



iwa

INSPIRING
WOMAN
AFRICA

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SHALOM
IJEOMA
LLOYD (MBE)

ON PHARMACY AND THE GLOBAL BUSINESS OF SKINCARE

Inspiring Woman Africa Series

14

THEME Leadership Redefined: Charting New Paths To Excellence

CONVENER



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GUEST OF HONOUR



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CONTENTS

COVER INTERVIEW

SHALOM IJEOMA LLOYD (MBE) 5

HER POINT OF VIEW

How to Future-Proof Your Career in a Changing Workplace 13

WOMAN EXECUTIVE

Legacy Leadership: Building Beyond Your Tenure 15

FINANCIAL AdviseHER

Investing Is Not Gambling 17

GENDER INSIGHTS

The High Cost of Shortcuts: Why Some Roads to Wealth Lead to Regret 19

WOMAN AT THE HELM

Nkemdilim Uwaje Begho 21

WE'VE GOT MEN

Austin Okere 23

HOLISTIC LIVING

The Quiet Revolution: Redefining Self-Care as an Act of Everyday Courage 25

TRIBE WITH THE VIBES

The girl, how safe is she in the world? 27

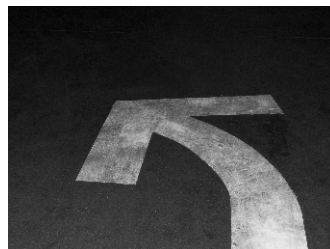
GARB AND GLAM

IT'S A SUIT AFFAIR 28



▶ 17

FINANCIAL AdviseHER
Investing Is Not
Gambling



▶ 19

GENDER INSIGHTS
The High Cost of Shortcuts:
Why Some Roads to Wealth
Lead to Regret





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Welcome!

Dear Readers,

It is somewhat weird how the days are running. I can't believe December is just days away. Interesting. We at IWA promise we will make every week count for you by presenting you cover personalities and articles that inspire.

This week, we are delighted to have SHALOM IJEOMA LLOYD (MBE) on our cover. Our conversation included her professional life as a pharmacist and the global business of skincare.

Did you always have to wait to travel to get your Body Shop products? Guess what? The products are here in Nigeria. Guess who made that happen? Yup! Your guess is as good as mine, Shalom did. She tells us about this in our interview with her.

However, beyond her professional expertise, I am drawn to her story. I love how she describes her first son, Isaac, as her miracle baby because she says his arrival allowed her to live out her own Sarah and Abraham story. After a period of waiting, he finally came. That was not all, she experienced another season of waiting before her twins were born. Their birth not only made her a mother of three, but also gave birth to Naturally Tiwa Skincare which she says is living proof that love can transform pain into purpose. Beautiful story!

You trust us to bring you articles that stir the mind. We have them for you in this edition, including fashion.

By the way, have you registered for Inspiring Woman Africa (IWA) Conference Series 14? 30 days to go. Remember I spoke about how the days are running at the beginning of this note? Do the needful before seats are out and see you on the 11th of December for an amazing time.

Until I come your way again next week Tuesday for another dose of your Tuesday tonic, it's bye for now!

Ciao!



COVER INTERVIEW

SHALOM IJEOMA LLOYD (MBE)

ON PHARMACY AND THE GLOBAL
BUSINESS OF SKINCARE

Kemi Ajumobi



Shalom Ijeoma Lloyd MBE is an award-winning, senior business professional, with over 29 years'

experience in the pharmaceutical industry. A British-Nigerian with a BSc and MSc in Pharmacy from the Ukrainian Academy of Pharmacy and an MBA from the University of Liverpool, resulting in a cross-cultural background which has enabled her to push for diversity and cultural awareness in the global business place at every opportunity for herself and others.

Shalom is the Founder of Naturally Tiwa Skincare – a natural, sustainable, synthetic chemical-free skincare company built on valuing healthy, ethical, and sustainable living whilst empowering African women.

She is also the Chief Strategy Officer at Emerging Markets Quality Trials (eMQT), an organisation focused on diversity in clinical trials providing the global pharmaceutical industry access to patients in Africa.

Additionally, she is the Business Development and Sales Director at JE Oils Nigeria, a company determined to put Nigeria's shea industry on the map. Instrumental to bringing the UK's

“Over nearly three decades in the global pharmaceutical industry, I have been privileged to work across markets, from North America, Europe to Africa”

most iconic heritage beauty brand – The Body Shop into Nigeria, Shalom is General Manager, The Body Shop Nigeria.

A mother of three amazing children, she held a NED position on the Milton Keynes & Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce and was a Governor at Milton Keynes College.

Shalom is a TEDx Speaker, a World Trader Freeman, Honorary Professor of Professional Practice at the University of Buckingham, a Department of Business and Trade Export Champion, a Mentor and a strong believer in the fact that anything is possible!

Shalom was recognised in The King's New Year Honours List 2024 and awarded an MBE for services to International Trade and Women in Business.

► **Share key experiences in your 29 years in the pharmaceutical industry that have shaped your career**

Over nearly three decades in the global pharmaceutical industry, I have been privileged to work across markets, from North America, Europe to Africa, spanning clinical research, scientific sourcing and procurement, commercial strategy, and business development. Each phase taught me something profound, the discipline of science, the importance of people, the power of collaboration, and the responsibility of integrity.

One of the most defining experiences is leading cross-functional teams to launch life-changing medicines in emerging markets. Seeing how geography and infrastructure could determine who lives or dies gave me a

deep conviction that access to healthcare should never be a privilege. It also reinforced my belief that business success must walk hand-in-hand with social responsibility. The pharmaceutical world sharpened my understanding of structure and compliance, but it also gave birth to my passion for creating solutions that touch lives beyond the laboratory. Those years built the foundation of every venture I lead today, where purpose, impact, and profit coexist.

► **Educational journey in Ukraine and the UK, and influence on how you see healthcare and business**

My education was a journey in resilience and perspective. I left Nigeria at sixteen to study Pharmacy in Ukraine, arriving in Vinnitsa and then Kharkov not speaking a word of Russian. It was baptism by fire! But it taught me grit, adaptability, and a deep respect for diversity. Apart from obtaining my BSc and MSC in Pharmacy from the Ukrainian Academy of Pharmacy, living in such a

“The blend of Eastern European discipline, Western business acumen and Naija community spirit shaped how I lead”



“For too long, clinical trials excluded the very people most affected by disease. Through eMQT, we are building partnerships across Africa to change that narrative”

different culture also opened my eyes to how universal the need for healthcare is, that every person, no matter where they are born, deserves access to ethical, quality medical care. Years later, studying for my MBA at the University of Liverpool bridged science with strategy. It gave me a global view of business, how empathy, innovation, and data can co-exist to build sustainable systems. The blend of Eastern European discipline, Western business acumen and Naija community spirit shaped how I lead: with logic, heart, and a belief that people must

“Although 17% of our world's population are of African descent only 3% of patients in clinical trials are black people”

always remain at the centre of any enterprise. My journey to date has taught me how to build teams, and approach both global partnerships and local challenges.

Pharmacy and its influence on founding Naturally Tiwa Skincare

The birth of Naturally Tiwa skincare happened due to more personal reasons than professional ones. Naturally Tiwa was born from a deeply personal place and from love. After four cycles of IVF, I gave birth to my twins, and my son Joshua was born with severe eczema. I can say that as a pharmacist, I tried everything science offered, but nothing worked. I was just a desperate mother who turned to nature and to my African heritage. Mixing raw shea butter and oils (to achieve three things – reduce inflammation, redness and itching) in my kitchen, I created something that

managed his skin within days. That moment changed everything. My pharmaceutical training gave me the rigour and scientific discipline to ensure every product would be safe, effective, and sustainable. But my heart gave me the purpose, to create ethical skincare that work whilst uplifting communities and celebrating African ingredients. Today, Naturally Tiwa is more than a skincare brand, it is a brand built on efficacy, ethical sourcing and planet hugging as well as heritage.

Promoting the values of diversity and cultural awareness

Diversity is NOT a slogan for me — it is my lived experience. Having worked and lived across continents, I have seen how inclusivity unlocks innovation. At Emerging Markets Quality Trials (eMQT), where I serve as Founder and Chief Strategy Officer, our mission is to bring diversity to clinical research,

**“For both women and men,
healthy skin builds confidence,
and confidence empowers”**

ensuring that African populations are represented in the science that shapes global health decisions. For too long, clinical trials excluded the very people most affected by disease. Through eMQT, we are building partnerships across Africa to change that narrative, empowering local researchers, strengthening infrastructure, and ensuring our communities are active contributors to global medical progress. In every organisation I lead, I insist on diverse teams and inclusive thinking. Whether you look at it through a gender, race, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, point of view, diversity is not just good ethics, it is good business, and it is essential for impact that lasts.

Biggest barriers to diversity in clinical trials, and how eMQT is contributing to overcome them

Although 17% of our world's population are of African descent only 3% of patients in clinical trials are black people! Black people are underrepresented in clinical trials globally, although by 2050, Africa will represent a third of the world's population! That is staggering!

Up to 95% of cancer patients in Africa die due to late diagnosis and although some might say that the prevalence appears low, the numbers are high!

The barriers are multifaceted, lack of infrastructure, regulatory bottlenecks, limited awareness, and historical mistrust of medical research in many communities. But the consequence is clear- medicines are developed based on incomplete data that doesn't always represent us.

At eMQT, we are building from within. We invest in training healthcare professionals, strengthening clinical capacity, and creating transparent partnerships with institutions. Our goal is to make Africa an active participant/ mainstream, not a passive recipient, in global healthcare innovation. True



innovation must be inclusive and representation in drug development and clinical research is non-negotiable if we want medicine to serve everyone.

Importance of women empowerment through business support, especially in emerging markets

Empowering women is both the right thing and the smart thing to do. In emerging markets, women form the backbone of economies yet face structural barriers to growth. Businesses can change this by creating ecosystems that don't just employ women but elevate them.

Empowering women does not mean excluding or emasculating men, it is a journey we all have to take together. Women in high and prominent positions also have to play a huge part in this because we cannot keep singing this empowerment song without putting our money where our mouth is.

I believe in the fact that the best qualified person whether male or female should get the job however, we must widen the funnel and let more women through because when women are given the opportunity, magic happens!

Businesses need to provide fair pay, safe

working conditions, and skills training, because when women earn, communities thrive. Enough of the eye-service! Empowerment must exist at decision-making levels. We need more women shaping strategy, finance, and policy, not as tokens, but as catalysts for innovation. Representation is not charity, it is how we build stronger, more sustainable economies.

Why focus on natural and sustainable skincare with Naturally Tiwa, and challenges faced

My motivation began with my son's eczema, but it quickly evolved into something far greater, a calling to blend science with sustainability and African heritage. I wanted to and still want to prove that “A Beauty” could mean ethical, effective, and world-class.

I believe in the power of medicine, in the power of science however, the efficacy and power of nature and natural ingredients cannot and should never be underestimated. For generations across Africa, nature has been our pharmacy and our beauty cabinet. Our ancestors relied on ingredients like shea butter, coconut oil, and baobab long before they were labelled as “superfoods” or “miracle oils.” Yet, too often, our ingredients only gain global recognition when someone from the Western world claims a new “discovery.” Naturally Tiwa exists to reclaim that narrative, to show that Africa has always been the source, not the afterthought.

The challenges have been real: educating consumers about natural products, breaking into an industry dominated by global giants, and navigating sustainability in regions with limited infrastructure. But every challenge has strengthened our resolve. Sustainability for us is not a buzzword, it is a way of life. From sourcing to packaging to trade, we operate with the belief that every business decision should hug our planet in some way.

“The MBE reminds me that ordinary people can do extraordinary things when driven by purpose”

Importance of skincare, and why it shouldn't be ignored

Skincare is not vanity, it is wellness. Our skin is our largest organ; it absorbs over 60% of what you put on it so what we put on our skin is as important as what we eat! Our skin is a mirror of our health, emotions, and lifestyle. Taking care of it is an act of self-respect and self-awareness. For women, especially those balancing multiple roles, skincare becomes a moment of mindfulness, a pause to reconnect with oneself.

For both women and men, healthy skin builds confidence, and confidence empowers. I often say that skincare is self-care with purpose. It is not about perfection; it is about honouring yourself and recognising that caring for your skin is caring for your whole being.

Sourcing ingredients for Naturally Tiwa, and criteria used to ensure quality

I am a bit of a control freak which means that I get a kick out of the fact that when you pick of a jar of one of my products, you are able to trace at least the main ingredient back to its original source. Integrity guides everything we do.

We currently have two factories in Nigeria (JE Oils in Gwagwalada and Naturally Tribal Nigeria in Essan, Niger State). In addition to producing our own, we work directly with women collectors and processors to source raw, natural ingredients like our unrefined, raw shea butter, Kola Nut and Millet. Our criteria are clear, ingredients must be natural, cruelty-free, sustainably produced, and ethically traded.

We prioritise transparency, traceability, and impact. Every Naturally Tiwa product represents a chain of empowerment, from the woman processing raw shea in the village to the consumer applying the final product. When you use Naturally Tiwa, you are not just nourishing your skin; you are uplifting a community.

▶ Receiving an MBE, what does this recognition mean to you?

Receiving an MBE was surreal, humbling and affirming all at once. Standing at

“The Body Shop's values mirror my own. I am a UK Department for Business and Trade Export Champion, when the opportunity arose, I jumped on it”

Windsor Castle that day, I carried with me every woman who pounds shea kernels under the Nigerian sun, every entrepreneur building quietly against the odds, and my children, my nieces and nephews who now see what is possible when purpose meets persistence.

This recognition wasn't just about me. It was about ethical trade, women's leadership, and the bridge between Africa and the world. The MBE reminds me that ordinary people can do

extraordinary things when driven by purpose. It is both a milestone and a mandate to keep using business as a force for good.

My first question when I received 'the' letter was – 'why me' and today I embrace, accept and wear this as a badge of honour, patting myself on the back and saying, 'I am worthy'.

▶ The Body Shop is known around the world. How were you able to connect with them and then bringing it to Nigeria?

It honestly felt like destiny. As a British Nigerian who has spent years championing sustainability and ethical beauty through my own brand, The Body Shop's values mirror my own. I am a UK Department for Business and Trade Export Champion and when the opportunity arose, I was made aware of it



and jumped on it. When the opportunity to bring this iconic British brand founded by a woman, I consider a role model (Dame Anita Roddick RIP) to Nigeria, it felt like a perfect alignment of ethos and timing.

There were other contenders for the franchise, but The Body Shop chose me and that was a moment of deep validation.

When you go to Europe, America, Asia, you see the body shop brand so why not in Naija, why not in West Africa? Our first launch in Abuja on International Women's Day 2025 was emotional. Seeing our team, the customers, and the joy in that room, I felt a wave of fulfilment. It wasn't just business, it was empowerment in motion.

In October, we opened our first store in Lagos and that was simply incredible! My team showed up and knocked it out of the park.

The response has been phenomenal. Nigerians know and love The Body Shop, and now they are experiencing it in its

full essence right on their doorstep. This expansion isn't just retail, it is representation, purpose, and pride.

► Future plans for Naturally Tiwa Skincare and eMQT?

For Naturally Tiwa, our focus is on deepening impact and expanding reach, especially across Africa and globally. We are developing innovative, nature-driven formulations and exploring partnerships that amplify African ingredients on the world stage. Next on the cards is our all-natural lubricant called 'UTO' which in Igbo means 'pleasure'. Women going through menopause and women undergoing chemotherapy and/or radiotherapy experience vaginal dryness so this is a problem we intend to address with UTO – watch this space!

For eMQT, the mission continues: to make Africa a central player in global clinical research. We continue to knock on pharma company doors to help enable us continue to build capacity, foster trust, and ensure that our data, our people, and

“Naturally Tiwa stands at that intersection, merging heritage with science, and sustainability with style”

our science shape the future of medicine.

Both ventures share one philosophy, that purpose and profit not only can coexist but must. It is about TRADE and NOT AID!

Diversity and sustainability as contributors to the evolving skincare industry

The future of skincare belongs to brands that are inclusive, transparent, and sustainable. Consumers today are savvy, curious and conscious, they care about origins, impact, and integrity. I believe African inspired brands have a huge role to play in this next chapter, because our ingredients, our traditions, and our stories are rich with authenticity. Naturally Tiwa stands at that





intersection, merging heritage with science, and sustainability with style. My role is to continue being a voice for responsible beauty and to ensure that as the industry evolves, Africa is not just included but celebrated.

Balancing professional commitments and being a mother of three

This question always comes up, and it is almost always put as an either/or. Interestingly, I rarely hear men asked how they balance fatherhood and work. I love being a mother, and I love my work; I don't have to choose between them. And dare I say it — women are the best multitaskers in the world! For me, balance isn't about doing it all, it

“There will always be obstacles and barriers as we go through our life journey however, I do believe that 'Failure' is an option”

is about doing what truly matters and enjoying both the process and the journey. I have learnt to be present wherever I am, whether in a boardroom or at home with my children. My kids, my nieces and nephews, and my brothers keep me grounded — they are my “why.” I often say that when you love what you do, it never feels like a chore. My professional life brings me joy, and I involve my children whenever I can. I was born to be a mother, it is the best job in the world, and I find that when I'm happy and fulfilled, they are too. I set boundaries, delegate (on the days I can control my inner control-freak!), and constantly remind myself that grace is just as important as grit. Some days I excel at business, other days I excel at motherhood and that's perfectly okay. What matters most is consistency and alignment: that everything I do, personally and professionally, serves a purpose greater than myself.

▶ With life comes challenges. How should we handle life's challenges?

Challenges are inevitable, they are life's greatest teachers. I have faced and continue to face my share, and each one has refined me rather than defined me. The key is to stay anchored in purpose. When you understand your “why,” you can withstand any “how.” I approach every obstacle with faith, gratitude, and the knowledge that discomfort often precedes growth. Surround yourself with people who lift you, stay open to learning, and remember, every storm eventually passes, but the lessons remain.

Advice to aspiring female entrepreneurs

Believe fiercely in your vision, even when no one else does. As women, we sometimes underestimate our strength — imposter syndrome is real but just smash that damn glass ceiling. Our



"It took ten years and four IVF cycles for my twins to arrive in 2014 and I had them at 40"

intuition, empathy, and resilience are powerful business tools. Start where you are, with what you have, and stay consistent.

Success is rarely a straight line. Embrace setbacks as detours, not dead ends. Build a support network, lead with integrity, and never compromise your values for convenience. Your authenticity is your superpower, guard it, nurture it, and let it guide you.

I try to live by three (3) principles in this order:

- 1.** Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. (Saint Francis of Assisi)
- 2.** Secondly, it is better to be prepared and not have an opportunity than to have an opportunity and not be prepared (Whitney M. Young)
- 3.** There will always be obstacles and barriers as we go through our life journey however, I do believe that 'Failure' is an option! Failure is the first step to success; multiple failures are multiple steps towards success. Name an idol, a mentor, someone you admire who has not failed multiple times to get to where they are.

► Staying motivated and inspired in both your professional and personal life

My children are way up there! For my first son, I was told it would be hard for me to conceive but he arrived and changed everything! It took ten years and four IVF cycles for my twins to arrive in 2014 and I had them at 40. I would have gone through more IVF rounds just to have them! They motivate and inspire me to be better, do better, every day. For work, purpose is my fuel. Do you ever stop and ask yourself: Why are we here? I did but not anymore. Knowing that my work touches lives, communities, creates jobs, and changes perceptions keeps me going. I am inspired by stories of courage,

innovation, and collaboration. Personally, my faith, my family, and gratitude keep me grounded. I surround myself with positive energy and never stop learning.

Once I turned 50, I stopped giving a damn and focus on what makes me happy! It took me quite a while to get here.

► A day never to be forgotten, and why?

There are two days that forever shaped me. The first was the day my first son, Isaac, my miracle baby was born. His arrival allowed me to live out my own Sarah and Abraham story, a powerful reminder that faith and perseverance truly move mountains.

The second was the day my twins were

born. After years of hope and prayer, holding them in my arms redefined my entire sense of purpose. Their birth not only made me a mother of three but also gave birth to Naturally Tiwa Skincare which is living proof that love can transform pain into purpose.

My children awakened me to the purest truth - that you can love another human being more than yourself, and that love, in its truest form, can inspire you to create, to nurture, and to build a legacy that lasts far beyond you.

In every role I play, as a mother, scientist, entrepreneur, and leader, my mission remains the same: to use business as a force for good, to empower others, to enforce my Trade Not Aid mantra and to prove that Africa's time is now.



"Isaac, my miracle baby's arrival allowed me to live out my own Sarah and Abraham story, a powerful reminder that faith and perseverance truly move mountains"



HER POINT OF VIEW

How to Future-Proof Your Career in a Changing Workplace

Chinyere Okorochoa

Once upon a time, a long tenure at one company was the golden ticket to career security. Stay loyal enough, and your career was “safe.” But let’s be honest, those days are gone. Industries are shifting, technology is rewriting the rules, and the “job for life” mentality has faded. Today, the real security isn’t in your position. It’s in your skills.

From Job Security to Skill Security

The old model was about climbing one predictable ladder. But today, careers look less like ladders and are more flexible, often shifting and sometimes disrupted overnight.

For ambitious female professionals, this is both the challenge and the opportunity. What keeps you future-proof isn’t tenure, it’s the ability to learn, unlearn, and reapply knowledge in new ways.

Why Adaptability Beats Tenure

Whilst tenure shows loyalty; Adaptability

shows leadership readiness.

Companies value women who move with change, not resist it. When industries shift, it’s the adaptable professionals who don’t just survive, but they’re the ones helping shape the future.

Adaptability looks like this:

Staying curious instead of clinging to “how it’s always been.”

Picking up new skills before they become mandatory.

Viewing change not as a threat, but as an invitation to grow.

Practical Ways to Future-Proof Your Career

- 1. Invest in continuous learning.** Each year, take on one course, certification, or project that expands your skills beyond your current role.
- 2. Build digital fluency.** No matter your industry, technology is reshaping it. Learn the tools before they become non-negotiable.
- 3. Expand your adaptability muscle.** Volunteer for cross-functional projects, experiment with new approaches, and treat change as practice.
- 4. Leverage your personal brand.** Make sure people know you’re not just “experienced,” but adaptable, visible, and relevant to the future of work.

Why This Mindset Accelerates Growth for Women

When you shift your identity from “employee of a company” to “owner of a skill set,” you unlock true freedom. You’re no longer defined by one job description ... your skills and influence become valuable across industries, teams, and opportunities.

This is how you:

- Advance your career with confidence, regardless of industry changes.
- Build visibility and personal branding as a forward-thinking professional.
- Overcome limiting beliefs that whisper “it’s too late to pivot.”
- Strengthen leadership & influence by showing resilience and foresight.
- Protect your work-life balance by designing a career that evolves with you, instead of drains you.

This Week’s Challenge

Ask yourself: What’s one skill I can start building today that will still be relevant five years from now?

Then commit to taking the first step this month.

Careers no longer live and die by tenure. The women who rise are the ones who stay adaptable, visible, and ready for what’s next.

Don’t wait for change to force your hand. Lead it.



Chinyere Okorochoa

Partner in the Law Firm of
JACKSON, ETTI & EDU

With over three decades of experience as a trailblazer in the legal profession, Chinyere Okorochoa has established herself as a leading voice in law, leadership, and career growth for women. As a partner in one of the most prestigious law firms in the country, she has not only navigated the complexities of a competitive industry but has consistently broken barriers to become a sought-after leader, mentor, and advocate for women in the workplace.

Chinyere’s career journey is a testament to her resilience, vision, and versatility. She has held numerous leadership positions, served as a director on multiple boards, and is widely admired for her strategic thinking and ability to inspire teams toward excellence. Beyond her professional accomplishments, she has also graced stages as a speaker, sharing insights on leadership, career growth, and the unique challenges women face in their professional lives.

A devoted wife and proud mother of three, Chinyere understands firsthand the challenges of balancing the demands of a thriving career with a fulfilling personal life. Through her own experiences, she has mastered the art of work-life integration, demonstrating that women can achieve extraordinary professional success without sacrificing the joys of family and personal well-being.

Her career development platform, Heels & Ladders, is dedicated to mentoring and guiding women who aspire to redefine success, achieve career mastery, and lead with purpose. Whether you’re navigating leadership challenges, striving for balance, or looking to amplify your influence, Chinyere’s expertise will help you transform ambition into achievement.

WOMAN EXECUTIVE

Legacy Leadership: Building Beyond Your Tenure

By Wola Joseph-Condotti

There is a question I often ask myself as a leader: What will be left when I am no longer in the room? Not the applause. Not the title. Not the urgent emails or daily metrics. But the systems. The people. The culture. The impact. That is legacy! In the whirlwind of deadlines, growth targets, board meetings, and strategy decks, it is easy to become consumed by the now. And yet, leadership that is obsessed with the present but blind to the future builds castles on sand. True leadership plants trees whose shade it may never sit under.

The Illusion of the Temporary

Many leaders build as if they will always be in charge. They centralise power, hoard knowledge, and fail to mentor successors. Their reign is impressive, but their absence is catastrophic.

Legacy leaders think differently

They do not ask, "How do I look successful?". They ask, "What will still stand when I am gone?" And they build accordingly. They invest in people, not just projects. They create systems that outlive their supervision. They mentor not to be admired, but to multiply.

Succession is Not a Threat, It is a Trust

One of the most powerful forms of leadership is preparing others to lead. But ego often gets in the way. Some leaders are so focused on being the one that they forget they are part of a lineage. Leadership is not a solo act. It is a relay. And succession is the baton. You do not fail when someone else rises after you. You fail when no one can.

Nehemiah: A Blueprint for Legacy

The story of Nehemiah in the Bible offers a powerful model. He rebuilt Jerusalem's broken walls in just 52 days. A monumental feat. But he did not stop there. He set structures in place, assigned gatekeepers, documented genealogy, established

spiritual reforms, and put leaders over the city.

He did not just build walls. He built people. And when he left, the city did not collapse. Because he did not make himself the centre. He made the vision sustainable.

That is what legacy leadership looks like.

Legacy is a Living System

To lead with legacy in mind, ask yourself:

Have I created systems that work when I am not in the room?

Are the people under my leadership growing or shrinking because of me?

Am I building a team that is dependent on my genius, or a culture that thrives on shared vision?

Legacy is not about having people speak

your name forever. It is about building something worth speaking about. It is about impact without supervision. Influence without control. Structures that free people, not shackle them.

The Seeds We Sow

Some of the most profound leaders I have encountered did not have the loudest voices or the longest titles. But they sowed into others. They opened doors. They remembered names. They made room at the table. And years after they left, their fingerprints were still on the work, not as monuments, but as momentum.

Whether you are a CEO, a department head, a team lead, or a visionary founder, your leadership should echo into generations.

Because the truth is: you will leave one day.

The only question is: what will you leave behind?

Final Thoughts

Legacy leadership is not about perfection. It is about intention. It is about leading with the end in mind, not to exit early, but to ensure continuity. It is about understanding that your true measure is not what you build for yourself, but what you build for others and leave behind for those you may never meet.

So plant deeply. Build intentionally. Mentor generously. Because in the end, your greatest impact will not be what you do while you are here, but what endures after you are gone.



Wola Joseph Condotti

Group MD/CEO of West Power & Gas Limited

Wola is the Group MD/CEO of West Power & Gas Limited, the parent company of Eko Electricity Distribution PLC (EKEDP) and six other affiliate companies with interests in both conventional and renewable energy sectors. In addition to this role, she serves as the Director of the Power and Renewable Division at the Women in Energy Network (WIEN) in a non-executive capacity.

Prior to her current role, Wola was the pioneer Chief, Legal & Company Secretariat at EKEDP. During her tenure, she also held multiple key positions simultaneously including Head of Regulatory Compliance, Chief Human Resources and Administration Officer, Supervising Chief of the Customer Service Department, and Data Protection Officer. Her previous experience includes roles as General Counsel/Company Secretariat Lagoon Home Savings and Loans, and Legal Associate at Banwo & Ighodalo.

Wola holds a law degree from the University of Ibadan, an LLM in International Finance Law from Harvard Law School, and an MBA from INSEAD Business School. She is also an International Finance Corporation (World Bank) Board Evaluation Certified Professional and Corporate Governance Trainer.

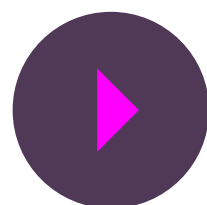
Wola's achievements have earned widespread recognition. Most recently, she received the inaugural Leadership Excellence Award of the Year at the Legal Era Africa Awards 2024, becoming the first-ever recipient of this category. The award celebrated her historic transition from General Counsel to Group MD/CEO, a milestone applauded for redefining leadership pathways in the legal profession.

She is a member of the Institute of Directors and the Society for Corporate Governance Nigeria. Additionally, she is an associate member of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria, and Women in Management, Business, and Public Service.

FINANCIAL AdviseHER

Investing Is Not Gambling

By Sola Adesakin



In today's world, where everyone wants quick returns, the line between investing and gambling has become dangerously blurred. Both men and women, from boardrooms to social media spaces, are falling into the same trap: mistaking luck for logic, and speculation for strategy, including investing in schemes that are obviously too good to be true.

Investing is not gambling. Gambling is hoping without understanding. Investing is understanding before hoping. We live in an age of "get-rich-quick" culture. Every few months, there's a new opportunity — crypto, Ponzi schemes, unverified forex trades, or the latest stock everyone is rushing into. People don't want to learn; they just want to earn. Yet history has shown us, time and again, that hope without understanding always ends in regret.

The Illusion of Fast Money

When you gamble, you're driven by emotion — excitement, fear, greed. You bet because someone else is winning or because you're afraid of missing out. There's no plan, no principle, just pressure. Gambling thrives on impulse; investing thrives on information. Gambling promises speed; investing promises structure. One is fuelled by hype, the other by homework. One is about chasing trends; the other is about choosing truths.

Both men and women fall into gambling behaviour — though in different forms. Many men take risky business or market bets, masking it as "bold entrepreneurship." Many women, on the other hand, are lured into emotional investment traps — trusting stories over strategy, or joining schemes because "everyone in my circle is doing it."

But the result is often the same: disappointment, debt, and distrust of genuine opportunities.

The Pain Behind the Pattern

Why do smart people gamble with money? Because gambling offers hope without hard work. It gives the illusion of control, as if luck or connection will change the rules of wealth creation. But true wealth doesn't come by guessing; it comes by growing. Investing, by contrast, is about informed risk, understanding what you're getting into, what you can afford to lose, and how your money fits into a bigger goal. It's not about excitement; it's about endurance.

The Mindset Shift

Here's what separates gamblers from investors:

1. Gamblers chase results, investors follow rules.

Investors have principles — diversification, due diligence, and delayed gratification. Gamblers have impulses.

2. Gamblers count luck, investors count numbers.

Investors understand compounding, time value, and asset allocation. They measure before they move.

3. Gamblers spend emotion, investors spend education.

The best investment is not your first stock or property — it's your first book, course, or financial coach.

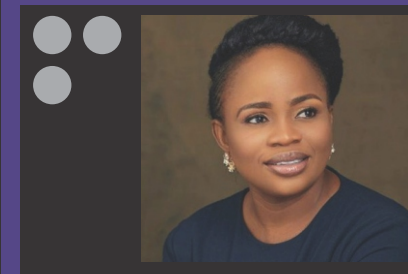
4. Gamblers want to win today, investors want to win consistently.

Sustainable wealth is built over time, not overnight.

The truth is that everyone is investing in something: money, habits, relationships, or distractions. The question is whether you're doing it with understanding.

This season, choose to become a studied investor, not a hopeful gambler. Ask questions before committing money. Seek advice before following hype. And remember: patience is not the absence of action; it is the wisdom of timing. Because in the end, it's not the market that determines your outcome, it's your mindset.

As you plan your next financial move, let knowledge lead and let hope follow. Because while gamblers guess their way into regret, investors grow their way into peace.



By Sola Adesakin

Founder and Lead Coach,
Smart Stewards

Sola Adesakin is a highly respected wealth coach and chartered accountant with over two decades of transformative impact in the finance industry. As the visionary founder of Smart Stewards Financial Advisory Limited and Smart Stewards Advisory LLC, she has revolutionized the financial wellbeing of countless individuals and businesses across 40 countries. Her methodical approach to 'make-manage-multiply' money principles has elevated many from financial stress to prosperity, and mediocrity to exceptional achievement.

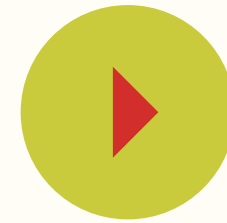
Sola is a strong supporter of SDG5 and SDG10, as she seeks to close the gender gap and reduce inequality through financial education, financial technology, and access to funding. Sola's dedication to achieving gender equality and reducing inequality is evident in her work as an alumna of the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, an initiative of the US Embassy in Nigeria, and the Cherie Blair Foundation's Road to Growth Program. She is also an alumna of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women program and a member of the Select Global Women in Tech (SGWIT) Mentorship Network of the United States of America. Through the FRUIT Foundation, which she serves as Founder and CEO, she has partnered with the US consulate in Nigeria to champion the economic empowerment of women, assisting them to start and scale their business ventures.

Her impressive academic credentials include a BSc and an MBA degree from Oxford Brookes University and Edinburgh Business School, respectively. She is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants of the United Kingdom (ACCA), and a member of the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada (CPA). In addition to her impressive credentials, Sola Adesakin is also a Certified Financial Education Instructor™ and a member of the Personal Finance Speakers Association.

GENDER INSIGHTS

The High Cost of Shortcuts: Why Some Roads to Wealth Lead to Regret

Abiola Adediran



In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to understand why some women feel pressured to take shortcuts to financial success.

The images we scroll past daily—luxury vacations, designer bags, and "soft life" slogans—can create an illusion that wealth is only a few favours or flings away. And for those raised in environments where survival was the priority, not legacy, the temptation to compromise values for quick financial gains can feel like the only viable route. From relying on transactional relationships, to getting entangled in fraud, or taking shady business deals that erode character, we're seeing a rise in shortcut-seeking behaviours among young women. Some may even view it as "smart hustle" or "leveraging what you have." But in my experience, I have seen firsthand that wealth built on shortcuts comes with silent costs—and they always show up later.

Many of these choices are rooted in a scarcity mindset. A mindset that whispers: "There's not enough, I have to grab what I can, even if it costs me my peace." It's often further reinforced by societal narratives that value women only for their beauty, not their brains or brilliance.

Some women grow up being told their best shot at financial security is to marry rich, not become rich. That her value is tied to who chooses her, not what she builds. When these internal scripts go unchallenged, it becomes easier to justify compromise.

But here's the truth: anything gained by losing yourself is never truly wealth. The first and often most invisible cost is what happens to your sense of identity. When a woman ties her financial future to deception, dependency, or moral compromise, she subconsciously teaches herself that she's not enough. Over time, this chips away at confidence and self-trust. Even if the money comes, it rarely brings peace.

Edition 13, 11th November, 2025

In the world of wealth—especially legacy wealth—trust is currency. When you compromise your values, your personal brand begins to erode. Investors won't trust you. Business partners won't recommend you. And worst of all, your story becomes one people whisper about, not celebrate.

Fast money often disappears just as fast. Unlike true wealth—which is structured, protected, and multiplied—shortcut money is typically unsustainable. There's no structure, no accountability, and no legacy. And for those who turn to fraud or illegal activities, the consequences can be life-altering—destroying not just wealth but future opportunities.

Every choice we make either builds or breaks our legacy. One day, many of these women will become mothers, mentors, or matriarchs. What story will you tell the next generation? What foundation will they inherit—not just in assets, but in values?

As women, we don't need shortcuts. We need strategy.

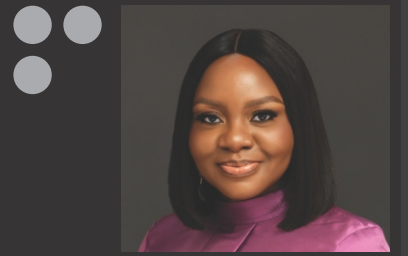
We need to teach our girls that wealth is not about access to someone else's wallet—it's about ownership. It's about building a business, growing in a career, investing smartly, stewarding resources, and using your voice with wisdom and dignity.

There's honour in starting small. There's power in consistency. And there's immense freedom in knowing that you didn't have to trade your body, your integrity, or your future to build the life you dream of.

Real wealth is quiet. It's not always flashy, but it's deeply rooted. It gives you options, peace, and the ability to serve others from a place of overflow. If you're a young woman reading this, know this: you are not too far gone to start again. You are not behind. And you don't need to prove your worth by compromising it.

Let's build wealth we're proud of. The kind we can pass down—not with shame, but with joy.

Because legacy isn't just what you leave behind—it's how you live right now.


Abiola Adediran

Partner at Genea Family
Office

Abiola Adediran is a Family Business Advisor and one of Nigeria's finest corporate finance and business strategy experts with nearly 2 decades of work experience that cuts across investment banking, consulting, private equity, wealth and family office management.

She was the Group Chief Financial Officer of Coronation Group, a leading investment management group in Africa. She was very instrumental to the set up and running of Tengen Family Office (a Single-Family Office) which served the interests of the families represented.

Prior to that, she was a Manager at KPMG Professional Services, and is currently a Partner at Genea Family Office, an independent boutique multi-family office. She is also the Founder and Managing Consultant of Midridge International, a pan-African strategy consulting and financial advisory firm supporting and facilitating the growth of businesses across Africa.

Abiola Adediran is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, a certified Management Consultant, a PRINCE2-certified Project Manager from APMG International, UK and she holds an MBA with specialism in Finance from Edinburgh Business School, Heriot-Watt University, Scotland. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Directors of Nigeria (CIoD).

Abiola currently sits on the board of growing businesses as well as serves as a mentor to various leading entrepreneurship organisations in Nigeria. She is a member of the Forbes Business Council and is happily married with two adorable children.



WOMAN AT THE HELM

Nkemdilim Uwaje Begho

MD/ CEO, Future Software Resources Ltd

Kemi Ajumobi

Nkemdilim Uwaje Begho is a seasoned technology leader with deep expertise in AI & digital transformation, sustainability marketing, and risk oversight. In an MIT published study, they suggested that 95% of generative AI pilots fail. Nkemdilim has her view on this. For her, AI isn't failing, organisations are. She adds that each failure points to a gap in leadership alignment, team engagement, strategy, systems, or governance that can and must be addressed. "And only those who prepare deliberately—with leadership, strategy, and governance at the core—will be ready to succeed in the AI-powered future." She boldly stated.

Also, as eager as more organisations are to introduce AI in their dealings, Nkemdilim has identified a common mistake playing out, which is that, too often, companies jump straight into testing tools and use cases without laying the right foundation. According to her, they chase efficiencies or

headlines, but they do so without aligning strategy, without equipping leaders, and without preparing their people to work alongside the technology. "What follows is predictable: pilots that never scale, duplicated efforts across teams, resistance from employees who don't understand the change, and leadership unable to measure whether investments are actually delivering value."

With over two decades of experience as a CEO, Founder, and Non-Executive Director across listed, private, and public sector organisations, Nkemdilim combines operational and strategic capabilities with a strong governance lens, helping organisations embed technology and ESG into their core operations to drive resilience, innovation, and long-term value.

As CEO of Futuresoft, she leads one of Nigeria's foremost digital and technology firms, delivering AI-powered transformation, brand development, and innovation consulting. Under her

leadership, Futuresoft has served over 200 clients across 20 industries and trained more than 1,500 executives and board members in digital strategy, transformation, and readiness.

She is also the Co-Founder and Executive Director of ESG in Action Africa, a pan-African consultancy supporting organisations in aligning business strategy with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles. The firm provides AI-enabled ESG reporting, sustainability strategy development, and data-driven impact measurement tools.

Nkemdilim serves on multiple illustrious boards, and is a recognised voice in Africa's digital economy and innovation ecosystem. She has contributed to national policy development through roles at the Nigerian Economic Summit Group's Digital Economy Policy Commission, the National IT Software Committee, and the Electronic Voting Think Tank. Her work has earned her numerous recognitions.



WE'VE GOT MEN

Austin Okere

Founder of CWG Plc

Kemi Ajumobi

Austin Okere's story is one of those inspiring stories to learn from. He wasn't sure of what he wanted to do except that, initially, he felt he was going to be a priest. That didn't happen and he did not go to the seminary. Later, he got admitted into the University of Ghana to study Agric Science. He didn't attend lectures because he was trying to discover himself. The Dean of his school picked interest and told him he may have to leave if he continued that way. He suggested computer science to him, which became a defining period for him because he completely enjoyed it. After a year, the universities in Ghana were shut because of the revolution going on as at that time. His father then suggested for him to go to Lagos which he did and ended up at University Of Lagos, and continued his computer science. After his NYSC, he got a job with a computer company. He later saw the opportunity to start to proffer solutions to IT issues and wanted to launch out. His father thought he was crazy, his

fiancée (now wife) thought he wasn't making a good move and was worried. In all of these, Austin's burden was that in his formal business, as an organisation, they couldn't keep their word on delivery and it bothered him. He also had faith and knew that as long as one can put in the work, results will follow. But in 1993, there was a coup, everywhere was in disarray. He left the secured employment, and began his own. Many companies died and though his own company was lean in terms of leverage, they were able to sustain the business. His wife describes him as brave and said all his endurance, faith and grit has paid off.

Austin chose to brand his company and said he made up his mind that his company would be different in terms of trust and integrity. Today, Austin, trained in Africa, has achieved a company of \$130m turnover, with 650 people present in 4 countries, it gives hope to other people to also say, if Austin can, then I can. "I didn't have to work at Goldman Sachs to achieve

that." He said.

Austin Okere is the Founder of CWG Plc. CWG Plc is one of the largest systems integration companies in Sub-Saharan Africa with operations in Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda and Cameroon, and the largest security in the ICT Sector of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE: CWG). CWG is the leading provider of core banking software applications, having deployed the Finacle Core Banking Application in 10 of Nigeria's 21 banks.

Austin has an MBA from IESE Business School and over 30 years of industry experience. He is an Entrepreneur-in-Residence at Columbia Business School, New York and was appointed to the Advisory Board of the Global Business School Network in Washington DC in recognition of his major contribution to the development of business education and knowledge transfer in Africa. He is a recipient of several outstanding awards.

HOLISTIC LIVING

The Quiet Revolution: Redefining Self-Care as an Act of Everyday Courage

By Dr. Maymunah Yusuf Kadiri

We've turned self-care into an aesthetic. Bubble baths. Spa days. Candles that smell like calm. Pretty, yes, but temporary. What happens when the candles burn out, the bathwater drains, and real life knocks again? True self-care isn't about escape. It's about endurance. It's not how you retreat from life; it's how you rebuild it from within.

The Myth of the Bubble Bath

Somewhere along the way, we confused comfort with care. We started treating self-care as a luxury, something to squeeze in between exhaustion and deadlines. But self-care was never meant to be decorative, it was meant to be disciplinary. Think of it this way: You don't brush your teeth once a week and expect your dentist to applaud. You do it daily because maintenance prevents decay. The same applies to your mental, emotional, and physical health. Neglecting your well-being and expecting one Saturday of pampering to fix it is like trying to water a dead plant, too late, too little, too superficial.

Real Self-Care Is Not Soft — It's Strong

Real self-care is gritty. It's the version that

rarely makes it to social media. It's choosing to sleep instead of scrolling. It's having the hard conversation instead of bottling it up. It's drinking water when your body screams for caffeine. It's walking away from chaos, even when it calls your name. This kind of care doesn't look glamorous, but it's what keeps you

grounded when everything else is spinning. It's brushing your emotional teeth every single day. **For the Body, Mind, and Soul** Self-care is three-dimensional, body, mind, and soul. You can't nourish one and starve the others. **For the body:** Rest before your body forces you to. Move not to punish it, but to thank it for carrying you through life. Eat foods that sustain you, not

drain you. Hydrate like your peace depends on it — because it does. **For the mind:** Set boundaries that protect your sanity. Unplug without guilt. Journal your emotions before they turn into explosions. Practice mindfulness not because it's trendy, but because presence is power. **For the soul:** Laugh loudly. Sit under a sunset. Pray. Listen to music that reminds you who you were before the world told

you who to be. Call that one person who feels like home. When you tend to all three, body, mind, and soul — you don't just survive life. You savor it.

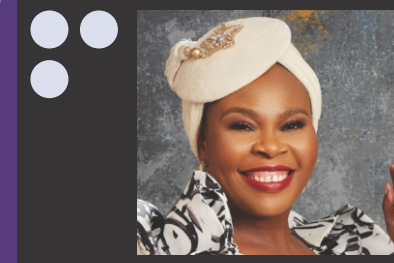
How to Make Self-Care Stick

The hardest part isn't knowing what to do. It's doing it consistently. Self-care is a habit, not a holiday. Here's how to make it last:

- 1. Start Small.** Don't try to change your life in one weekend. Start with one intentional act — a morning stretch, a quiet cup of tea, or a few deep breaths before bed. Small wins create big momentum.
- 2. Listen to Your Body.** Fatigue is not laziness; it's a message. Headaches, irritability, burnout, all are signals that your body and mind are begging for balance. Listen before they start shouting.
- 3. Anchor Your Habits.** Pair new habits with existing ones. Reflect on gratitude while brushing your teeth. Breathe deeply when you close your laptop. Let care become second nature.
- 4. Pursue Balance, Not Perfection.** You will miss days. You'll forget sometimes. That's okay. Self-care is not a checklist — it's a conversation. Keep showing up.
- 5. Add Joy.** Don't turn self-care into another task. Add something that makes you come alive, dance, sing, laugh, paint, rest. Joy is medicine too.

The Preservation Mindset

When you redefine self-care as a lifestyle, everything shifts. It stops being a reaction to burnout and becomes the foundation that prevents it. It's what strengthens your relationships, fuels your creativity, and stabilises your emotions. It's what allows you to pour into others without emptying yourself. So yes, take the bubble bath. Eat the shawarma. Book the massage. But remember, those are surface-level sparkles. The real work of self-care happens in the unseen hours, in the quiet decisions no one applauds. Self-care isn't self-indulgence. It's self-preservation. It's how you build a life that doesn't need constant escaping. Because the goal isn't just to look rested, it's to feel restored. And that happens not in one perfect day, but in a thousand tiny choices that say, every single morning: "I will not abandon myself today."



Dr. Maymunah Yusuf Kadiri

Psychiatrist-In-Chief at Pinnacle Medical Services

Dr. MAYMUNAH YUSUF KADIRI (aka DR. MAY) popularly referred to as "The Celebrity Shrink," is a multiple award winning Mental Health Physician, Advocate & Coach. She is the convener of "The Mental Health Conference" and the Medical Director and Psychiatrist-In-Chief at Pinnacle Medical Services, Nigeria's leading and foremost Psychology and Mental health clinic prominent in the application of innovative clinical approaches in the management/treatment of a wide range of psychological, emotional, and behavioral related disorders.

Dr. Kadiri is a dynamic Consultant Neuro-Psychiatrist and a Fellow of the National Post Graduate Medical College of Nigeria (FMCPSych) with almost 20 years' experience as a practicing Physician. She is a trained and certified Rational Emotive and Cognitive Behavioural Therapist from Albert Ellis Institute, New York, USA. She is also a certified Trauma Counsellor and Neurofeedback Practitioner.

Dr. Kadiri has wide experience in psycho-therapeutic techniques and has perfected her skills whilst in private practice and whilst working for a variety of organizations. She is a recognized radio and television guest Psychiatrist and Psychotherapist. She also contributes to articles published in magazines and newspapers.

She is the only Nigerian with the 14Ps.....Physician, Psychiatrist, Psychologist, Psychotherapist, Practitioner (NLP, BFB, NFB), Public Speaker, Published Author, Producer (movies), Proficient Coach, Parent, Philanthropist, People oriented, Public Health Advocate and Passionate about God and life.

The founder of Pinnacle Health Radio, African's #1 online health radio and a non for profit organization, "Pinnacle Medicals SPEAKOUT Initiative" which is geared towards creating Mental Health literacy in Nigeria and beyond.

The Executive producer of award winning movies, Pepper soup (focused on drug abuse) and Little Drops of Happy (focused on depression, postpartum depression and suicide) and creator of the most innovative mental health app in Africa, HOW BODI.



TRIBE WITH THE VIBES

The girl, how safe is she in the world?

By Zainab Aderounmu

The story of 13-year old Ogbanje Ochanya has been making rounds on the internet

recently; the girl whose life was cut short by the very people who were trusted to nurture the potential she carried. Not only did she die young, but the circumstances of her death were brutal and traumatising, and I wouldn't wish that on any other girl.

But how many other girls have the same story? Better yet, how many other girls will have the same story?

UNICEF's data shows that about 80 percent of rape victims in Nigeria

are girls below the age of 18, with only 60 percent surviving the assault. Ochanya represents a large pool of victims whose perpetrators may or may not be apprehended in their lifetime.

Her story forces us to confront a painful truth in society, that for many women and girls, fear is routine. There is always that quiet fear of walking home alone, speaking up, in a world that has normalised violence against women.

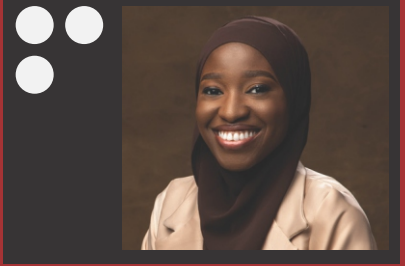
I try to imagine what Ochanya must have experienced and how alone she must have felt. No parents to confide in, but was there no teacher? Was there really no one who could have saved her or was everyone an onlooker as usual?

A few editions ago, I shared my personal physical violence story where I was hit by a man for no valid reason. He was empowered by other people's silence who felt it wasn't their business to interfere. The bystander effect is a psychological phenomenon where

people are less likely to take action especially when others are present.

Sadly, the silence allows violence to thrive. We've been conditioned to look away, mind our business, and justify abuse as something private or deserved. But every time we stay silent in the face of injustice, we give power to the perpetrator and strip the victim of theirs. I imagine how the story could have turned if one of Ochanya's teachers paid attention to her and did something, or a neighbour, or the cousin who first reported the issue to her mother. Just one person, who saw her as their responsibility.

We all have a duty to ensure the world is safer for children because being a girl in the world could mean constantly negotiating safety in spaces that should protect you. But, it can also mean being part of a generation that refuses to normalise violence. We owe it to Ochanya and every girl whose voice was silenced too soon, to build a world where silence is not the response to violence.



Zainab Aderounmu

Zainab Aderounmu A. W. is a First Class graduate of English Language and the Overall Best Graduating Student from the Lagos State University, Lagos Nigeria. She's a professional Master of Ceremonies, known as 'The Hijabi Compere', a public speaking coach and Communications Professional. She is currently a Youth advisor to the European Union where she doubles as the Spokesperson and Head of Communications & PR for the Youth Sounding Board.

GARB & GLAM

IT'S A SUIT AFFAIR

By Yolanda Okereke

There's a quiet kind of power that comes with a woman in a suit — the kind that doesn't ask for permission, doesn't need validation, and doesn't apologize for taking up space. Once considered the uniform of men in control, the suit has evolved into a symbol of feminine authority, confidence, and reinvention.

Today's woman wears her suit like armour — not to hide, but to reveal. She redefines what power looks like in heels, sneakers, or barefoot if she pleases. Her suit isn't just tailored to fit her body; it's cut to match her ambition. It's bold. It's sensual. It's her story, stitched with intent.



Across runways and red carpets, women are rewriting the rules of formalwear. Structured shoulders meet soft silks. Oversized blazers rest on bare skin. Pantsuits, tuxedos, and jumpsuits have become declarations of freedom — no longer borrowed from the boys, but wholly owned by the girls who lead.

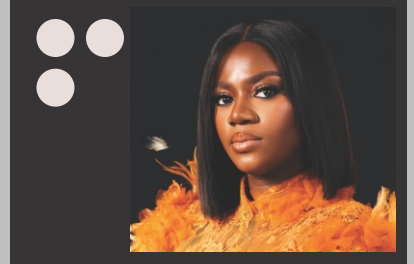
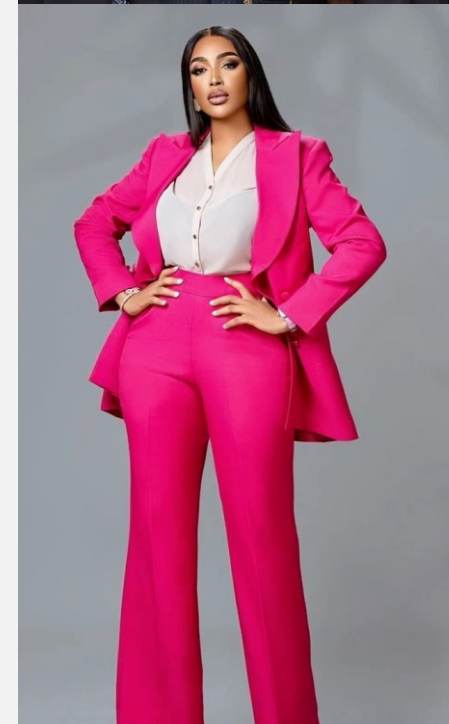
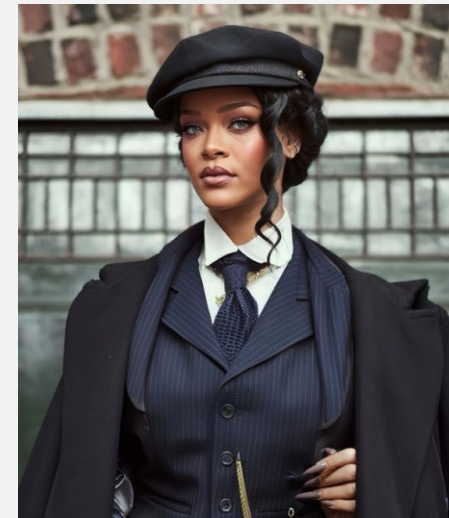
In Nigeria's fashion scene, the women's suit has found new energy. Designers like ATAFO, Lisa Folawiyo, and Orange Culture are shaping silhouettes that merge strength with seduction — from fluid tailoring to vibrant fabrics that defy the grayscale of corporate tradition. Here, suiting isn't about blending in; it's about standing out, commanding attention without saying a word.

The modern woman doesn't wear a suit because she has to — she wears it because she can. Because she knows that elegance and authority are not opposites; they coexist. The fitted blazer, the wide-leg pant, the crisp shirt, or the deep plunge — each piece is a conversation between confidence and grace.

To wear a suit today is to celebrate control — of your narrative, your choices, and your power. It's not about masculinity or rebellion. It's about presence.

Because at the end of the day, a woman in a suit doesn't just walk into a room.

She owns it.



Yolanda Okereke

Founder & Head of The Rani Company

Yolanda Okereke is a visionary fashion entrepreneur and respected industry leader, known for her exceptional work as a Costume Designer and Creative Producer in Film and Television. With over a decade of experience, she has consistently shaped the visual identity of some of Nollywood's most iconic productions, earning a reputation for her artistic depth, organisational precision, and bold storytelling through costume.

She is the Founder and Head of The Rani Company, a leading costume design and styling firm, and The Wardrobe Shack, a costume rental house serving high-profile film and television projects across Nigeria. Rani Gisele was launched while studying Chemical Engineering at university.

Her extensive credits include critically acclaimed projects such as Netflix's Blood Sisters and Òlótùré, as well as The Wedding Party, King of Boys, La Femme Anjola, The Set Up, and Day of Destiny.

Her contributions have earned her nominations at the Africa Movie Academy Awards and the Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards, and she was recently awarded Best Fashion Collaboration Film at FAME Week Africa, where she celebrated Nigerian costume design through a dedicated showcase.





A Journey Through Traditional Beauty & Flavor

Inside Clay Food Shop & The Henna Place

“Together, Clay Food Shop and The Henna Place offer more than services. They offer belonging. A place where tradition is not just preserved, but honored, elevated, and shared”

Clayfoodshop

Clay Food Shop is more than just a restaurant, it's a cultural experience. Known for its traditional elegance and modern interpretations of Northern Nigerian cuisine, Clay is a destination for food lovers who seek authenticity in every bite.

From their signature ram suya to rich native sauces, tigernut juice, and wholesome masa, every meal evokes the comfort of tradition.

📍 [@clayfoodshoplagos](#)

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The Henna Place

Established in 2014, The Henna Place is Nigeria's leading traditional spa, bringing centuries old Moroccan, Northern Nigeria and Arab beauty rituals into the general wellness market. Specializing in Moroccan hammam treatments, sugar waxing, herbal hair care, and intricate henna designs, the spa provides a deeply relaxing and culturally rich self care experience.

With multiple branches across Nigeria, including three branches in Lagos, The Henna Place has become a go-to destination for brides, beauty lovers, and women seeking intentional, soul-restoring care from head to toe, it's a place to cleanse, unwind, and reconnect with yourself the traditional way.

📍 [@Thehennaplace](#)

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