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COVER

To say Governor Sanwo Olu of Lagos State has had more than his fair share of problems with his state recently is putting it mildly. After the Covid pandemic which put insurmountable pressure on him, Sanwo Olu left no stone unturned in ensuring the welfare of his citizens was top priority. But the dust of the pandemic had not even settled before the #endsars movement followed and Lagos was the most badly hit with the carnage that followed in the aftermath of the #lekkishootings.

This has left Sanwo Olu with no choice but to fervently seek proactive ways to mend fences and bridge the gap between the youths and the government. It has been an arduous journey no doubt but a path he has insisted on taking to right the wrongs and earn the trust of the citizens he has promised, and still promises, to serve to the best of his capability. In this exclusive interview, Sanwo Olu talks to Executive Editor of STYLE, RUTH OSIME, about his plans for a greater Lagos and much



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THISDAY STYLE

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Now and again, when you come across people in power, you rightly or wrongly perceive that they live in a cocooned world far removed from the harsh realities of the common man. In terms of comfort and grandiosity, you might not be

wrong but when it comes to the backlash of their actions or lack thereof, even the common man will not change places with them at that point in time. Being constantly in the eye of the storm is a regular occurrence for those who wear the crown of leadership or governance of any kind. You are crudely made very aware of what is expected of you from your exalted position. One wrong move and every other good thing you have done is

Politics as we all know, is not a game for the faint-hearted and it comes with many sleepless nights not to mention a very heavy burden on the shoulders of those who have been voted into power. It is the same all over the world. Politicians are meant to have all the answers and are given little or no tolerance for errors in judgement. Today, citizens of third world countries, especially their youths, are

learning the power of social media and are using this tool to call their leaders to order. The voice of the people have never held as much strength as it does in today's times. Everyone can be heard. Every action can be recorded. News have never come faster or quicker. So every person in power is watched with much closers lenses on everything thing they do.

> Lagos state, as we all know was one of the most badly hit states from the aftermath of the #endsars movement and naturally, everything fell at Governor Babajide Sanwo Olu's doorstep! He has received so much backlash on his handling of the #lekkishootings. But he is also well aware that his job, at the No 1 citizen of his state, is not a walk in the park. So he has had to keep his sleeves rolled up roll up to do everything within his power to not only win the trust of the people who chose him to serve them, but to also empower the youths and make a marked difference in their lives and others during his tenure.

> His goal today, is to leave a lasting legacy behind so when the time comes to judge his performance, he will be remembered as a Governor who 'talked the talk and walked the walk'.

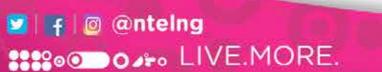
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BY USIADE ISIOMA

Statement earrings are having a major moment, they are the easiest type of jewelry to wear. With all kinds of cool styles ranging from geometric shapes to updated gold hoops and super avant-garde styles, there are a million ways to wear statement jewelry. They are definitely a go-to at least! Read on for a few easy tips and in no time, you'll be a styling pro too!

When wearing bold earrings, try and make the you shy away from wearing any neckpiece and make the earrings the ultimate

Try mixing prints and textures in your outfits with your statement earrings. This will help amplify the colour of your jewel.

Compliment your statement earrings with bold eyes or bold lipstick, but don't go in for both at the same

4 It's always fun to pull back your hair in a pony tail or a bun for your statement earrings to do the talking. It truly makes them stand out.

If your outfit and your statement earring matches, an absolute winner. It will accentuate your overall appearance.

Do pick a bold contrast when your outfit is otherwise plain and needs something to spice it up. Do pick a bold contrast when you just want to make a statement. That's the fun of it!

Do opt for a neutral statement earrings when your outfit is kind of "busy" (think bold prints), or you want to keep things a bit more toned down. This is where your preferences come into play.



Try colours like red,

yellow and blue.

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STYLE & DESIGN

THISDAY Style
Vol. 22, No. 9425 Sunday, February 28, 2021

BY KONYE CHELSEA **NWABOGOR**

Make a chic statement with sunglasses in a

bright shade. Avoid looking

downish by choosing classic

frames that are in proportion to your face-not oversize.

Alero Adollo aleroadollo@yahoo

CAPSULES

I beg make una see me see magana, I was of the opinion that COVID 19 will change people but alas many have found a way around it to perfect their normal vices. Wetin pesin eye no go see for this las giddy, e get as e be I tell you.

Should we not as matter of urgency be looking inwards and advising ourselves at a time like this? a time of introspection and a time to retweak, a time to reboot. I wake up everyday to "stories that touch" and I struggle through the day trying to make sense of the insanity around us. How does the mind adapt to daily news of death of loved ones I muse...

What then truly fascinates is the "life goes on" attitude of people especially as it affects their jagbajantis, this is actually the time many are perfecting their show of shame. I remember a conversation with someone about finding a way around extra marital affairs and how it's "sweeter" during this period, not sure bad news is now sugar to a few depraved minds but he painstakingly explained to me how to steal sex during COVID according to him they bring in doctors to test the women before they go in to do "e ku atijo, ara nro mi", when you then tell them that death may just pay them a visit because of this, they "tua tua tua" you with a sharp retort of "na wetin man sabi chop dey kill am", I beg somebody should yarn me, this "wham bang, thank you mam" thing na food? if so, dem madames no dey cook? for a roll in the hay many are ready to meet their maker, e get as e

I then decide to stroll through social media especially Instagram street and of course what greets my window shopping eyes are the usual "na because of me God create the earth type" I see full there. Wetin happen to us I beg, who pound our brains and replaced with cotton wool biko.... many are crying blood and we are shaking booty or showing off our latest cars etc. What do we need to see happen to provoke an inward change in values? I tire I beg, pepper them, pepper them, pepper who? And why do we feel the need to make others envious of what we have achieved, how does that help anybody's government?

I know adages have said there is nothing new under the sun, but forgive my naivety in the belief that this level of apathy to death by the throng sure takes the biscuit and drink tea join. Who are we? These social media junkies can lie enh, expectedly so I guess, given the fact that their drug of choice is public applause. I remember arguing with someone that they are not lying but are just insensitive to what is going on around us, but unfortunately I was wrong, fibs are the norm on social media, prevarication the daily chant. A tool that should be used to build is used to deceive and pull down, I beg, I slap myself to remember this is not the twilight zone. I was nearly tempted one day to ask one of them lot drunk on self importance that "I beg danger diabolic, how market?"

Another group that makes me scratch my scalp to blood level are those who are determined to tear down this country with their illiterate narratives, it's either their way or the highway, they post doctored pictures and videos to incite, in a veiled attempt at education of a people who are already at their wit's end because of the pandemic and its ffect on their mental and physical well being. Wickedness I tell you. I will rather relate with plants, at least those are useful, I truly wonder who stole our souls and left our spirit derelict, there are too many "dead men walking", because we just don't seem to care. Many have become anaesthetised to pain, a coping strategy perhaps, I honestly don't know at this point. The "haves" continue to hold the "have not" captive in mental slavery hiding behind the skirt of "tribe and tongue" to perfect the theft of our common wealth, and like zombies, many follow them converted.

The bile we spew whilst consumed by hate if it was not poisonous would have been hilarious, it's shameful, what the supposed educated allow themselves to be fed with, it is also sad that our fertile minds have refused to grow the right produce to feed the throng, how does anyone explain the poverty in the midst of plenty? Unfortunately the pandemic has not changed the mindset of our people, the fear of death has not made us pause to ponder. I am more convinced than ever that there is seedtime and harvest and the harvest of the unrepentant wicked can only be a harvest of woes and no matter where they run to avoid the consequences of their actions, karma has a way of locating us without divination. Repent so that you do not get to repeat the class and

Colours of Life



with Koko Kalango

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU CALL IMPOSSIBLE

"Not even God Himself could sink this ship"
Employee of the White Sea Liner at the launch
on May 31st, 1911

In 1912, a group of powerful businessmen came together and built a shipping vessel that was a masterpiece. This paradise on the sea set sail on its maiden voyage from Southampton, England, to America. On board were 2227 passengers. Against the advice of the original builders of the ship, who proposed 50 lifeboats, the owners of the White Sea Liner made provision for just 20. At 11:45pm on April 14, 1912 (just two days after the ship left shore, and 400 miles off Newfoundland, Canada) the Titanic struck an iceberg. Three hours later, the world-famous sea wonder sunk with all but 705 of its passengers. This accident has become one of the most monumental tragedies in history.

"No woman in my time will be Prime Minister..." Margaret Thatcher, October 1969

Margaret Thatcher's induction into the world of politics came from her father, a local councillor in Grantham, England. Alfred Roberts fed his daughter with stories of the happenings in the political circles. She became President of the student Conservative Association at Oxford, where she studied Chemistry. There, she also began to hobnob with prominent politicians and the party leadership. After graduation, she pursued her interest in politics. In the General Elections of 1950 and 1951, Margaret Hilda Roberts became the youngest woman candidate in the country, running as the Conservative candidate for the Labour seat of Dartford. Although she lost at both attempts, Margaret enjoyed the experience and gained popularity. She got married to Dennis Thatcher in 1951. She became a member of the House of Lords and Education Minister, under the Heath Government (1970-1974). After the Conservatives lost two General Elections, Thatcher ran against Heath and won, becoming the first woman leader of a Western political party.

A decade later, a series of events put the Labour party in disfavour with the people and paved the way to Downing Street for Thatcher. In May 1979, Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister of Britain, a position she held for three terms, making her the longest serving British Prime Minister of the 20th century.

"... I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

Martin Luther King Jr., Lincoln Memorial, August 28th, 1963.

When Reverend Martin Luther King gave his famous 'I have a dream' speech in Washington, he talked about an America where 'black' and 'white' kids will grow up with equal opportunities. He spoke of a time when people will be judged not by the colour of their skin but on merit. He longed for an America where freedom would be a reality and not just a dream. Less than 5 decades later, an African-American became President of the United States of America. Barak Obama, a political nonentity, who according to his contender in the primaries, Hillary Clinton, had 'only a speech he made in 2000' to show for experience, beat the former First Lady and former senator to clinch the nomination for the Democratic party. He also beat his rival, Senator John Mcain, to become the 44 President of the United States of America

YOU AND ME

Happenings like these that occur, against all odds, are a reminder that all things are possible. Some of us may be able to point to a situation we found ourselves in that seemed impossible to get out from. But somehow things worked out, against all odds. Those experiences often have us swallow our words and question our doubts. Experiences like these should not just humble us, they should give us hope.

And hope should make us get up each morning with a positive attitude. Hope should give us something to live for, something to aspire to, something to pursue. While the stories we have shared played out on the world stage, the principle is the same even in our little corners. These examples should encourage us when we face difficulty, an insurmountable debt, a terminal disease, an irreparable relationship, an irreplaceable loss, a difficult decision, a great challenge, a big dream. When we wonder what to do, where to go, how to begin, let us be encouraged by these examples. Above all, let us remember these reassuring words from God;

'I am the Lord, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me? Jeremiah 32:27

THE COLOURS OF LIFE SHOW

Remember to tune in to our Colour of Life TV show on you tube, Sundays at 5 pm (WAT). Last week Mrs Nkoyo Rapu inspired us as she talked of the work of her Bethesda Child Support Agency, in transforming indigent communities through education. Today, we would listen to testimonies of how the Alpha Course is changing lives. Next week, Mrs Chiadi Ndu will talk about how she deals with trauma.

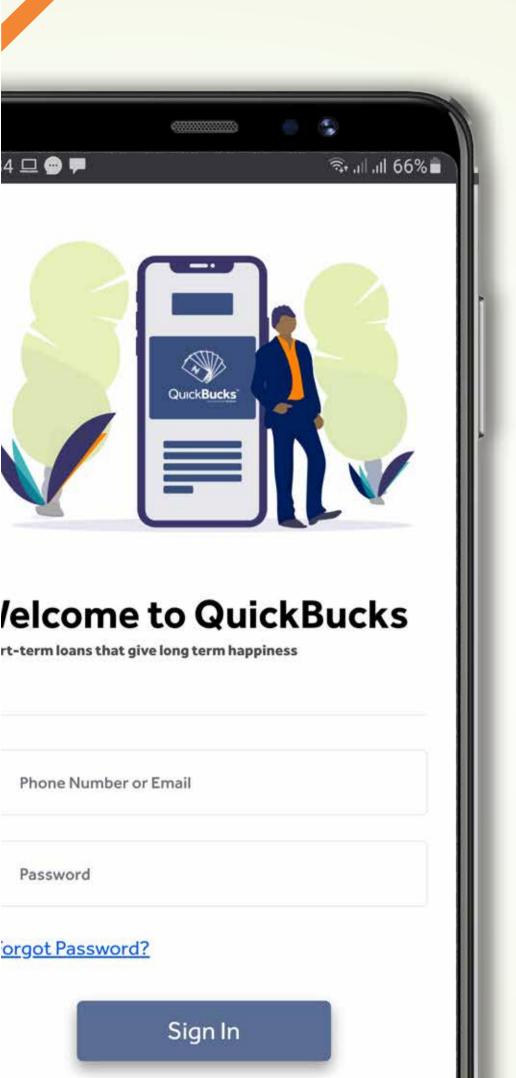
Koko Kalango is author, Colours of Life devotional. Contact@coloursoflife.org



It's only a few months into 2021, and tie-dye has already emerged as one of the year's biggest fashion trends. Tie-dye fashion, which was once known for the classical primary school art and craft stuff, has today become a complete fashion trend. It throws an astonishing haze over your entire wardrobe and has officially been elevated to a high-fashion ranking, it has also continued to make a bold statement in the lockdown fashion. The tie-dye loungewear has successfully replaced animal motifs and florals. It is a fun way to unwind while stuck at home and an easy way to upcycle pieces you already have in your closet. The good news is that you don't have to be crafty to get in on the trend. Thanks to an extensive range of clothing pieces available, from formal wear to casual clothing, and from apparel in simplistic two-tone gradients to bright prints bursting with beautiful colours, this trend is perfect to be worn at any time. As comforting as the process of making tie-dye is, it's even more comforting to wear. We rounded up some of our favourite pieces that that will help you incorporate the style in your everyday look.

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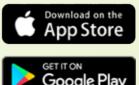


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THISDAY Style Vol. 22, No. 9425 Sunday, February 28, 2021

There has been some recent reaction from the youths on the reopening plan for the Lekki tollgate, as they strongly feel as a form of respect to the Lekki incident shootings, the tollgate should be left open. Worse still, we saw videos of this same inhuman treatment/complaint about police brutality still being meted out to some of the youths arrested. The video showed them shirtless and packed inside the van like a tin of sardine. Debo Adebayo alias Mr Macaroni also narrated his experience at the hands of the police where they were beaten mercilessly and stripped naked. Doesn't this act reopen old wounds?

Thank you, I think we need to take this in different context and put it in perspective. A Judiciary panel, set up to investigate police brutality issues, the bane of the #endsars movement's existence, is an independent panel. The only member I knew before it was set up is the DIG Nakano who used to be a Deputy commissioner in Lagos state. The level of independence and the composition were all given to us by the civil society groups and the youths. From day one, we gave them funds of over N200 million to be used for conclusion on any of their findings on the restitution we are talking about and also, to pay compensations to victims. Further than that, the panel also asked for funds to do forensic examination which the state Government has continuously granted working with the office of Attorney General. For us, we felt that at some point in time, decisions and pronouncements will be made with some form of restitution and closure.

A few weeks ago, the management of LCC (Lagos Concession Company), made repeated pleas to the panel to do their own forensic findings/recording. On three occasions, the panel extended the timing which was to give the toll gate back to the LCC which doesn't translate to opening the whole plaza. What they want to do is to start the process of bringing their insurance in, looking at the level of damage and start to rebuild. That, in itself could take three months or more but unfortunately, LCC did not communicate that well enough to the citizens, hence the misconceived perception of its reopening. This will take a while to happen because as it is right now, they cannot collect any fare, they don't even have any communication gadget, they don't have information gadget or power there, so how can tolling start? Tolling in my view, will probably not start four/six months down the line in which time, we believe the panel would have done a whole lot more. So the breakdown in communicating this message to the public was one of the missing links either from the panel itself, or the LCC. In terms of access, vehicles are still moving in and out so it is not like a closed property that has been locked up. What LCC have been permitted to do is give a valuation assessment and start putting back communication, fibre, power infrastructures and also improve the tolling collection with the type of tolling system they want to put in place.

Don't you think as a mark of respect, the Lekki toll gate shouldn't be open now because of wha happened there?

It should have been made abundantly clear that by the LCC and the panel that the revisit of the toll gate issue is not about toll collections, for now. They should have made it known that the gate is still accessible but not for toll collection. Notwithstanding, the structure is a damaged facility and repair works still need to be carried out which like I said before, will take no less than four months to achieve. The infrastructures are yet to be put into place, the communication gadget, fibre gadget and several other structures would have to be put in place for work to resume. The LCC staff, for the past four months, have not been receiving salaries, so a lot of things are on standstill. But as a Governor, the Judiciary panel has remained independent from us so as to bring about the level of expected fairness, equity which is our desired goal. Maybe by now they should begin to have some closure around what really happened, what sanctions have been recommended, what kind



of punishments should be meted out, and what kind of compensation should be given to the people that suffered some form of injury.

Let's go back to the police brutality that happened recently. How could this happen again to peaceful

It is going to take a lot of phycological change for us to get that image out of our system. The culprits are a set of people that either have not been well trained on their jobs or lack the capability to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the civility that we expect from them. Police conduct and lack of discipline is going to be a process, it requires training and retraining.

Why weren't better trained police officers picked this time around to better handle the protesting youths so history will not repeat itself?

That's why we have also set out an investigation to actually call the Commissioner of Police to question and let us know who amongst the officers got so low to have meted this level of inhumane behaviour to harmless protesters.

Are the culprits going to be arraigned in the ongoing panel judgment?

This will be a court room decision in which sanctions will be meted immediately. It is not going to be a long story. It is going to be something in 2-3 days' time where the offenders will be probed. We need to balance the reportage, that's why we have been talking about state police. If the men were my state police, we won't be talking about it now. Rather, I will be telling you the decisions I have made and sanctions I have given.

Even after we bring out recommendation or sanctions for the bad eggs within the police system, we still don't have the constitutional right to take any action or deal with it, it is still the IG or the Federal law/police that will implement it. That's why we have been talking about a true Federal system where I am the one recruiting and paying your salary and I can discipline you when you err.

Why haven't there been such a Federal system?

We have been on it for a long time, we need to keep talking about it. If it is indeed a federating state, that is the minimum that you expect. Let us have a state police where you can completely hold the Governor accountable for any wrongs of the police. If I don't have a contact with the IG, they cannot change the CP.

So, there is no way you can met out punishment or justice to these perpetrators?

No, you will only recommend, directly you cannot met out any punishment. It is the Nigerian police force.

What has the process of picking up the pieces been like in terms of reconstruction of the damages done and how badly has this affected various business of Lagos state, have alternative measures been put in place for destroyed structures to conduct their rebuilt?

The damage has been of varying degrees around different sectors. Like you have also observed, the toll gate for instance, will need some measure of reconstruction over a process which has not started. Take for example, another industry like the Judiciary where as we speak today, we have about 25 High Court Judges who do not have a place to seat, we have about 20 Magistrate Courts that do not have a place to seat. That, in itself, is a denial of dispensation of justice. What we have done very quickly, is to identify some of our newer buildings that we are converting to courts. Some are around Ikoyi, some are also in Lagos Island. We are already looking to abandoned properties of the Federal Government that we can quickly renovate. We have started some and I am in constant conversation with the Chief Judge of the state. They are sharing chambers which is not ideal, a judge must have a full complement of his or her chamber and have a full complement of

staff to be able to work effectively. We are finishing some at the end of February which we will hand over to them for usage. The second set of people are those in other Government offices that we haven't been able to renovate, so they have merged. Covid has been on so not all the civil servants are at the office, level 1-14 is still not fully operational so office sharing is still going on. I have also given support to the local government. In fact, we will be reopening one of the local governments (AJIROMI IFE LODUN) in Ajegunle that was completely run down because the residents don't even have a place to stay. We have done extensive rebuild which we will be commissioning very soon. We have also helped few police stations with containers to be converted for their use while some of their men have been moved to other places. For businesses, what we have done in direct collaboration with the private sector, is to focus on the small to medium scale businesses that we can help out with, with grants ranging from as low as N5,000 to as high as N5 million. These grants are not interest bearing facilities so as to enable them get back on their feet. Even the affected malls are given Lagos Employment Trust Fund, and cheques have been written to them. We are also helping them establish and continue to defer interest payment for those who have been given loans before so that people can indeed, get back gradually to business. It's been a long haul and it is not going to end tomorrow. On the buses for example, we are taking almost 200 of them out from their stations to be converted and used just to clean up the locations. The whole process of rebuilding the terminal and bus-stops also will start very soon.

As we all know, Rome was not built in a day. Tell us about the Rebuild Lagos Trust Fund and how that is

For us not to get distracted with the work of governance, late last year we set up the Lagos Rebuild Trust Fund because of the layers of interest we have seen and the amount of people that offered to help. The crop of men and women in this platform are largely private sector driven. Dr Yemi Cardoso, former Head of Citibank is heading the fund. He was once in the public sector but now back in the private sector. Also, we have a youth, Mr Agboola of Flutter Waves; Mr Abubakar Sulaiman, MD of Sterling bank; Prof. Koyinsola Ajayi; Mrs Bola Adeshola who also chairs a Lagos State Trust Fund. And just to also interface the government, the Commissioner of Planning & Budget is there as well as the Permanent Secretary in the Office of Infrastructure. I think it is a 7/8-man Board. They have set up their structure and are beginning to raise some funding. Part of the things they are going to do is to look at the entire rebuilding that they need to do, to enable them raise both private and public sector funds. We have made some budget provision for them which once they ask us for, we can make available to them. We are seeing architects that may not have cash but have the time and intellect to assist. We also have lawyers that probably will not charge to get bills, we have structural and civil engineers that will be donating their time and space, and the contractors too will not be all about profit but just funding for execution of their jobs. Government cannot do all of this without support from the private sector. The process must be done transparently and the crop of people that we have put there are men and women that we believe, will really help us achieve our goal.

Can you tell us about the THEMES agenda and how it will push the greater Lagos story?

The THEMES agenda is our economic blue print as a government and we will continue to do that regardless of the calamity we experienced a few months back. T stands for traffic management and transportation, H for Health and Environment, E for Education and Technology, M for Making Lagos a 21st century economy, E for Entertainment and Tourism, S for Security and Good Governance. In each of these pillars, we have programs that we are running and that is what our government is doing right now.

What are the things Lagos is putting in place to encourage the welfare of the youth?

This year's budget for example, is one of the biggest in the history of the state; N1.160 trillion. Of that budget, N760billion of it is capital expenditure for the youths because a sizable number of our population are youths. It is for and about what they stand for. Be it education, job creation, technology, sports, communication from one location to another, public transportation, things around health. It is really speaking to that youthful population. To dissect the budget very well and talk specifically, when you use the demography of youths, it starts from age 15-18 to 40-45, so it depends on who you are talking to and what sector we are dealing with. If you also look at all of our proposed expenditure for 2021, we are deliberately looking at helping small businesses grow, empowering the youths and also using the various youth organizations as an enabler to bring them closer to government and listen to them. We are encouraging them to share their views on what we should be doing and doing differently.

This way, we can achieve the targeted intervention coming for them. The funds are there, we have made provisions; Office of Civil Engagement, Office of Sustainable Development Goals, Youths and Social Development Office, all of these offices are looking to youth's engagement at different levels. Sports is also an area we believe we can bring about talents.

Are you setting up a training Academy?

We want to develop grassroots sports as well as school sports. We are also looking at creating an entertainment school. It is going to be innovative. We are revamping the National Art Theatre with a committee of banks, a project we are truly excited about! Over the next two years, we are looking at spending close to N30 billion on this project. Apart from National Theatre, we are building a Fashion Academy, a Tech academy and a Music & Entertainment academy all around Iganmu. That is where we believe the energy of raw talent in our midst can manifest and be fine tuned for success. We also need to push the youths in positions of leadership because all of these things are really about them. That conversation must continue to happen, we want to create that space for them and boost their morale and ensure that we are communicating at all times.

You are known as a governor who is ready to roll up his sleeves and get his hands dirty, a trait you are greatly admired for. But having your finger constantly on the pulse button must also come with its challenges. On a personal level, your tenacity was been put to test several times in the last few months. What has been the lowest moment for you so far in your tenure that has made you wonder why you are

You can never predict the level of outcomes, there is no way you could have imagined it. Last year, less than a year in government, we have had to deal with two major issues which are not compatible. Covid came at the time nobody knew what was going to happen the next day and we saw how Lagos was the epicentre. At the time, we did not even know what we were doing but God helped us as we were able to get some things right and hold our ground throughout. Unfortunately, about the time when that was coming down, an unprecedented issue in Lagos followed. The #endsars movement. Rightly so, the protest started with youth union who led from the front. I was with the youths all throughout.

I was the one that set up the first panel even before the October incident. Everything we thought we could humanly do, we did. But all it takes is one wrong move for everything to fall like a pack of cards which sadly, was the case with the #lekkishootings. Those were very tough difficult moments in my life personally and I reflect on it almost every day.

But beyond that, on a day-to-day basis, I get calls at 4am/6am that I never bargained for. Just this morning

true Federal system where I am the one recruiting and

paying your salary and I can discipline you when you err.

STYLE & DESIGN

at about 7 o'clock, a train had almost run over a trailer at Coker Iju. That is the kind of challenge that a big cosmopolitan city like Lagos puts on the head of whoever is the Governor. You really don't know what time you will go to bed and what time you will be called

When people tell me that I have lost weight, indeed you will lose weight in this job. You don't even have time to roll down the sleeves as they have to be permanently rolled up. It is tough but at the end of it, you need to also be thankful to God. It is a position of grace and honour and if you are able to help your fellow human beings and God gives you the power to do so, there is nothing more gratifying in life.

I will step out a bit to talk about the late Alhaji Lateef Jakande. I admired the former Governor of Lagos State as a young man and I will continue to relish his memory and his tenure for a long time. So, like him, we cannot give excuses. Those times, 40 years ago is different from now, technologies have met up with us so we need to also be able to respond accordingly, do things quicker and smarter and by the grace of God, leave a legacy behind.

People know the Governor, Jide Sanwo Olu, but not many people know the man behind the face. For those who knew you before you became Governor, what has changed now that you used to do with your friends but cannot do anymore now and how do you try to bridge the gap?

I can tell you, I have zero social life! None at all. Also, Covid has not helped but even at that, you don't even have the time or space because it is a 24/7 job. With my friends, indeed, this is a period where they will say "You know what Jide, we have donated you to Lagos state. Just go do the work and make sure you keep the good name that we all know you for and we will continue to remain your friend". Although we also create a few hours to watch football on a few Sunday evenings when it is a big match. They will call to come around, and I always look forward to it! But unfortunately my team gets beaten easily these days. (Laughter). During this meetings they also voice their approvals or disapprovals of my performances and I take all of their criticism very well. Aside from that, they give me the required space I need to be able to do the work.

Speaking of Covid, you got infected with the virus even though you must have taken the necessary precautions to avoid it. And so did your Health Minister. But worryingly, up till now when the virus is supposedly 70% more contagious, there is no lockdown and people are still doing things as normal while Covid Centers are filled to the brim and hospitals are bursting at the seams. With this, why has there not been another lockdown till the curve is flattened?

First, we still have bed spaces at the centres. Second, it is a double-edge thing because you have to be able to strike very delicate balance between health, security and economy. Unfortunately for us, we do not have a social safety net where people can go draw from a food bank or data in which we know the exact number of vulnerable people we have. These are all comas and more so, our economy is still driven largely by small medium scale daily earners. So we have to strike that balance. Science also tells us about social distance. We stopped parties and closed events but people are not taking responsibility for their reckless actions. Over the weekend, we shut down four clubs. I have a lot of event centres till today that are under lock and key. People need to see and know that Covid is real. Though there are those who do not want to hold back a little for us to flatten the curve, we can't because of that, shut down the entire state simply because we cannot afford to do so over a long period. We don't even have proper data to be able to analyze the effect of that, we are running a deficit budget, numbers that don't add up, there are no revenues anywhere so it is a very difficult time. The last time, we had to provide a lot of interventions for people.

To enable us have proper data, we are building the





People know what they want but because of the past antecedents, we political leaders need to do a whole lot more for people to even decide to listen to us. I can tell you that I come on this job with the sincerity of heart to make this place a lot better than I met it. In that journey, yes, I might have made some mistakes. I might have hit some people wrongly but that is the only way I can get up, fix it and make it work again.



Alastar citizen ID card. This way, you can know that 20% of the people in one area are within a certain age bracket and these are the kind of things they require. This is a learning curve for us to scale up in our governance to enable us plan better. Right now, we continue to advocate and tell our people through whatever medium we have, the religious organizations, traditional rulers, opinion leaders in their community to appeal to others that these are very serious times in our lives and we need to just hold back a little.

The cost of Covid tests is also too expensive for the common man though free tests are available at Lagos state provided Centers. What is required to make these tests more readily available to those who require it as we hear some of the free test centres are always full to the brim?

In Lagos, we have the highest testing centres. We have four or five public centres that are free and we still do up to 4000 tests daily. The private centres are expensive because that is the real cost of conducting these tests. The reagents and PPE are expensive. When we started, they were rationing reagents worldwide. Even to set up a PCR lab is also expensive.

Does that mean the free test given in public centres are equivalent in cost to the N50,000 charged

If we do the numbers, that is precisely what it cost the government and we have done close to 250,000 free tests in Lagos. That is the reality. It is the same reagent and machine we use because it is a public health issue.

When you have a public health pandemic, you should not be guided by costs because you are saving your people and must be able to provide the resources to do that. So the private sector are not over-charging.

What is an average Covid centre like, what do you expect?

It is a paddle way of 20mins turn around, it is fit free and there are people there, there is social distancing. IDH Yaba, NIMC, LUTH.

People have complained about the crowd at these centers fearing that with such exposure, you can even catch the virus from there. Your take?

Yes, you have to wait but it is an open space; so, there is definitely social distance. The whole idea about the protocol is so they don't put you in an enclosed space especially if you think you have been exposed to the virus but don't have the resources for private treatment. Our treatment is free and it is same treatment people pay tens of millions for. We use over 500 oxygen tanks a day. On the issue of scarcity of tanks, we are scaling up. We have also installed two new oxygen plants.

After all said and done, as a father and Governor of the state, to better connect with the youths what more can you say to earn their trust, increase their faith in your stewardship and boost their morales?

It has been a difficult journey. I am not going to sit here and say to you that it is a tea party and everything is well, sincerely it is not. There has been indeed failure of governance over time where if we begin to apportion blames, every one of us would have a part in that largely more by us in position of leadership. That failure, is the backbone that has led to mistrust of government. When we come out to say that we are going to do, they find it difficult to believe. Today, we have youthful leaders in their own areas today, they could be young but they are leaders. They could be business owners, young entrepreneurs that are doing great things and they are correcting the comas in the space.

People know what they want but because of the past antecedents, we political leaders need to do a whole lot more for people to even decide to listen to us. I can tell you that I come on this job with the sincerity of heart to make this place a lot better than I met it. In that journey, yes, I might have made some mistakes. I might have hit some people wrongly but that is the only way I can get up, fix it and make it work again.

The incident that has happened, happened to all of us and when I say all of us, I mean all. But we can come out of it together stronger and better and so through this healing process, it is for us to be a bit patient because time, they say, is critical. Things heal with time and so I plead for that to see what genuineness I personally bring to the table. I will be accessible and accountable at all times to ensure that what you want me to do, what you are telling me to do, are the things I will listen to and make the required changes. I will make those changes with you, working with me and working together to create that future that we all believe in. It is not going to be done overnight, no. But I am using this channel to plead for patience. I will want to say that as hard as the social media is, people not in this environment underestimate the realities on ground. Naturally, we have challenges here and there which will take us a while to resolve. We don't even have enough numbers in terms of budget but what I have promised is that we will make all the right decisions that will make Lagos better. We will create transportation they will be proud of; we will create schools that all will see and will be indeed proud of, we are building new hospitals that they will see that indeed it is not just consulting centres but places where they can get treated. We are going to build roads and build new facilities that people will be happy with and also build entertainment centres. These feats, I believe we need to do together.

And to heal, we all need to be on the same page. The pain of leadership is to accept our mistakes and failures and to forge ahead to make things better.



GETTING STARTED

Gather materials. You have to gather your materials before you can expect to start in creative makeup. You can't go canoeing without a canoe, after all. Choose what creative media you want to use on your skin and prepare yourself to create!

and into the realm of art with a minor bridge into body paint. You can use creative

makeup for various reasons, from ceremonies to Halloween to stage makeup or even

fancy dress parties. It requires precision and a steady hand. Here are some tips to

achieving an artistic make over.

Prep your skin. You want to make sure that your skin is clean and dry before beginning your work. This step is also when you would apply whatever base primer you invested in!

Choose your media and tools. Are you using face paint or cosmetics? Are you using both? What tools will you be using today? Do you have your brushes or sponges handy?

Go wild! Creative makeup, like all forms of art, is yours. You should feel no shame in whatever your work's outcome may be. Even if your work doesn't look exactly like it "should," you're the one who brought it to life.

CREATIVE TIPS

Tape

A tool commonly used to achieve a perfect winged eyeliner look; you can use scotch tape. You put the tape on your face in the manner you would like for your eyeliner to be. From there, you apply your eyeliner. If it gets on the tape, no problem Whenever you're done, peel it off to reveal your beautiful wings.

Translucent Powder for Lipstick

If you are a fan of lipstick but not a fan of how it seems to rub off so soon after applying, this tip might help you out. It

is an incredible tool to set your lipstick. Putting a napkin or tissue over your lips and then lightly dusting the powder onto your painted lips will improve your lipstick's durability.

Wet Your Brush for a More Vibrant Cosmetic Look

Is your eyeshadow not packing on in the way that you hoped? Does your highlighter seem duller than you would prefer? An easy solution is to wet your brush with water or spray it with a setting spray packing the pigment onto your brush. When you go to apply, you'll immediately notice the difference.

Thumb Rule

Painting your lips with face paint or lipstick is an enjoyable task. The product smearing across your teeth, however, is not. If you're tired of seeing your lip colour of choice on your teeth, try the "Thumb your lips and pop it out. This should do a great job of eliminating excess lipstick that may travel.

Know What You Want Before You Start

While this can also be true with cosmetics, it is essential with face paint. Face paint is does not blend as well as cosmetics, meaning one wrong move could lead you right back to square one. You want to have a rough idea of what you're going for when you use face paint to save you time and effort.

Make Sure Your Base Coat is Dry If your media is still wet when you apply another, it could throw off your look completely. Patience is key..

Crop top with a matching pants

One of the easiest ways of wearing your crop top is to just slide on a pair of matching pants. You have absolutely nothing to worry about be it high waisted, mommy pants, flared or bootcut. Model for **KENNETH IZE**

Crop Top with High Waist **Pants**

High waist pants with crop tops are so in right now. A statement high waist pants with a simple long sleeve top and a cute purse can be the perfect outfit for a get together. **Model for MAZELLE STUDIOS**

Crop Top with Maxi skirts

Play peek-a-boo with maxi skirts be it full length or half. Gone are the days where maxi skirts were worn with regular T-shirts, now it's all about crop tops. Also, it is an attractive style for those of us who love this style but are not okay with the idea of revealing too much skin. Use minimal accessories to amp your look. Model for MOOFA

Crop tops were the

Trendsetters took the

fashion world on a roller coaster ride

with this style. They are bold, fashion-

forward and flattering for every body type. As

fun and stylish as these staples are, it's normal

to feel a little nervous if you're rocking one

the first time. Finding your favourite length and

fit and keep the look balanced with high-waisted 🖊

pants, shorts and skirts also make these trendy

tops perfect for any occasion. To hand you some fresh 2021 crop top

inspiration, look to these outfits pulled directly from fashion run ways.

thing during the 90s.

Crop Top with Slit skirt

Just go with this look blindly because it's the perfect outfit for just about anything you have planned – a day at the mall, a date night or dinner with friends. Matching short side slit skirt and crop top sets are a thing. Loose crop tops with side slit skirt is another attractive option for curvy women. Model for TJWHO

Crop Top with Palazzo

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Palazzos with crop tops are fun, airy, and elegant. You could dress up or down with your palazzo bottoms. Go for regular plain or printed palazzos with simple crop tops for everyday wear or a heavy silk palazzo with a chiffon crop top for a special event or a party. Model for ZIVA LAGOS

Crop Top and Long Skirt

It is established that crop tops with long skirts are considered extremely modish and stylish. So, don't fret too much the next time you have a sudden weekend plan. Just go for a set with a jacket top, and a statement look. Model **GAVIN RAJAH**

TOP 2020 LUXURY HANDBAGS

Every year, new handbag trends make their way into the street style world. They are incredibly unique styles sure to liven up your look in an instant with serious street style star backing. Sometimes, though, it's the classic luxury handbags you simply can't say no to because they are just

that - classic. If you're unsure about which luxury piece to splurge on, consider turning to the most popular designer bags ever, they're worth the splurge and deserve a spot in your collection. They've been the most soughtafter year after year. Just take a look at the street style stars as proof, and they'll continue to be a great pick for years to come. Here is a roundup of 10 most popular designer bags, based on our street style research.

BIRKIN BAG

Named after English actress and singer Jane Birkin, this bag has been coveted since its inception in 1984. It is a line of tote bags by the French luxury goods maker, Hermès, that is handmade in leather. The bag quickly became a symbol of wealth and exclusivity due to its high price and long waiting lists.



BIRKIN BAG \$12,100

DIOR SADDLE BAG

Dior's version first Saddle Bag debuted in 1999 wher John Galliano was still at the helm of the house. and its high resale value is proof that it's still coveted today. Rosie Huntington-Whiteley and Rihanna are among the celebrities who own this chic style.



DIOR SADDLE BAG. \$3,950

CHANEL

QUILTED BAG

Nothing says luxury like a Chanel bag. Quilted designs have been an integral part of the brand's history since Coco Chanel herself designed this bag in 1955.



just pop your credit card out, this could be a style

If you're looking for a designer piece you can

GUCCI COIN

PURSE

and lipstick into for a night you use for many evenings GUCCI COIN PURSE. \$480



LOUIS VUITTON ALMA BAG

This bag is popular because of the unmistakable Louis Vuitton logo and practical shape. Louis Vuitton arguably paved the way for the designer logo craze that is still going strong in 2021.

GUCCI QUILTED

SHOULDER BAG

A handbag roundup is

not complete without

mentioning Gucci. The

GG logo is extremely

associated with Italian

luxury.



LOUIS VUITTON ALMA BAG. \$1,200

NEVER-FULL BAG Another one of Louis

Vuitton's winning designs is the Never full bag, which launched in 2007 to great fanfare.

LOUIS VUITTON



CHANNEL CLASSIC FLIP

Last but not least, it's the bag everyone dreams of: Chanel's Flap Bag. Sleek and simple yet totally elegant, it's no wonder

why it's still selling like crazy in 2021. It doesn't hurt that everyone from Anna Wintour to Beyoncé

owns one.

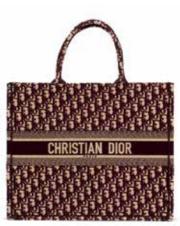


CHANEL CLASSIC FLAP BAG. \$6,500

DIOR BOOK TOTE

recognizable and is closely

Another trend that shows



GUCCI QUILTED SHOULDER BAG. \$2,490.JPG

BOTTEGA VENETA POUCH

Think of this one as a drawstring bag without the drawstring. Or a clutch that's oversized, floppy, and hard to hold. No one picks up the Pouch for practical reasons, yet its puckery, soft shape is seer everywhere

on social media and is an item for fashionistas. **INI EDO**



BOTTEGA VENETA POUCH. \$2,820

no signs of slowing down: the tote with the designer name spelt out in big capital letters. Dior's Book Tote heads the list because of a range that includes animal prints, exotics, camouflage, and logo fabrics plus patterns that are witty references to the House's heritage. CHIOMA IKOKWU



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