one financial principle?**

My number one financial principle would absolutely be compounding. This is because you need to understand that getting rich is a time thing. It takes decisions and it takes actions. So you don't have to have a lot of money to start growing wealth, you just have to understand the power of compounding. It's absolutely power. It's mind blowing! Its a game changer. The fact that anyone, by just following the right principle, can take a little amount of money and grow it into something big over time is absolutely amazing. People need to understand that it will take time. I'm not talking about a get rich quick scheme, but understanding a principle and applying it I almost every area. It doesn't really matter where you put your money, but just knowing that you have a little money and you're going to delay your gratification and grow that amount of money, for me is absolutely everything.

#### **8. What are your three best tips for living your best life?**

The first one would be knowing who you are. This is one of those things that I believe takes time.





Who are you? What are the things that drive you? What are the things that you really love? You have to take time to find yourself. Once you've been able to do that, then it's easy to know the things you like and the things you don't like. You're very sure of yourself and you're not going by what anyone else tells you to do. The second thing is being intentional. This means that if you choose to do XYZ, you set your mind to doing these things, you don't derail, or allow changes, you actually are intentional. The third thing is to stay positive, and to stay positive is an active thing.

You have to continually feed your mind with the right words, hang out with the right people and be optimistic about life. You literally have to always, always remove yourself from negative situations and negative thoughts. No one is saying they won't come, but you must gather the power to always push yourself out of these situations. Do not let yourself wallow in self pity and complain, rather look at solutions, look at the way forward. This would absolutely help anyone.



9. If you could live in any city in the world, where would it be?

If I could live in any city, it would absolutely be Dubai. I have a soft spot for Dubai. I really feel my best when I'm in that city. Everything about it reminds me of the best of life. Like, you see things that seem impossible to achieve and it just makes you sort of dream. It gives you that fire because you see that anything is possible. You see the luxurious side of life, you see money, you see wealth, and these things remind you that if you want to achieve something, you have to work hard and work smart. Yes! Dubai is my absolute favourite city

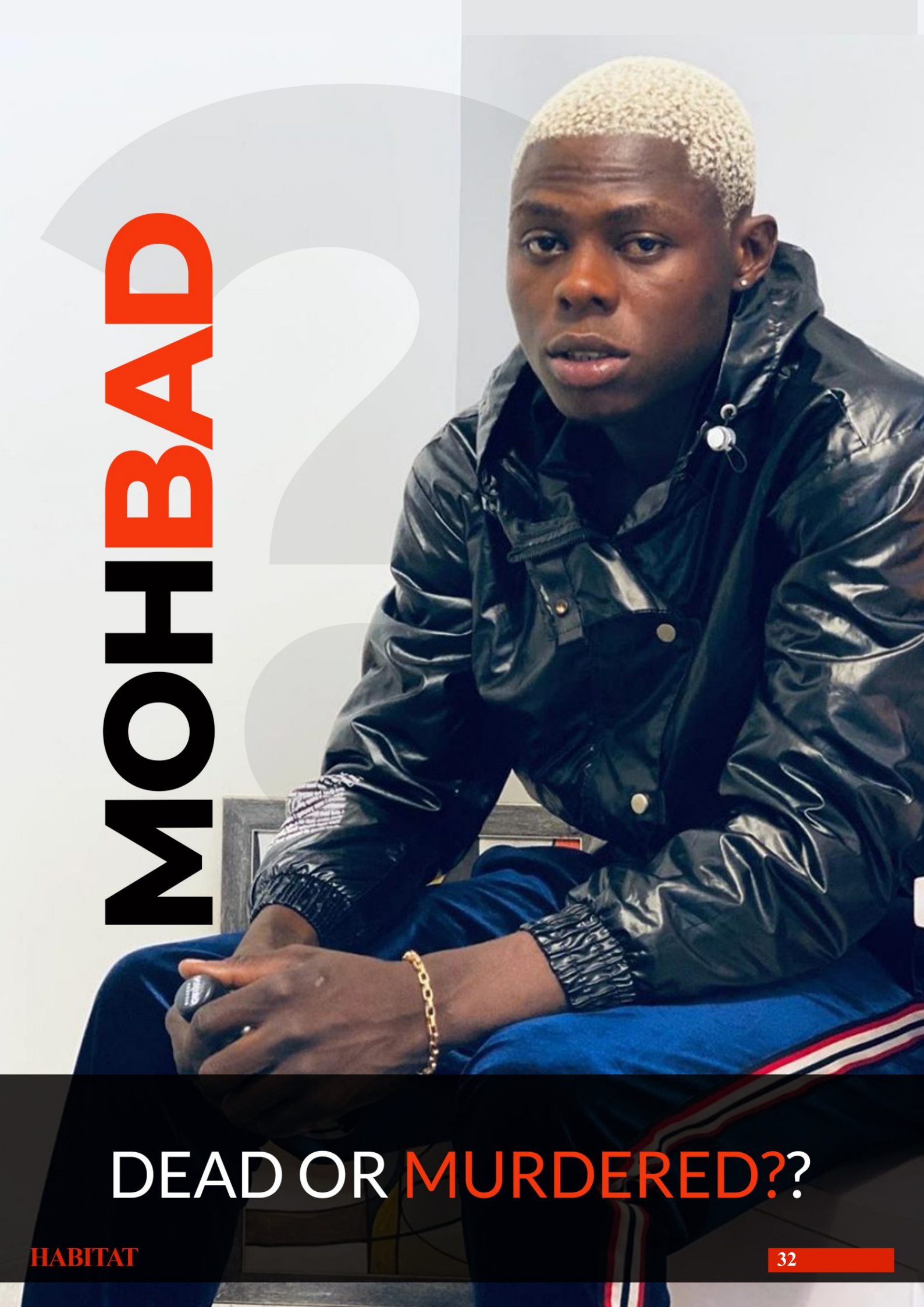


10. What are some necessary features which a house must have to make it feel like home to you? What makes a house home to you?

One of the things I really love is having family time. So a beautiful dining area would definitely be it for me. Obviously, food brings people together, so having a beautiful dining area, comfortable dining chairs where you can sit even after you've eaten and have conversations and you're all able to look at each other, I think that's definitely a feature. Another feature would be having a very comfortable TV room, very soft furnishing, a soft sofa where you can all sit down and watch TV and have a nice lounge time together as a family, or even as an individual if you don't have a family. So yes, those definitely add to giving a house that homely feel.







# MOHBAAD

DEAD OR **MURDERED??**





Among the questions that have sparked intense curiosity, particularly among Nigerian youths, is the mysterious demise of Mohbad. Did he truly pass away, or was he a victim of foul play? For those who might not be familiar with Mohbad, let's delve into his remarkable journey.

Ilerioluwa Oladimeji Aloba, better known as Mohbad, was a multi-talented Nigerian artiste, singer, songwriter, and rapper. Born on January 3, 1996, he tragically left this world on September 12, 2023, at the tender age of 27.

He initially rose to fame under the banner of Marlian Records, an outfit founded by Naira Marley. His track "KPK (Ko Por Ke)" became a massive hit that's likely etched in your memory.

Mohbad was more than just an artiste: he was a husband and a father. His talent was recognized with nominations for various awards. He released his debut album, *Light*, in the fourth quarter of 2020 as a follow-up to his viral song "Ponmo", which featured Naira Marley and Lil Kesh. He was nominated five times for The Beatz Awards 2021 and was listed in Audiomack's top 21 Afrobeat artists of 2021.

In 2022, he released "Peace", produced by REXXIE. The song peaked on the TurnTable top 50 in 2021 and top 100 in 2022. After the announcement of his death, "Peace" became a major hit, reaching number one on Apple Music in Nigeria and was accompanied by his single "Ask About Me", at number two. As of September 15, "Beast & Peace", the opening track on *Blessed*, was at number four and "Feel Good" at number five. Between the 12th and 14th of September, 2023, his streams increased by 702%, from 990,000 to 8.02 million. "Peace" went on to debut on Billboard's Hot Trending Songs chart at number two.

On September 18, 2023, *Blessed* reached a new peak at number four, and *Light* made its first chart entry at number 20 on the Nigerian Official Top 50 Albums chart. On September 21, streams of *Blessed* increased by over 530%.

And by September 23, he became the 46th best-selling digital artiste, surpassing international artistes such as Nicki Minaj, Eminem, 21 Savage, Lady Gaga, and Chris Brown. In the wake of Mohbad's passing, an investigative storm brewed, with theories swirling like leaves in the wind. Some whispered that he met an untimely end; others suggested he was mistakenly buried alive, only to perish in his grave.





The shroud of mystery around his demise seemed impenetrable.

The Lagos State Police Command also weighed in, offering their version of events.

They claimed that a brawl with his childhood friend, Prime Boy, inflicted fatal injuries on Mohbad. Furthermore, an inquiry into the nurse who administered an injection to Mohbad, Miss Fisayo Ogedengbe, revealed that this injection set off a chain reaction, ultimately culminating in his tragic passing.

To complicate matters, reports surfaced alleging that Mohbad faced bullying and harassment, with Naira Marley and Sam Larry coming under suspicion. Mohbad's own words stoked the flames: "If anything happens to me, Naira Marley and the entire Marlian Records should be held accountable."

Rumours swirled further, suggesting that Mohbad's wife, Omowunmi, and his father might have played a role in the hasty burial arrangements instead of letting a thorough investigation unfold. Some hinted at Mohbad's involvement in a shadowy world of drugs, implying that this may have led to his untimely demise when he sought an exit.

This question will undoubtedly persist in the minds of Nigerians: "Did Mohbad simply die, or was he the victim of a sinister plot?" This is one of such enigmas that continue to haunt us, reminding us that, in the end, the truth may forever elude our grasp.

In spite of all these, Mohbad will forever remain alive in the hearts of the millions of Nigerians who have completely immersed themselves in his story and in his music. Mohbad's death brought his music into the limelight, as it caused even those who did not like his genre to intentionally seek out his songs.

His tragic death brought him an international recognition that would have been groundbreaking had it been in his lifetime. It is, however, safe to say that Mohbad will forever be fondly remembered, and though dead, he will live on.





MAKEUP 360

**STUDIO | COSMETICS | TRAINING**

Suite C07 Maitama Shopping Complex F.H.A Maitama Abuja



0906 6176 566, 0805 229 2973

@makeup\_360 | Info@shopmakeup360.com

WWW.SHOPMAKEUP360.COM



# WHEN LIFE SHOWS YOU PEPPER



**EVER HEARD** of the guy who made 999 failed attempts at creating the first light bulb? History holds that he only got it right after his 1000th attempt. Sounds like something that's easier said than done right? But that's not the point I'm pitching. Read that second sentence again highlight the words "history holds".

This guy, who we know to be Thomas Alva Edison, was an American business man and inventor whose name will forever remain in the history books. This man's inventions remain a vital part of our present day reality. From motion picture, to sound recording, to electric power generation, Edison's genius has helped shape our lives today. But before reaching that point, our guy was a down-on-his-luck inventor who didn't seem to be getting anything right. But today, nearly a century later, Edison's name still rings a loud bell. A bell that wouldn't have existed if he had decided to take the easy road and simply give up.

Life can be tough sometimes. In naija terms, life can show you pepper. But what differentiates the average guy on the street who doesn't achieve much, from the one whom history remembers is simply the will to keep pushing. PESEVERANCE!!

Now, everyone knows that this perseverance is not an easy task. However, research has shown that the presence of dopamine in the body gives people the ability to persevere and achieve a goal. Scientists have discovered that a higher level of dopamine in one's body is synonymous to a higher level of perseverance. Neuroscientific research has gone on to prove that higher levels of dopamine fuels the internal drive some people have to persevere while lower dopamine levels cause others to give up.

Now, one would ask, 'how do I increase my dopamine level?' The easiest way to achieve this is by setting little goals for one's self. From planning to finish your chores before a particular time, to making it a goal to call five distant relatives a week, setting little goals and achieving them is an excellent dopamine booster.

Making a to do list and achieving it is also a great way to improve your dopamine level.





To many people, perseverance is synonymous with pain and suffering, so by default, they want to avoid it. They prefer to take the road that appears to be easier.

But if you want to truly succeed, you must stop viewing perseverance as drudgery but as an opportunity to neurochemically boost your confidence and make you feel good about yourself. You must view it as a chance to break away from the norm and achieve great feats in history. Perseverance or the lack of it is the reason why certain people keep pushing and others quit.

In the words of Henry Ford, "There is joy in work. There is no happiness except in the realization that we have accomplished something."

Life will show pepper. It could be in form of a difficult boss, a 'village people' like coworker, a problematic family member, or like Edison, it could be in the form of 999 failed attempts. I know of a fiction writer who only got a publishing contract after having had her manuscript rejected about seventy times. Today her book is a bestseller.

Whatever the case might be, one thing remains constant, you have to keep pushing! Make it your goal to smile at that obnoxious individual everyday.

Make it your goal to try again even after a streak of failures. Make it a goal to get up more times than you fall. When you feel like giving up (because you will), just think of all that could be if you persevered. When you're plagued with the 'what if I fail' sort of questions, choose to focus on the 'what if I succeed' sort of possibility.

Tyler Perry was once a down on his luck actor who had to live in his car. Today he is the biggest afro American film producer in Hollywood.

My dear comrade! Life will show you pepper, but this is not a signal to get tired, weary, angry, or depressed. Rather, embrace the situation, study it, learn it, master it, and then beat it. Beause tough times don't always last, but tough people do! Achieve that goal! Make pepper soup out of the pepper life shows you!



# A SEASON OF SURPRISES: TWISTS AND TURNS IN BBNAIJA SEASON 8



The highly-anticipated Big Brother Naija reality show for 2023 has just been concluded, leaving fans across Nigeria and beyond buzzing with excitement. As always, the show delivered its fair share of drama, entertainment and unexpected twists.

The Big Brother Naija All Stars 2023 was highly anticipated, and brought together former housemates of the Big Brother Naija show. The show is a spin-off of the popular Big Brother Naija reality TV show, which has been entertaining viewers for over a decade.

The All Stars edition featured carefully selected housemates and fan favourites from previous

editions of the show, which included See Gobe, Double Wahala, Pepper Dem, Lockdown, Shine Ya Eye, and Level Up. The headline sponsor of the show was MoniePoint, and the associate sponsor was HFM Nigeria.

The cast for the All Stars edition, which premiered on the evening of Sunday, July 13, 2023, featured 20 ex-housemates: Pere, CeeC, Alex, Kiddwaya, Mercy, Tolanibaj, Angel, Neo, Alex, Cross, Seyi, White Money, Uriel, Doyin, Princess, Soma, Ike, Adekunle, Venita and Ilebaye.

Here is a rundown of some exciting features and moments on the show:





### INCREASED PRIZE MONEY

This season's prize saw an extra ₦20m increase from last year's ₦100m grand prize. The winner of the 2023 season of the reality TV show took home a whopping ₦120m.

### THE EVICTION JURY

Organizers introduced a few twists in this season of the show, one of which is the introduction of an eviction jury, comprising former housemates tasked with deciding which housemate nominated for eviction that week stays or leaves. This elimination method was eventually canceled by organizers, following the backlash that followed the eviction of some housemates netizens deemed unfair. Some jury members were Mike, Saskay, Bisola, Dorathy, Elozonam and Vee.

### ADEKUNLE OLOPADE, THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE

Adekunle Olopade, known simply as Adekunle, emerged as the season's first head of the house, earning him immunity from eviction that week. A twist many did not see coming early in the house occurred on the night of Monday, July 24, 2023, after the head-of-house game. Other heads of house for the season included:

Adekunle, Kiddwaya, Ike, Mercy Eke, Soma, Doyin, Sholzy, Cross, Ilebaye and Cross.

### THE "BLACK ENVELOPE CHALLENGE"

Mercy won the first "black envelope challenge", a new twist introduced by organizers, granting any housemate who finds it immunity from eviction that week.

### UNEXPECTED CHEMISTRY AND ROMANCE

The Big Brother Naija All-Stars house experienced a surge of excitement when Uriel and Neo unexpectedly shared a passionate kiss during the first Saturday party. The chemistry between the two housemates was evident as they danced intimately throughout the night. Pere, one of the housemates, took a bold step and pulled Ike aside for a private conversation about Mercy Eke. As fans may remember, Ike and Mercy met during the fourth season of Big Brother Naija, and started a passionate romance that continued beyond the show's confines.

However, their love story hit a rough patch and ended dramatically with public revelations about their failed relationship.



In a surprising twist, Pere confessed his attraction to Mercy and expressed a genuine interest in getting to know her better during their chat. Tolanibaj and Kiddwaya were witnesses to this candid conversation, and they seemed impressed by Pere's bold move.

Astonishingly, Ike appeared to be supportive and relaxed about the possibility of Pere pursuing Mercy, giving him his blessing.

But that wasn't the end of the romantic revelations. In the same conversation, it came to light that another housemate, Cross, might also be "eyeing" Mercy Eke.

This revelation led Tolanibaj to exclaim, "May the best man win!" as the competition for Mercy's affections became apparent. Mercy Eke kissed Kiddwaya in front of the head of house lounge and when Ebuka asked about it, she denied remembering anything like that. After Kiddwaya was evicted, she had a thing with White Money, which she called an alliance in a bid for both of them to make it to the finals. However, they kissed during this alliance and when White Money was evicted, Ebuka asked him about his relationship with Mercy Eke, to which he confessed his feelings for her.

After White Money was evicted, Mercy moved to Pere. They kissed a number of times, and they had a very close relationship.

Many would opine that Mercy's relationship with the guys in the house was more of a strategy than real love. Aside from Mercy and her many conquests, Angel also had a romantic relationship with Soma, and Cross with Kim Oprah.

Neo was also a point of attraction to most of the girls in the house because he was a tall, good-looking young man. CeeC emphasized on his neatness and his nice set of teeth which attracted her to him.

### **ILEBAYE ODINIYA'S VICTORY**

The show came to an end with Ilebaye Odiniya emerging as the winner of the ₦120 million grand prize ahead of Mercy Eke becoming the ultimate queen of the reality show.

Ilebaye Odiniya, a 22-year-old reality star hailing from Kogi State, captured the hearts of viewers with her unwavering determination, undeniable charisma, and an army of devoted fans that propelled her to the coveted title.

The grand prize of 120 million naira was a testament to her strategic gameplay and the profound connection she forged with the audience. Throughout the season, Ilebaye proved herself a formidable contender, leaving an indelible mark on the All Stars edition.

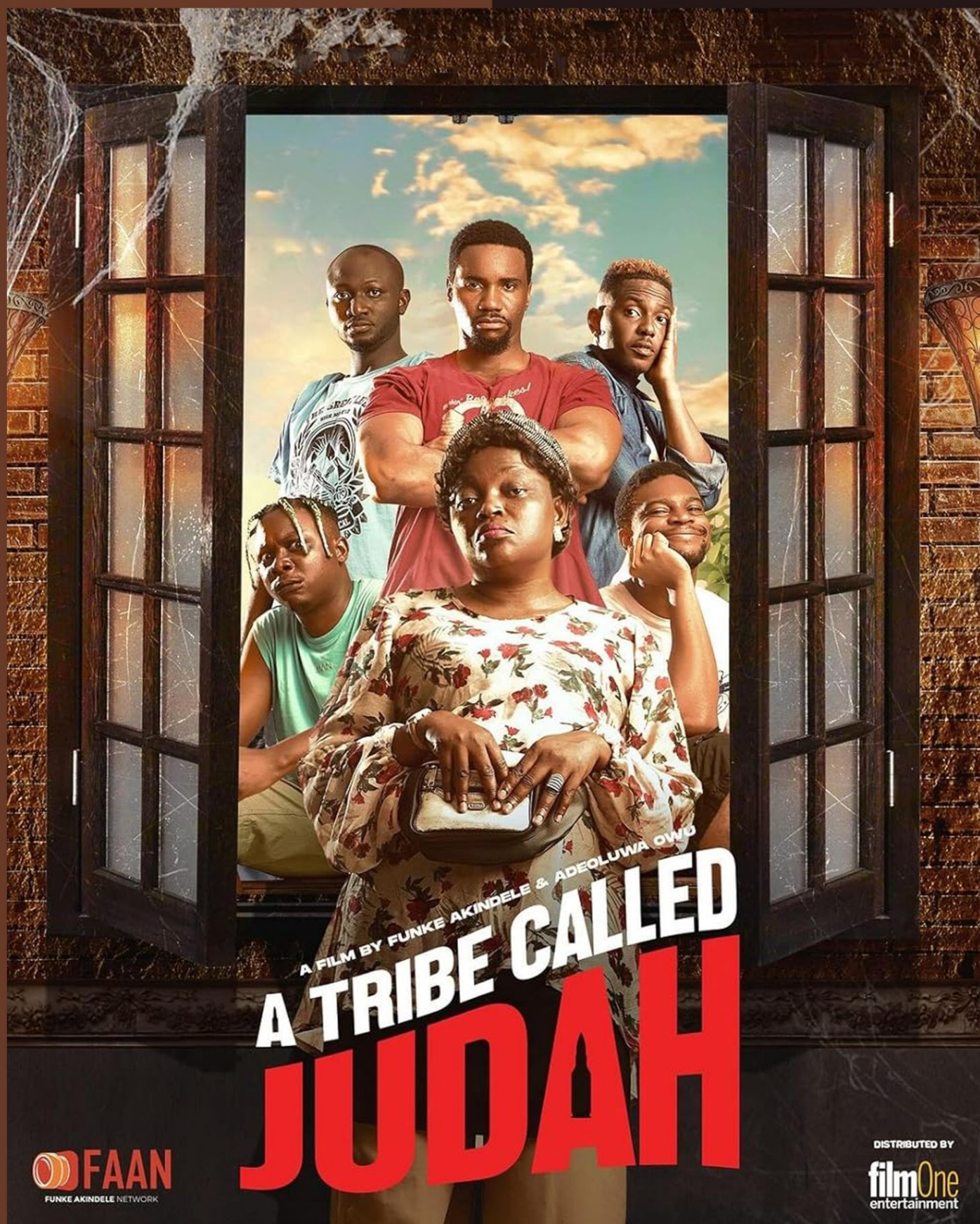
The six finalists were Cross, Ilebaye, CeeC, Mercy Eke, Adekunle and Pere.

Big Brother Naija All Stars 2023 was a spectacular showcase of talent, drama, and entertainment. It brought together some of the most beloved and controversial housemates from previous seasons, creating an exhilarating atmosphere for both contestants and viewers. The challenges, drama, evictions and grand finale all contributed to making this season a memorable one. As fans eagerly await future editions of Big Brother Naija, the All Stars edition will undoubtedly remain etched in their minds as a testament to the power of reality TV.





# REVIEW ON



By Tomisin Juliet Faoye





It is no secret that Funke Akindele is known for making excellent movies. If nothing else, the Jenifa franchise—and the magic she was able to create out of it—surely speaks volumes about her prowess both as an actress and as a filmmaker.

However, in spite of her record-breaking reputation, her newest contribution to Nollywood surely surpasses all of her previous strides. Yes, I'm talking about **A Tribe Called Judah**!

Released on the 15th of December, 2023, Funke Akindele's latest movie has set a new standard for Nollywood and further placed Nigeria on the map of creativity. Set in Lagos, Nigeria, the movie tells the story of Jedidah Judah, a woman who has five sons from five different fathers, who hail from five different parts of the country.

Pretty crazy, right? Well, the initial skepticism that one may feel when they start watching the movie is quickly dissolved as the story unfolds

.As the movie proceeds, we get to experience an almost tear-jerking story of desperation, love and sacrifice. When their mother falls terribly ill, Jedidah's five sons stake a robbery to pull the funds she needs for her treatment.

Now, there are many things that Funke Akindele did right when it comes to this movie. The first of these is the casting. The movie featured Jide Kene Achufusi as Emeka Judah, Uzee Usman as Adamu Judah, Timini Egbuson as Pere Judah, Tobi Makinde as Shina Judah, Olumide Oworu as Ejiro Judah, Genoveva Umeh as Testimony, Ebele Okaro as Grandma, Uzor Arukwe as Chairman Chigozie Onouha, and Nse Ikpe Etim as Collette.

Many of them played roles that were a little different from what we are used to seeing them do. Uzor Arukwe, for one, excellently portryed the role of a ruthless, yet humourous, businessman who is secretly a money launderer. He played this role excellently well and pulled off a perfect Igbo accent (yes, with the misplaced Rs and Ls!).



Funke Akindele herself excellently played the leading role of Jedidah Judah, proving once again her versatility as an actress.

Another thing this movie did right is the way the story was told. A story about siblings robbing to pay their mother's hospital bills has definitely graced our screens before, but Funke Akindele

Whether this was an intentional lesson or not, viewers will surely take this to be a pointer or a reminder of the fact that alcoholics are prone to such illnesses.

Overall, I believe that with A Tribe Called Judah, Funke Akindele has managed to tell a complete story.

This is because the story encompasses issues of faith, finances, family struggle, and even the familiar individual struggles of many young Nigerians which we see in the life of each son.

The movie has taught hard lessons such as the price to pay for robbery, but has used good storytelling and humour to help them sink in seamlessly. Its biblically based title as well as the integration of cultural diversity into the plot sets the movie apart amongst its counterparts.

So far, A Tribe Called Judah had grossed over ₦1.3B and this figure continues to increase daily. This is a testament to Nollywood's steady climb in the film industry around the world. We hope it only gets better.

To Funke Akindele, we can only offer a crown because she is indeed a queen!



was able to take a common story and tell it in an uncommon way, using memorable characters and amazing twists.

Another really amazing thing was the fact that the movie contained some subtle yet vital lessons. One of these is embedded in the fact that Jedidah Judah developed a kidney disease after years of excessive alcohol consumption.



# DREAM *Away*



**LEGEND**  
LAGOS AIRPORT  
CURIO COLLECTION  
by Hilton

QUITS AVIATION SERVICE FREE ZONE  
MURTALA MUHAMMED INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IKEJA LAGOS NIGERIA.  
[WWW.LEGENDHOTELLAGOSAIRPORT.CURIOCOLLECTION.COM](http://WWW.LEGENDHOTELLAGOSAIRPORT.CURIOCOLLECTION.COM)  
+234 (0) 1 904 4111 | [LEGENDHOTEL.RESERVATION@HILTON.COM](mailto:LEGENDHOTEL.RESERVATION@HILTON.COM)

**Hilton**  
CleanStay