

10TH
EDITION

BizzAfrica

MAGAZINE

OCTOBER, 2019.

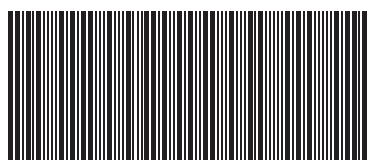
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EDITORIAL

Every entrepreneur goes through a moment in their business when challenges, such as getting the right people to work with, raising adequate funds, and breaking through the competition on the market, become daunting.

An entrepreneur beset with such challenges is most likely to have second thoughts about the business even if it stems from a great business idea.

At this point, what you, as an entrepreneur, must keep in mind is not to freak out about these challenges. Rather, embrace them and let them guide you into creating innovative alternatives that would make the business survive.

It is also important to remember why you started. The passion that drove you to start the business can inject a new surge of energy to overcome that hiccup in the business.

It is also important to remember why you started. The passion that drove you to start the business can inject a new surge of energy to overcome that hiccup in the business.

In this edition, we highlight the stories of successful entrepreneurs who share their journeys.

One of such is Emmaline Datey, a freelance speaker, business and career coach, mentor, consultant and MC, who has become a force to reckon with in a fast growing industry in Ghana.

She was named one of Ghana's top influential women in 2017, one of top 100 speakers in Ghana 2018, and has a lot to share from her experience in her chosen industry.

We again have the inspiring story of Kofi Gyan, our living legend, who has experienced the 'extraordinary' and has a

compelling story to tell anyone who is faced with the option of giving up in life.

Also in this edition are jokes, poems and short stories meant for your relaxation.

We love to hear from you.

Kindly contact us on info@bizzafrica.com with any questions and comment.

Bonne lecture!

Rhoda Maame Praba Gyepi-Garbrah (Editor)



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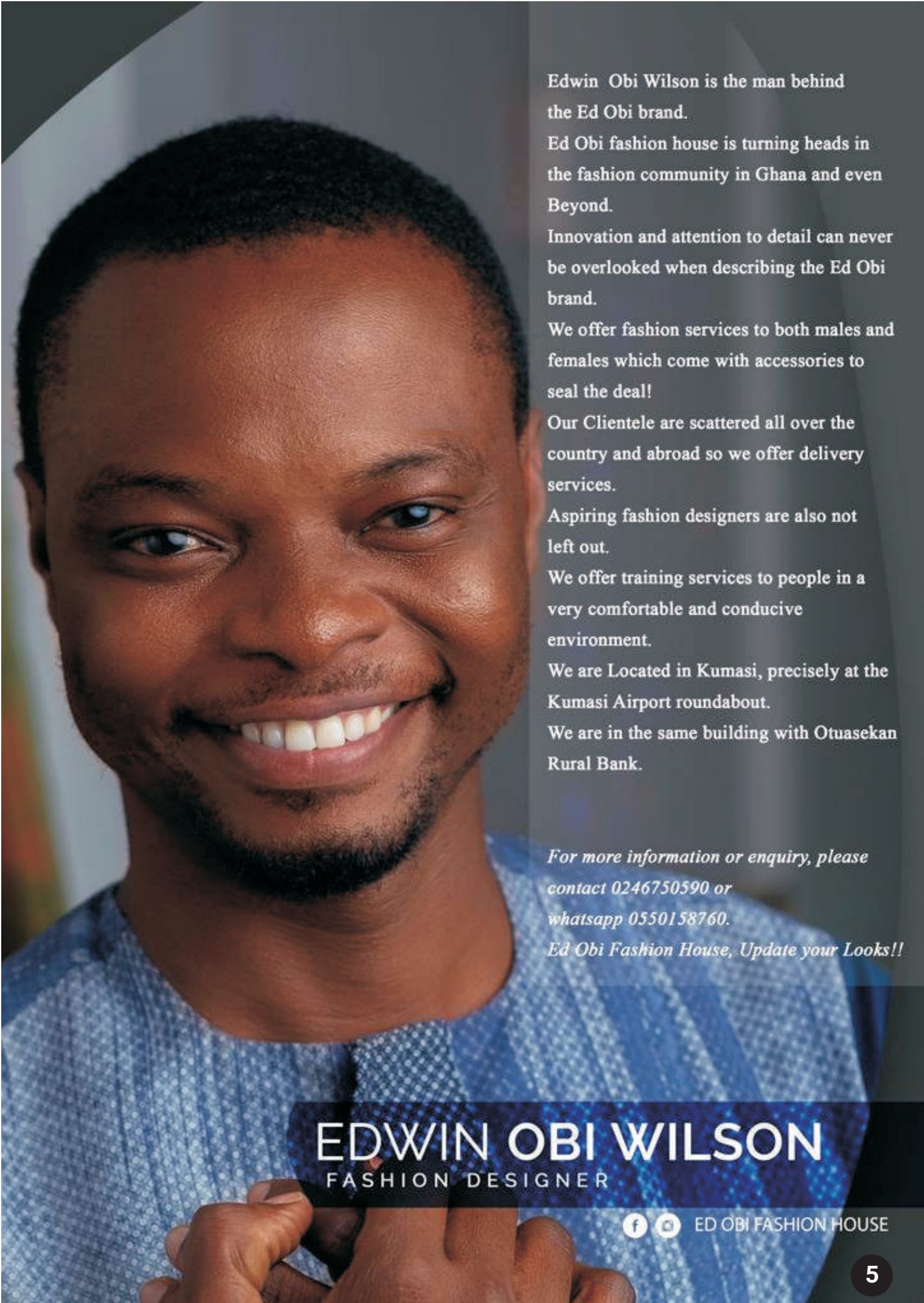
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GETTING 101 STARTED

8

*Date check: circa mid – June 2015
Time check: 1400 GMT*

It had now become very typical of me to be out in town, doing all I can to set the stage for, what I had purposed in my heart to be the final attempt at publishing a magazine.

We had just begun our long vacations, and I reckoned that I had just about enough resources – time, energy and of course, the necessary funds to set the ball rolling.

This was not the first time, anyway. We started with Public Eye a few years ago. In short, it did not do too well. The team managed to release a few online editions on a blog designed for that purpose; It did not last for a year.

A few reasons accounted for this, top on the list being the sheer vagueness of the concept itself. Dare ask me what Public Eye was focused on, and I just might end up giving you a long speech.

So then, when it was rebranded as BizzAfrica, I decided to clearly state, communicate and identify with its core mandate – to create the platform for young African entrepreneurs to show the world what they are capable of doing.

BizzAfrica enjoyed a successful launch on Saturday 2nd January 2016. Both the hardcopy and the website were officially presented to all who came to grace the occasion.

FREESTYLE

FREESTYLE

Though the milestone is duly recorded in its annals, it becomes prudent to identify some of the reasons it is believed to have a bright future:

a. Unique idea: It is currently the first and the only magazine in Ghana solely focused on young African entrepreneurs.

b. Solid team: Team BizzAfrica is made up of people who are young, ambitious, daring and ever ready to challenge the status quo.

c. Innovative concept: It is free, and available in both hardcopy and online.

Getting started as an entrepreneur is an arduous task. Your “to do list” is literally endless.

You face all manner of challenges and uncertainties. There are times when you simply ask yourself whether you are all right ‘upstairs’.

You have your share of nightmares; both normal and self-created. You toss and turn at night, asking yourself a myriad of questions, the famous of them all being “what if it doesn’t work?”

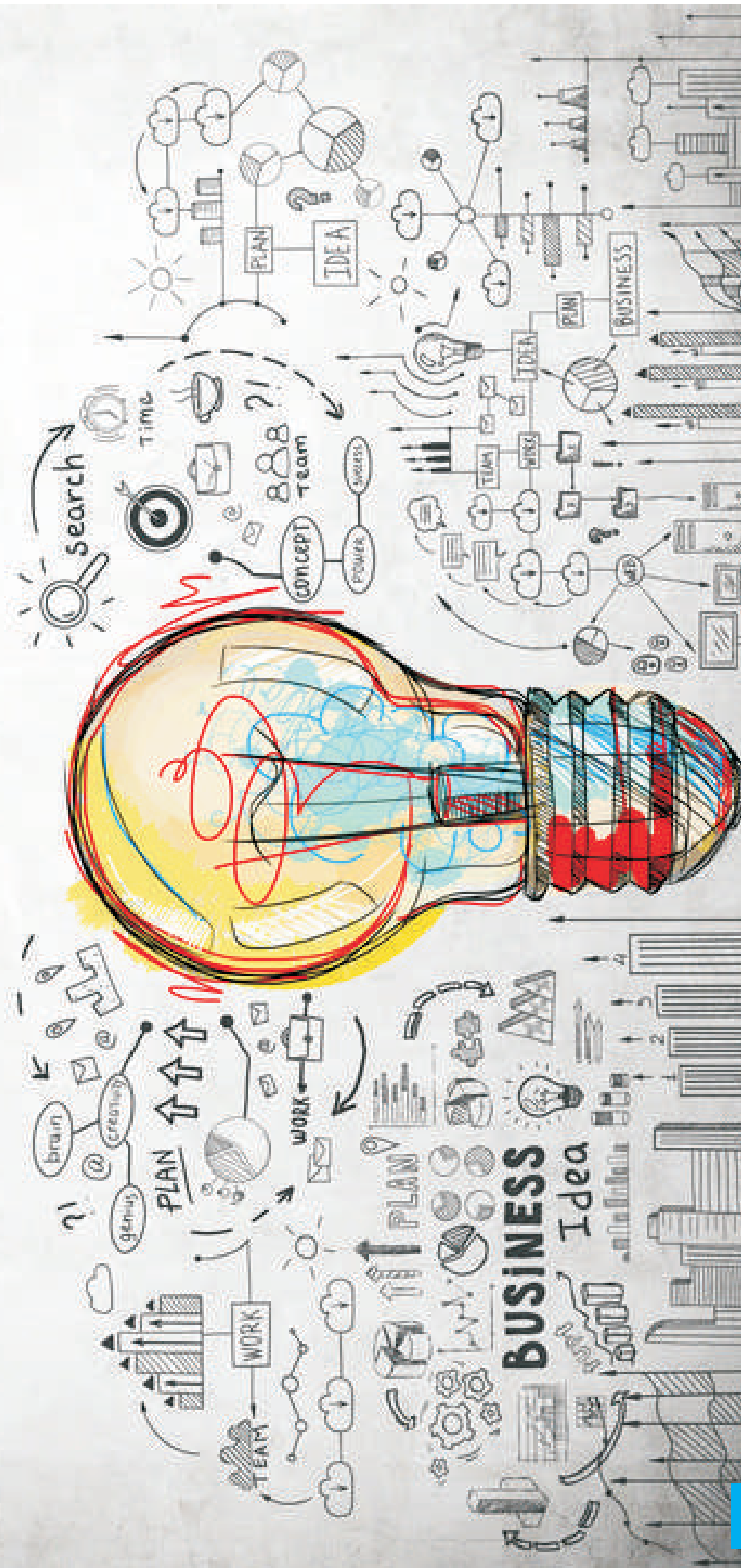
Your ability to surmount the numerous hurdles and stand firm even in the most challenging times sets up apart from the rest; that is those who give up after their first attempt and the others who don’t even try at all.

If you have a dream...

- a. Get started
- b. Keep moving
- c. Don’t stop

The world is tired of talkers, it cries for doers. There is no other time like now.

9



YOUR

BUSINESS IDEA

The litmus test for entrepreneurship is the creation of a more convenient way of doing things so that the average citizen benefits.

The world of the entrepreneur is full of opportunities that when harnessed, produces results that promote the welfare of a myriad of people.

The African entrepreneur is now more energized than ever to translate ideas into reality, and it is in that regard that care should be taken in nurturing such ideas into fruition.

The core task of the entrepreneur is simple; create an environment in which people can mobilize their abilities to achieve a common target.

The creation of that platform determines the exact nature of the work to be done. This becomes especially true when the scale of work to be carried out is explicitly specified.

As a result of this, it is very important to have a clear idea of exactly how you expect the business to shape out.

Projections should be made with regard to profits and losses for a considerable number of years from the date of start of business, so that such information could be consistently measured against reality, in order to find out if progress is being made.

It is certainly not enough to have one's head in the clouds in the pursuit of ideas that may never see the light of day, as this is because carefully calculated plans tend to produce better results.

The idea is the genesis of the business, and as such putting in place measures to ensure its continuous refinement is the key to business growth, taking into consideration competitive factors that may be present.

Various ideas are proposed on regular basis, most of them similar to already existing ones. The entrepreneur needs to figure out how to design the concept in the way that makes it unique from prevailing options.

This is the key to drawing clients to your side, as every consumer desires the best of products and services from providers.

Regardless the nature of the industry you operate in, one factor cuts across all platforms; the final consumer prefers businesses that provide enough convenience to the user.

In the case of competitive options, a vigorous marketing approach is required to out-compete business rivals, as at the end of the day, the package that serves the best interest of the client wins.

Nurturing a business idea often becomes a lifelong responsibility, as

a well-planned system of continuous monitoring and evaluation of options assists in the suitability of the business idea to modern trends.

Several of the global giants in business today had beginnings that were quite mundane to the distant observer, but the keen-eyed entrepreneur(s) behind the story decided to push the idea to its farthest point, the result of that mindset being the vibrant economic system the world enjoys today.

There have been various instances in which positively-managed competition often fuels the progress plan of a community or country.

Bringing your new business idea on board helps to promote the economic advantages that a perfect competitive market brings to all and sundry; and it is in the light of that that the wannabe business executive needs to carefully plan how to fit into the pattern, to add to genuine efforts at building a progressive plan of growth and development.

The world of the entrepreneur harbors opportunities for progress, and the smart individual is the one who figures out how to contribute to the growth plan and make profit as well.

Ideas, when carefully polished can serve as catalysts for a representation of that kind of nirvana we all dream of.



BIZZ FAIR



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WHAT YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS FIND CHALLENGING

The thought of being a boss of your own has spurred many young people on to start and nurture their businesses. Although it is alluring to be an entrepreneur at a young age, it is also bedeviled by limitations that may be out of one's control. Quite a number of young entrepreneurs have started and given up on their dreams because of setbacks they never envisaged. These challenges span from what one will consider trivial to significant, depending on the lens being viewed through.

Paramount among these challenges is finance. Every business needs a continuous flow of cash to survive. Most young entrepreneurs start their businesses with relatively small amounts and then find it a little difficult to inject extra cash into their growing businesses. Since they have not built credit history with the banks and have also not got any substantial assets, it usually becomes daunting to access loans.

Another challenge of concern is sabotage. These young entrepreneurs mostly find themselves in businesses that have been dominated by old and experienced folks.

It therefore takes a lot of hard work to stay in competition. Unfortunately, the old entrepreneurs create impediments for the young ones, knowing that they do not have the capacity to sustain their budding businesses.

The stereotype of being young is also a challenge to most young entrepreneurs. In our social setup, young people are considered to be irresponsible, lazy and not committed to task. This illusion has caused many clients and customers to impugn the capabilities of young people.



. For their businesses to thrive, these young entrepreneurs will have to break their backs to build enough credibility with their customers. This usually is not a feat that can be attained while sipping coffee.

Deciding when to quit one's regular job to concentrate solely on their growing business can be very worrisome especially when they are young. It definitely is unreasonable for one to quit their job just because they have started running their side business.

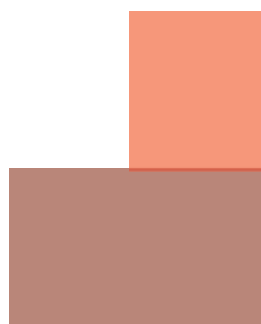
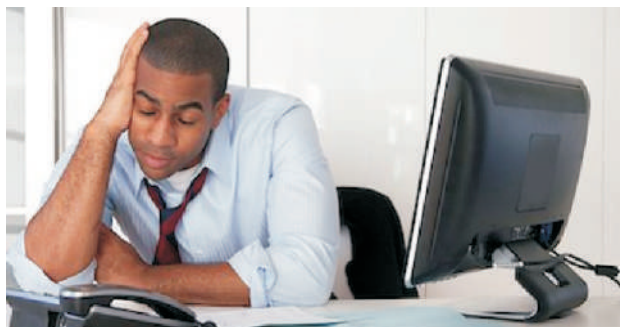
Starting a business comes with many uncertainties and one cannot be promised of positive results. Even though a growing business needs a lot of time and commitment, it is also unwise to leave the job that assures a regular paycheck. It only becomes ideal to quit when one has found the business to have gained ground, become lucrative and sustainable.

Having self-doubt and sheltering the fear of failure poses a challenge to young entrepreneurs. As a young person with little or no experience in entrepreneurship, it is normal to occasionally have doubts of succeeding trickle in. These fears are most of the time amplified by the perception of being inexperienced and less resourceful.

Entrepreneurship in recent times has become a venture for all. Young entrepreneurs must therefore not get discouraged. Rather, they should see these challenges surmountable. Challenges just put us in a better position to gather our strengths and resources, then forge ahead. In the end, the world becomes our oyster.

Ernest Yeboah Obeng

NOT MY BUSINESS



What do you usually say to a colleague at work when you are tasked to perform some duties that are beyond your usual functions? We usually exclaim, "After all, it's not my business or my father's business!" That is the attitude that a number of Ghanaians in the private and public service have towards work.

The growing trend of nonchalance with regard to work to be done sends home a strong signal; the situation is rapidly getting out of hand. Several schools of thought, have, over the years attempted to find out exactly what it is that compels one to do exactly what is expected, or in a more pleasant case, go the extra mile.

A cursory glance at Corporate Ghana clearly identifies two cardinal stances. The first set of employees are in the office on a simple mission; get the work done and get paid at the end of the month! The second group of employees is different; they are in love with their work. They work hard, because they enjoy what they do. They would want to go the extra mile, and they do not mind, even if their efforts are not recognized and applauded – they simply love their job.

The former president of the Republic of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama is reported to have once expressed his concern about this attitude on various platforms. His claim is that Ghana's future economic fortunes depend on industry and human development and so Ghanaian workers should refrain from their lackadaisical attitude towards work in order to uplift the country's economy to greater heights.

To him, wrong attitude towards work in both government and private institutions was thwarting government's efforts to ensure economic growth, and in order to achieve a middle-income status by 2015 as envisaged, Ghana needs a dedicated workforce with the spirit of enquiry and challenge to develop innovative products.

Indeed, we need to stop using the catch phrase, "It's not my father's business!", and rather see ourselves as part – owners of the organization we find ourselves in; because that is the only way we can foster growth and development in our dear nation. Don't you think?

TRAIL BLAZER



EMMALINE DATEY

More often than not, the business of entrepreneurship becomes a life-long journey that constantly fuels an inner drive to make an impact in the world. Stories have been told of determined Africans who defied the odds and carved niches for themselves in the world.

Such has been the story of freelance speaker, business and career coach, mentor, consultant and MC, Emmaline Datey, who has become a force to reckon with in a fast growing industry in Ghana.

Emmaline named one of Ghana's top influential women in 2017 and one of Top 100 speakers in Ghana 2018.

At present, she is part of an online platform for mentors, coaches and young mentees called 'Dream Hub Africa', which provides numerous coaching and mentorship opportunities. She is a regular writer on Facebook (Coach Ema and The Fearless and Fabulous Network), on LinkedIn (Emmaline Datey), on Instagram (@thefearlessandfabulousnetwork and @emativator_gh) and on Twitter (@emadatey and @TheFnFNetwork)).

As keynote speaker, she has been on platforms such as Presbyterian University College Women's Conference, Business Milk Tour Entrepreneurship Seminar, GIJ Students Seminar, Moneywise, Jogging with Heroes, The Bambini Show, Ghana Skills & Employability Summit, The African HR Leaders Conference, Time With Heroes, WordSmith Global Tertiary Tour, Live FM's Girl Code, The Business Startup Clinic, the Brands Kitchen and Building and Monetizing your Brand Master Class. She is the official MC for African Twin Fashion Festival which began in 2016.

Additionally, Emmaline serves on the Ghana Event Awards board as Board Chair and a Freelance Leadership Consultant with Ekow Mensah Consulting. An individual who displays such versatility is usually the 'face' of a network of professionals who coordinates their efforts to achieve a goal; but that is not her story.

Emmaline reveals, "Everything happens on my phone; I am a digital media enthusiast and my phone is my working tool. You would become irrelevant if you fail to use technology in getting things done."

With the device, she employs the use of several social media tools to organize her schedule and influence lives whenever she meets people.



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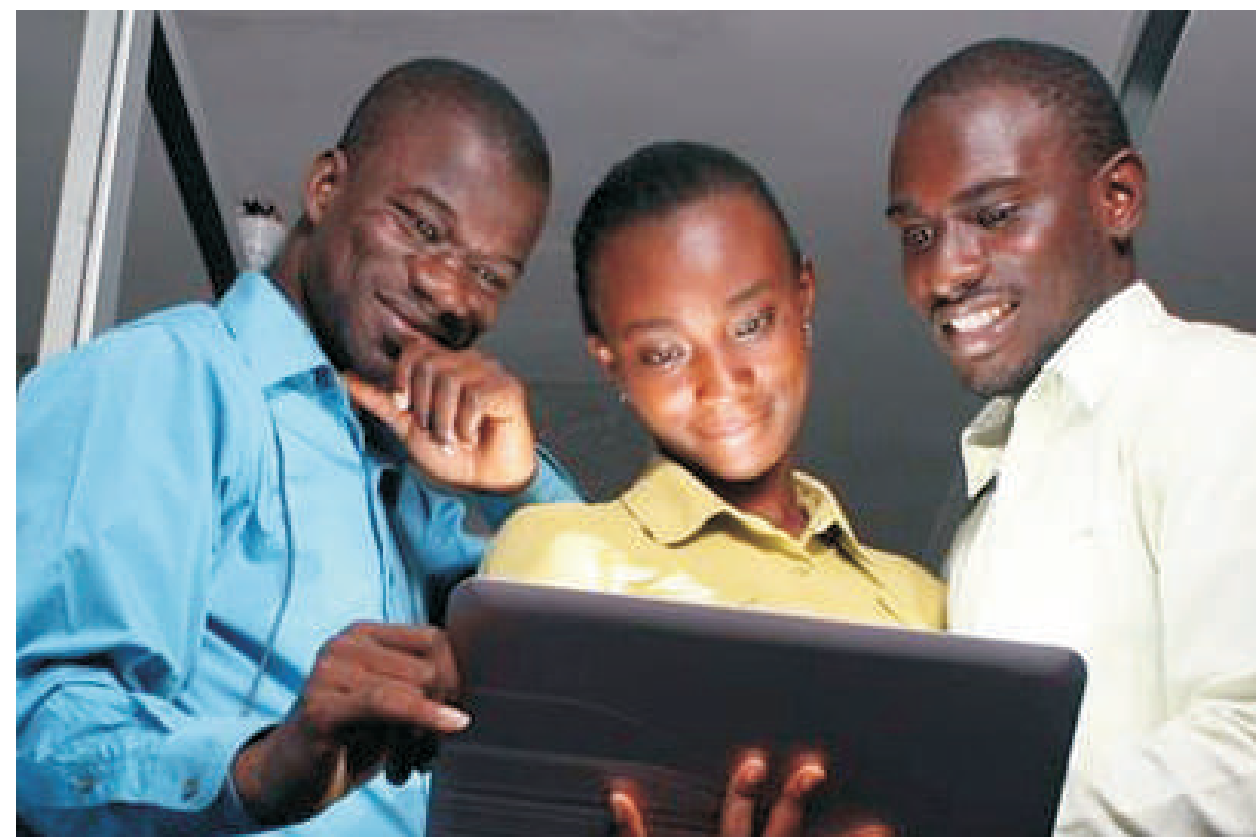
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In an interview with BizzAfrica, Emmaline revealed that her story began in the year 2000, when she realized she had become people-oriented and had a penchant for saying positive things about people. She admits that till today, she is constantly “happy for people; I enjoy saying lovely things about people; I simply don’t know how to envy people. I constantly aim to become either a solutions provider, or a link to someone who can assist people with their challenges.”

Between the years 2000 and 2003, during her “discovery period” in Nigeria, she became part of a youth empowerment organization called The Solid Rock (TSR). She joined the choreography team, became the women’s leader and took an active role in the choir as well.

And that is where her journey started; as she took every opportunity to inspire and empower every young person she met.

Emmaline left and joined another group, The Rock Foundation (TRF) at University of Lagos Campus, Nigeria, which gave her another opportunity to positively affect lives through youth mentorship and coaching.

A message from her choir director, then at TSR, that her mouth would become her wealth and that is where her gold would be, failed to make sense to her at the time, until she realized she had been constantly practicing the truism in the message all her life.

“I don’t solicit for certain things; it comes to me. When something is naturally you, be you; be passionate because people will trust you. When you are passionate about

something, excellence is not debatable,” “What I am today found me; I am just doing what I love” she explains. A common challenge people face with regard to guiding or being guided, she reveals, is the distinction between mentorship and coaching.

Emmaline explains that in both instances, people are being led or groomed, but the difference is that coaches seek to help people intelligently explore their inner potentials to arrive at a decision regarding their purpose and what they intend to achieve, whilst mentors share their experiences with people with the assumption that their experiences will help in expediting their learning.

She mentions renowned talk show hostess, Oprah Winfrey, Motivational Speakers Mel Robbins and Tony Robbins, as well as popular Christian leaders such as Joyce Meyer, Chris Oyakhilome, Pastor Paul Adefarasin and T.D Jakes, as a few of her role models. Inspirational speaker and leadership expert, John C. Maxwell adds up to the list of people she also looks up to as role models.

In her opinion, it is wrong to call yourself a mentor or a coach when you are not walking the walk, as people invariably look up to you for guidance and or support. “Many people who call themselves mentors don’t know what mentorship is”, she discloses, and adds that people are often surprised at the attention they get from her, because they do not get it elsewhere. “Entrepreneurship is about building a legacy,” she says; “Funding is big challenge in Africa but there are private people willing to support and some people are working towards that.”

In 5 years, she is convinced mentors and coaches will make sure that Ghanaians are well groomed in the areas of emotional intelligence, financial literacy, leadership, networking, strategy, ethics and integrity.

Touching on entrepreneurship, she says that “a businessman is someone trying to make ends meet; an entrepreneur is someone trying to make a difference. Put needs of customer, brand and company before you, and you are an entrepreneur. Attitude is everything; life does not have to be perfect before you start pursuing your goals. Nothing is impossible; you just need to work smart.”

Emmaline’s message to President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo touches on a number of challenges that have bedeviled Ghana’s growth and development plan.



She argues that Ghana’s future is dependent on the capacity of its labor force and the potential of its citizens. For that reason, there a conducive environment for both strategic partnerships and indigenous entrepreneurship, which would create a win-win situation for Ghana and its citizens? To her, it is no longer a partnership but a master-slave situation, if one party has nothing to bring to the table. She goes on to say that Ghana is selling its resources for technical knowhow, and that must be addressed if there is a willingness to balance the odds.

Emmaline is convinced there is an urgent need for the president to focus on Ghana’s educational sector, as the curricula being used in educational institutions appear to be unready to face the current changes. China’s educational curriculum is futuristic, she says, and futurists are working for tomorrow; sadly, Ghana has been left in the cold.

She advises that it is imperative we change the narrative of our educational system, with specific focus on how talents are grown and treated. She is convinced that there should be a change in our educational curricula to be matched up with the dynamic business environment.

“Our labour force needs to be respected; we need to put people first; China doesn’t play with its people; we need to look within us,” she concludes.





SARAH SACKEY

RISING STAR

She challenged the odds and has risen to become the owner of two thriving businesses. Reader, meet Sarah Sackey, the owner of both SARAH SACKEY CLOTHING and FREEZY FRUITS.

BizzAfrica: Could you briefly introduce yourself for the benefit of our readers?

Sarah: I am Sarah Sackey, married with two kids and an SSS graduate.

BizzAfrica: At what age did you discover your talent for fashion?

Sarah: I discovered my passion for clothes at the age of 14. I was in JSS at that time.

BizzAfrica: Did you ever want to go in fashion designing or it was because there was no money to further your course to the highest possible level?

Sarah: Not at all. I lost both parents at a very tender age. After their death, things were a bit rough until I got married and had my kids. That was when I decided to follow my dream, so attended a fashion school.

BizzAfrica: Currently what do you do?

Sarah: I am a fashion designer. I have a shop I named SARAH SACKEY CLOTHING. In addition, I arrange edible fruits; I have named mine FREEZY FRUITS.

BizzAfrica: First, let us talk about Sarah Sackey Clothing. Why did you choose this particular name for your shop?

Sarah: It is my name. During my studies at the Joyce Ababio College of Creative Design, my mates use to call me by that name. They said it was so simple so i kept the name.

BizzAfrica: How many years now has Sarah Sackey Clothing been in existence, and what motivated you?

Sarah: I started last year, after school. I asked a tailor to stitch a shirt for my husband for his

birthday. On the agreed day, i went to collect it, and to my dismay, he could not even find the fabric, not to talk of stitching. I told him there and then that he has motivated me to follow my dream of being a fashion designer.

BizzAfrica: How did family and friends react to your passion of being a fashion designer?

Sarah: In fact, everyone around me encouraged me. Let me take this opportunity to thank my husband, Samuel Owusu Sackey. God bless him and my late mum.

BizzAfrica: Where and how did you get your initial capital to start the business?

Sarah: My husband provided the initial capital, and then I added my savings that I made out of my fruits business.

BizzAfrica: Can you share with us some of the challenges you have gone through trying to make the businesses stand, as well as funding for the two – the fashion house and fruits business?

Sarah: Fashion has always been a passion for me therefore putting a business essence to it was quite challenging because i needed to mix all available resources and come out with products that could sustain and grow Sarah Sackey Clothing.

In addition, the right work force is another area that needed much attention. I needed dedicated and professional staff to keep the business running and meet deadlines to satisfy customers, which is hard to come by these days.



The major challenge was finance. I needed to overcome this hurdle since we needed to have a proper business setup with good machinery and materials to start the line with.

BizzAfrica: How do you cope with running both businesses?

Sarah: My love for both businesses is what drives me to excel. Arrangements and putting things together for a perfect fit is something i love and you will agree with me that these form the core in both businesses.



I love to see clients happy with work done for them and this essentially gives me the strength to keep both going.

Additionally, the staffs I have provide me with the needed support for both businesses.

BizzAfrica: Are both financially rewarding?

Sarah: Yes, The returns on both businesses are good even though we are in the infant stages. I strongly believe that we will make progress as we remain focused and employ all the resources available.

BizzAfrica: Where do you see both businesses in four years to come?

Sarah: In the next four years, we will be reaching higher heights and hoping to reach the global market space because that is our target. Especially for Sarah Sackey Clothing, we have begun working for clients outside Ghana, and hope to grow the numbers in the coming years.

BizzAfrica: What advice will you give you people who feel all hope is lost and to young people outside there?

Sarah: The distance between dream and reality is effort.

The distance between dream and reality is effort.

Living Legend

KOFI GYAN

More often than not, the 'school of life', as it is often referred to, repositions you on a path and helps determine how you would be positioned to positively affect society.

It is never often a straight course of action, and in that regard, one has to be on the lookout for opportunities that would turn things around.

Such is the story of Kofi Gyan, the living for this edition of BizzAfrica. The story of his life has lessons for all who need exposure to the concept of never giving up in life.

Kofi holds an MBA in Human Resource Management and a BA in Political Science & Study of Religions. He also has a Post-Graduate Diploma in Human Relations from the Institute of Commercial Management in the United Kingdom (UK).

Despite these academic laurels, his present status has been shaped by far by the experiences in life, moulding him into a unique icon the next generation can look up to. In a sheer display of versatility, Kofi holds a number of offices and plays significant roles in Ghanaian enterprises and organisations.

He is the founding president of the Initiators Group of Companies, the Founder and Executive Director of the Initiators of Change Foundation, and the Board Chair of Impact Consult.

Kofi works as Executive Secretary of the Ghana-Angola Trade and Investment Centre, a body he spearheaded its establishment. He has played important roles in the National African Peer Review Mechanism Governing Council (NAPRM-GC), and has, as a result, attended numerous conferences, seminars and workshops in Africa and Europe.

He is a family man who is blessed with a wife, Lady Akua Aboagye Gyan, and has three daughters, Ama, Adwoa and Afia.



In his book, WHAT LIFE HAS TAUGHT ME AT 40, Kofi opens up on a number of challenges he faced and how he overcame them.

He recalls how attempts were made to end his life via spiritual means even at the young age of five years.

According to him, a land dispute between his father and a cousin almost cost him his life as he was

mysteriously inflicted with a strange disease.

He describes it as a mass of boils which made it impossible for him to eat, sleep or even open his eyes.

He was however healed by an African traditional herbalist after all attempts by medical doctors to save his life proved futile.



It did not end there; he has mistaken kerosene in a bottle for water and drank same, presumed akpeteshie, a locally manufactured alcoholic drink, was water and ended up heavily drunk and was even bitten by a snake, yet he survived.

The story of Kofi Gyan's life is in essence one of the determined

group of people in this world who defy the odds, challenge the status quo and reach for what they want in life.

Life's lessons strengthens their inner resolve to make the best out the situation in which they find themselves, and fuelled by God's grace, they leave permanent footprints in the sands of time.

Protecting your idea



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Everyone has an idea. Ideas come to us while we eat, walk, drive, sit on a bus, chat or even dream (A friend tells me most of his ideas come to him while he is on the toilet seat!). Whichever way you get ideas you must protect them, especially when that idea is original and uniquely different.

Almost every idea is potentially marketable and profitable, however if that idea remains in your thoughts and no step is taken to actualize them they remain just that – ideas. Mind you, someone may just be thinking the same thing! Thus, it is impossible to protect your idea when it remains in your thoughts, because should someone else produce something similar to what you thought of, it would be difficult for anyone to believe that you actually thought it first...or that it was your idea that person stole.

So how do you protect an idea? Do you walk straight to the Registrar – General's Department and demand that your thoughts be written down and registered? No! That would be ridiculous, wouldn't it?

Our laws in Ghana do not protect ideas. To get copyright protection, your ideas must have been actualized into a definite medium of expression, like a literary or artistic work, computer software, audio – visual work or sound recording that can be perceived, reproduced or otherwise communicated. So it could be a story book, a song, a textile design, a movie, a software and etcetera.

Once the idea is put into the form of a work, you are entitled protection under the law automatically, even if that work is not registered. Registration to gain copyright is not obligatory. However, you may register your work as a way of publishing your rights to others and to serve as evidence of ownership and authentication of your intellectual property.

Where your idea is in respect of a sign, symbol or logo that you want to use as the company's trademark, that sign, symbol or logo must be registered in order to get protection for that trademark under the law.

Alternatively, where your idea is one that gives solution to a specific problem in the field of technology, i.e. an invention, you would require a patent. It may be a new technical device or machine which you created or probably a known device which you reinvented by adding something different. As long as the invention is new and can be used in any kind of industry, you are eligible for protection under the law once that invention has been registered and you have been given a patent for it.

Whichever form your idea takes, it is possible to protect it.

Ideas come easily, but getting protection for them requires extra effort. So take that extra step and get that brilliant idea protected.



Glossary:

Copyright: Right that protects creative works

Trademark: A sign or symbol that distinguishes goods and services of an entity (e.g. a company) from that of another entity.

Patent: The title or certificate you receive after registering an invention.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

GEA GHANA EVENT AWARDS

18



THE AFRICAN MYSTERY

"The chains of a habit are too weak to be felt till they are too strong to be broken" – Dr. Samuel Johnson.

"Africa" to legendary reggae musician Robert Nesta Marley "is the richest place, but the poorest race". Such an assertion is not far from right. Great minds, the world over, continue to wonder how this comes to be. However, in this seemingly puzzling phenomenon, once culprit stands out supreme – LEADERSHIP.

African leaders, both past and present have continuously failed Africa. They burst onto the scene with great plans and ideas – plans that seem perfect in theory, but lack practical substance.

Along the line, something goes terribly wrong – the quest for personal glory sets in; there is now a change in strategy; amassing of wealth and other evil vices come into play and the ordinary man is left worse-off.

Some African countries have at several points in time been plunged into ethnic wars and clashes simply because some once great leaders have let go of their visions and followed the pleasures of wealth.

Africa's blessings are for all to see, but then after many years of independence from colonial rule, the West continues to play a crucial role in our sustenance. It sometimes becomes necessary to dance to their tune, simply because they own and operate the means of survival.

MICHAEL'S MISSIVES

The blame squarely falls on the shoulders of our leaders. In some contexts, leadership in Africa has become an opportunity to increase personal wealth and in that vein enhance social and economic status.

Plans, programmes, ideas and policies are exchanged during meetings. Strategies for implementation are drawn. Roles are effectively distributed. So questions remain to be answered: WHAT EXACTLY GOES WRONG IN THE PROCESS? WHY ARE WE STILL WHERE WE ARE?

Any hope for the future – a strong yes. It all begins with a change in attitude. To Emile Herzog "If you create an act, you create a habit; if you create a habit, you character; if you create a character, you create a destiny"

Leaders should see their offices as an avenue to improve the lot of their brethren, not a self-seeking opportunity. Great leaders are chief servants and with this philosophy in mind, we can experience tremendous progress if the right measures are put in place.

Kenneth Kaunda, a former President of Zambia, is quoted to have once said that: "Whilst the whites are advancing, the blacks are dancing". As much as we desire to offload the core of the blame to West and its allied powers, we need to assess ourselves as African s and find out if we are doing that which is expected to us.

A thorough self-assessment and the implementation of workable projects and policies would surely kick-start our wheels of progress. We have been waiting for too long.



Naughtiness is a nature I took for granted when I was little. Call me stubborn and I would respond...lol. My mother was a longsuffering woman and so she did a good job of putting up with my nonsense. Whenever she was in the kitchen and she needed me to help her out by fetching water or washing the dishes, she would call me several times, 'Karen! Karen! Karen!' but I would not respond. Why? Because I would be playing 'mummy in the kitchen' on the playground with my friends and I did not want any distractions! My friends and I played this game by collecting rusted cans from the rubbish heap and gathering sticks for fire. We sometimes stole ingredients like rice, tomatoes, oil, etc. from the house to prepare our own meal and the one who was able to prepare the make – believe dish won. We always had fun doing this. (So for my mother to call me to help her in her kitchen when I was working in mine (I thought) was selfish on her part!)

One afternoon, she called me, 'Karen! Karen! Karen!' I pretended not to have heard. Frustrated, she stormed angrily to the playing ground and with a firm grip; she dragged me into the house and gave me a sound beating. Boy, did I cry that afternoon!

Not liking the treatment meted out to me, I devised a strategy. I went round the house in search of a hiding place – and voila! I found the perfect hiding place - the closet! Not just any closet, her closet because I knew that was the last place she would look! Therefore, the following day, just when it was approaching diner time, I entered the closet and locked myself up. In there was so cozy and quiet. I covered myself with the big cloths and sang myself to sleep! This strategy worked for me because when I finally got out of the closet, dinner was already served and my mother had cooled down from her rage. Therefore, I developed a love for the closet and this love followed me to adulthood...Hehehee

I got married to (in my view) a very demanding and chauvinistic husband. We both go to work and return home very late and tired. I go to the kitchen, prepare a meal, warm water for his bath and my dear husband still expects me to massage his feet and read him to sleep. He insists I do that because coming from a traditional home, his mother always treated his father like a king. Nevertheless, I always tell my husband that his mother was not a company worker as I am!

A few weeks ago, I got so frustrated that I wanted to disappear. After work that day, I prepared the meal as usual and whilst my husband was watching TV, waiting for his warm water, I quickly entered the guest room and squeezed myself in the closet! Boy, did I have a sound sleep! When I came out, I realized it was morning and I found out later that my dear husband had gone hysterical because he could not find me. That morning, he stormed off to work without breakfast, in a crumpled shirt and unpolished shoes! Ha! Ha! Next time, he will learn to appreciate me... Thank you closet!

COMFORT IN THE CLOSET

(Rhoda Gyepi – Garbrah)

Have you ever wondered why foreigners have problems with the English Language? Let us face it ... English is a stupid language.

There is no egg in eggplant. No ham in hamburger; neither pine nor apple in pineapple. English muffins were not invented in England. French fries were not invented in France.

We sometimes take English for granted; but if we examine its paradoxes, we find that: Quicksand takes you down slowly; boxing rings are square; and a Guinea pig is neither from Guinea or is it a pig. If writers write, how come fingers don't fing? If the plural of tooth is teeth; shouldn't the plural of phone booth be phone beeth. If teachers taught, why didn't the preacher praught?

If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what the heck does a humanitarian eat? Why do people recite at a play, yet play at a recital? Park on driveways and drive on parkways.

You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language where a house can burn up as I burn down, and in which you fill a form by filling it out; and a bell is only a heard once it goes!

People, not computers, invented English and it reflects the creativity of the human race (Which of course is not a race at all)

That is why when the stars shine out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible. And that is why it is that when I wind up my watch, it starts but when I wind up this observation, it ends.

(Anonymous)

ICE BREAKERS



IN - FOCUS



WHAT YOU NEVER NEW ABOUT

ANGOLA



GEOGRAPHY



Angola is the seventh-largest country in Africa, and is bordered by Namibia to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the north, Zambia to the east, and the Atlantic Ocean to west.



At 1,246,620 km² (481,321 sq. miles), Angola is the world's twenty-third largest country. It is comparable in size to Mali, or twice the size of France or Texas. It lies mostly between latitudes 4° and 18°S, and longitudes 12° and 24°E.

Angola has three seasons, a dry season, which lasts from May to October, a transitional season with some rain from November to January, and a hot, rainy season from February to April.

April is the wettest month. Angola's average temperature on the coast is 16 °C (60 °F) in the winter and 21 °C (70 °F) in the summer, while the interior is generally hotter and dryer.

ECONOMY

Angola has vast mineral and petroleum reserves, and its economy is among the fastest growing in the world, especially since the end of the civil war. In spite of this, the standard of living remains low for the majority of the population, and life expectancy and infant mortality rates in Angola are among the worst in the world. Angola's economic growth is highly uneven, with the majority of the nation's wealth concentrated in a disproportionately small sector of the population.

Angola has a rich subsoil heritage, from diamonds, oil, gold, copper, and a rich wildlife (dramatically impoverished during the civil war), forest, and fossils. Since independence, oil and diamonds have been the most important economic resource. Smallholder and plantation agriculture have dramatically dropped because of the Angolan Civil War, but have begun to recover after 2002. The transformation industry that had come into existence in the late colonial period collapsed at independence, because of the exodus of most of the ethnic Portuguese population, but has begun to reemerge (with updated technologies), partly because of the influx of new Portuguese entrepreneurs. Similar developments can be verified in the service sector.

According to The Heritage Foundation, a conservative American think tank, oil production from Angola has increased so significantly that Angola now is China's biggest supplier of oil. Growing oil revenues have also created opportunities for corruption: according to a recent Human Rights Watch report, 32 billion US dollars disappeared from government accounts from 2007 to 2010.

With a stock of assets corresponding to 70 billion USD (6.8 billion Kz), Angola is now the third largest financial market in sub-Saharan Africa, surpassed only by Nigeria and South Africa. According to the Angolan Minister of Economy, Abraão Gourgel, the financial market of the country grew modestly from 2002 and now lies in third place at the level of sub-Saharan Africa.

The country depends on expensive food imports, mainly from South Africa and Portugal, while more than 90 percent of farming is done at family and subsistence level. Thousands of Angolan small-scale farmers are trapped in poverty.



EDUCATION:



Although by law education in Angola is compulsory and free for eight years, the government reports that a percentage of students are not attending due to a lack of school buildings and teachers. Students are often responsible for paying additional school-related expenses, including fees for books and supplies.

In September 2014, the Angolan Ministry of Education announced an investment of 16 million Euros in the computerization of over 300 classrooms across the country. The project also includes training teachers at a national level, "as a way to introduce and use new information technologies in primary schools, thus reflecting an improvement in the quality of teaching."

TRIVIA:

The name Angola comes from the Portuguese colonial name Reino de Angola (Kingdom of Angola), appearing as early as Dias de Novais's 1571 charter.

Angola's motto is Virtus Unita Fortior, a Latin phrase, meaning, "Virtue is stronger when united".





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