

...NOT IN THISDAY STYLE? THEN YOU'RE NOT IN STYLE

THIS DAY

Style

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

THE LEGENDARY DIANA ROSS

**THISDAY @ 30
A NIGHT OF
GLAMOUR,
AWARDS AND
LEGENDS**



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The Big 30

Thirty years. Three whole decades. It's a milestone that deserves more than just a passing mention, and the THISDAY 30th anniversary and award ceremony was the kind of celebration that did it justice. If you were in the room, you already know—it was one for the books. If you weren't, trust me when I say you missed a night where history, impact, and legacy took centre stage. But beyond the glitz, the power dressing, and the ovations, what struck me the most was how nearly everyone who stepped onto that stage had a story about THISDAY.

For some, it was the publication that gave them their first major cover story, the one that introduced them to a wider audience and changed the course of their careers. For others, it was the fearless journalism that shaped their view, the bold reporting that made them sit up and engage differently with the society around them. And then, there were those who, like me, started out here without quite knowing where the road would lead, only to find that THISDAY had quietly and steadily become a defining part of their journey.

Fifteen years ago, I walked through the doors of the THISDAY Apapa office as a fresh-faced corper, uncertain if journalism was the path I wanted to take. I had interests, sure, and I loved a good story, but I wasn't entirely convinced that I belonged in a newsroom. What I didn't know then was that my time at THISDAY would become more than just a job. It would be a training ground, a launching pad, a space where I would learn the power of storytelling, the weight of responsibility that comes with shaping narratives, and the sheer thrill of seeing your byline on a story that resonates. It would open doors I hadn't even knocked on and present life-changing opportunities that I couldn't have imagined at the time. That's the thing about THISDAY—it has a way of shaping you, of pushing you into your best self, even before you realise what's happening.

And it's not just me. Speak to any member of the THISDAY family, from the editors to the reporters, and you'll find similar stories. Stories of a newspaper that isn't just a publication but an institution, a movement even; one that has consistently set the pace and redefined the landscape of journalism in Nigeria. We've seen it navigate the shifting tides of media, standing strong in the face of digital disruption, staying relevant in an era where attention spans are shrinking, and still maintaining the credibility and prestige that have kept it at the top for three decades.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the man who saw the vision 30 years ago and had the audacity to chase it. Prince Nduka Obaigbena is not just a publisher—he is a force. His can-do spirit is woven into the very fabric of the THISDAY brand; if you've ever worked here, you know it's contagious. He has led with a mix of fearlessness and flair, and his belief in the power of media has kept THISDAY thriving and set the tone for excellence across the industry. It's no small feat to build something that lasts 30 years, let alone something that remains the undisputed leader in its field. For that, we say congratulations Publisher.

Beyond celebrating THISDAY, I also want to take a moment to celebrate you—our readers. Without you, there would be no Style Magazine on the stands, no stories to tell, no platform to shape. Every week, you pick up a copy, flip through our pages, and engage with the content we put out. You send messages, share feedback, and make it clear that you expect the best from us. That's a responsibility we don't take lightly. We promise to keep delivering, to keep evolving and to keep giving you content that is as engaging as it is informative.

So here's to THISDAY, to 30 remarkable years, and to 30 more of breaking new ground. And here's to you for being part of this journey with us.

Love,

Kanye

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THISDAY @ 30 A NIGHT OF GLAMOUR, AWARDS, AND LEGENDS

If there's one thing THISDAY newspapers has mastered over its three decades of existence, it's the art of making a statement. And on the night of its 30th anniversary and awards celebration, it did just that—boldly, beautifully, and with an undeniable touch of class.

Held at the prestigious Convention Centre of Eko Hotels & Suites in Victoria Island, Lagos, the event was a fitting tribute to three decades of journalistic excellence, resilience, and innovation. Aptly themed "When the Going Gets Tough... The Tough Gets Rewarded," the night was an intersection of Nigeria's finest minds. It was not just an award ceremony; it was a gathering of individuals and institutions that have shaped Nigeria's socio-political and economic landscape.

The air was charged with anticipation from the moment guests stepped onto the red carpet. The night saw the presence of serving and former governors, industry captains, top-tier technocrats, and politicians—all gathered to celebrate the indomitable spirit of resilience and excellence that THISDAY represents - a reminder that despite the challenges, excellence always finds its reward.



PRINCE NDUKA OBAIGBENA
CHAIRMAN & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF THISDAY MEDIA
GROUP AND ARISE NEWS CHANNEL



THE LEGENDARY DIANA ROSS



EZENWO NYESOM WIKE CON, MINISTER OF THE FCT, RECEIVING THE MINISTER OF THE YEAR AWARD.



BOVI UGBOMA



OJINIKA OKPE AND ADEFEMI AKINSANYA

Anchored by Arise TV's charismatic Ojinika Okpe and the effortlessly engaging Adefemi Akinsanya with an added dose of humour from top comedian Bovi Ugboma, the evening unfolded with a seamless blend of elegance and entertainment. But the mastermind behind it all, the man who has steered THISDAY through the tides of time, Prince Nduka Obaigbena, set the ball rolling in grand style, embodying the visionary leadership that has sustained the newspaper's legacy.

The awards, spanning multiple sectors, were carefully selected to show deep appreciation for those who have not only survived Nigeria's often unpredictable terrain but have thrived against the odds. From business to politics, media to arts, and beyond, the honorees were individuals and institutions that have left an indelible mark in their respective industries.

While each award recipient brought a unique story of perseverance and success, the true magic of the night wasn't just the recognition—it was the inspiration it ignited.

Of course, an event of this magnitude would not be complete without stellar performances, and the THISDAY anniversary did not disappoint. The audience was first treated to a high-energy performance by Nigerian superstar Chinedu Okoli, popularly known as Flavour. With his pulsating beats and infectious stage presence, Flavour electrified the hall, setting the tone for an evening of celebration. But if Flavour's performance was the spark, the legendary Diana Ross was the full-



blown inferno. At 80, the iconic American singer proved that true stars never fade. With a voice that still holds the power to captivate, Ross delivered a world-class performance that transported the audience through decades of timeless music.

For 30 years, THISDAY has stood as a pillar of fearless journalism, shaping narratives, holding power to account, and pushing boundaries in media excellence. Its journey has not been without challenges, but as the theme of the night suggested, only the tough make it through.

And THISDAY has not just made it through—it has thrived. Under the visionary leadership of Prince Nduka Obaigbena, THISDAY has continued to redefine the media landscape, giving birth to platforms like Arise TV that have further cemented its influence. The awards night was not just a celebration of the past but a declaration of intent for the future—one that promises even more significant impact, bolder journalism, and a continued commitment to excellence.

COVER

THE AWARDS: A NIGHT OF EXCELLENCE AND RECOGNITION

As expected, the competition in each category was fierce, but in the end, the winners emerged and were celebrated on a night filled with prestige and recognition. Here's a breakdown of the award categories and the remarkable individuals and organisations that took home the coveted titles.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Lifetime Achievement Award is the pinnacle of recognition reserved for those whose contributions have stood the test of time. Twenty-two luminaries were inducted into this prestigious hall of honour at the award ceremony. These recipients exemplify resilience, innovation, and the sheer determination required to leave a lasting impact.



ALHAJI AMINU BELLO MASARI RECEIVING HIS LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



MOHAMMED HAYATU-DEEN RECEIVING HIS LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



MUSTAFA CHIKE-OBI RECEIVING HIS LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



DAISY DANJUMA RECEIVING HER AWARD FOR LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT



YEMI OGUNBIYI RECEIVING HIS AWARD FOR LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT



ABIODUN SHOBANJO RECEIVING HIS LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM GOVERNOR SANI UBA



ATEDO PETERSIDE RECEIVING HIS LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



MAIDEN IBRU RECEIVING HER LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR

Governance in Nigeria is no small feat. The Governor of the Year category recognised leaders who have demonstrated outstanding governance, innovation, and people-oriented policies in their respective states.

The winners, Babajide Sanwo-Olu (Lagos), Sheriff Oborewori (Delta), Uba Sani (Kaduna), and Umo Eno (Akwa Ibom), were honoured for their distinct approaches to governance, infrastructure development, and economic transformation.

These governors have made a significant mark in their respective states, proving that dynamic leadership is essential for national progress.



HAIJIYA INNA CIROMA RECEIVING HER LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM EMEKA ANYANKU

COVER

GOVERNOR OF THE YEAR



GOV ENO UMOH RECEIVING HIS AWARD



GOV UBA SANI RECEIVING HIS AWARD



GOV SANWO OLU RECEIVING HIS AWARD



GOV SHERIFF OBOREWORORI RECEIVING HIS AWARD



TITANS OF THE YEAR



EMEKA ANYAOKU PRESENTING THE TITANS OF THE YEAR AWARDS TO DEMOLA BERO, AIGBOJE AIG-IMUOKHUEDE, JIM OVIA, SEGUN AGBAJE, TANIMOLA OBARO



The Titans of the Year award recognises industry leaders who contributed significantly to their respective sectors. Their impact went beyond business—they shaped Nigeria's economic landscape and reinforced the country's presence in the global market.

BANK OF THE YEAR

The Bank of the Year award went to Zenith Bank, a financial powerhouse that has consistently set the pace for excellence in banking services, customer satisfaction, and economic innovation. Meanwhile, Access Bank took home the Global Bank of the Year award, recognising its aggressive expansion strategy, digital transformation, and significant influence in Africa's financial sector.



ADORA UMEOJI RECEIVES AWARD FOR ZENITH BANK AS BANK OF THE YEAR

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BANKER OF THE YEAR

Walter Akpani, CEO of Providus Bank, was named Banker of the Year, a testament to his visionary leadership and strategic approach in positioning Providus Bank as one of Nigeria's most innovative financial institutions.



WALTER AKPANI RECEIVES BANKER OF THE YEAR AWARD

BRAND OF THE YEAR

MTN clinched the Brand of the Year award with its unwavering dominance in telecommunications and digital solutions. The telecom giant continues to redefine connectivity in Africa, offering innovative products and services that bridge the digital divide.



COMPANY OF THE YEAR

Dangote Refinery was named Company of the Year, a well-earned recognition for its groundbreaking impact on the oil and gas sector. The refinery is set to transform Nigeria's energy landscape.



DANGOTE REFINERY RECEIVES COMPANY OF THE YEAR AWARD

INVESTOR OF THE YEAR

Shell Nigeria was honoured as the Investor of the Year, reflecting its continued investment in Nigeria's oil and gas sector and commitment to sustainable energy solutions.



RONALD ADAMS RECEIVES AWARD FOR SHELL COMPANIES NIGERIA

PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR

The UBA Foundation won the Philanthropist of the Year award, recognising its dedication to corporate social responsibility, youth empowerment, and educational initiatives across Africa.



RAMON NASIR RECEIVING PHILANTHROPIST AWARD FOR UBA FOUNDATION

TRANSACTION OF THE YEAR

The Bank of Industry (BOI) received the Transaction of the Year award for executing a significant deal that is expected to drive industrial development and economic growth in Nigeria.



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YOUNG GLOBAL LEADERS



FOLA AKINDELE RECEIVES YOUNG GLOBAL LEADER AWARDS



ADESUWA RHODES RECEIVES OLORI IYEMI ATUWATSE III AWARD FOR YOUNG GLOBAL LEADER OF THE YEAR.

The Young Global Leaders category honoured a select group of trailblazers who have demonstrated exceptional impact in their respective fields, breaking barriers and setting new standards. These individuals represent the bright future of Nigeria—a generation of leaders and change-makers who are making a difference on a global scale.



IBRAHIM BELLO MOHAMMED RECEIVES AWARD FOR YOUNG GLOBAL LEADER



JENNIFER ADIGHUIE RECEIVES YOUNG GLOBAL LEADER AWARD



MALLAM ABDULLAHI BASHIR HASKE RECEIVES YOUNG GLOBAL LEADER AWARD



NEYA UZOR KALLU, ADESUWA RHODES FOR OLORI IYEMI ATUWATSE III, SENATOR ASUQUO EKPENYONG, OLUSEGUN OSOBA & JENNIFER ADIGHUIE, FOLAKE AKINDELE, MALLAM KHALIL HALILLU, PRINCE NNAMDI EKEH & TUNDE ONAKOYA

HOUSE MEMBER OF THE YEAR



REPRESENTATIVES OF JIMI BENSON RECEIVING HIS AWARD AS HOUSE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Babajimi Benson, a distinguished lawmaker, was recognised as the House Member of the Year for his tireless efforts in championing policies that drive progress.

SENATOR OF THE YEAR



ADAMS OSHIOMOLE RECEIVING HIS AWARD AS SENATOR OF THE YEAR

The Senator of the Year award was shared by two outstanding lawmakers:
 * Comrade Adams Oshiomole a veteran politician with a strong track record in governance and legislative advocacy.
 * Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan who has been instrumental in pushing for progressive policies and governance.

COVER

CEO OF THE YEAR

The CEO of the Year award was jointly won by:

- * Leo Stan of Zinox, for his role in advancing Nigeria's technology and e-commerce landscape.
- * Gbenga Komolafe of NUPRC for his strategic leadership in Nigeria's petroleum regulatory framework.



GBENGA KOMOLAFE & LEO STAN EKEH RECEIVES CEO OF THE YEAR AWARDS

MINISTER OF THE YEAR



EZENWO NYESOM WIKE RECEIVING THE AWARD FOR MINISTER OF THE YEAR

The Minister of the Year award went to Nyesom Wike, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). His transformative policies and infrastructural projects in Abuja have set a new benchmark for leadership at the federal level.



FACES AT THE EVENT



CHINWE OBAIGBENA



DUDUN PETERSIDE



EFE OBAIGBENA



EKA OBAIGBENA



REWA UDOJI



BARAKAT BAKARE AND DR. YEMI AYOLA



BARBARA JAMES



ATEDO PETERSIDE



ENIOLA BELLO



EMEKA ANYAOKU



IYARE & IKUMA OBAIGBENA, ASHIDOO



JAMES IBORI



NIYI ADEBAYO



ADEMOLA AND YEMISI ADEYEMI-BERO



EX GOV IFEANYI UGWUANYI



FUNKE ABOYADE (SAN) & FOLA DEGUN



L-R, SENATOR IRETI KINGIBE, NNEKA AND KEN ONYEALI IKPE



OLUSEGUN AND DERIN OSOBA



ABIMBOLA SALU-HUNDEYIN, H.E. GOV BABAJIDE SANWO-OLU AND SAM EGBE



JAIVE RANDLE



HAJIYA BOLA SHAGAYA



HELEN PREST AJAYI



JIM OVIA



MO ABUDU



PETER OBI



RUTH OSIME



REMI MAKANJUOLA



SEN IBIKUNLE AMOSUN



SEN. ALI NDUME



ALLEN ONYEMA



MARIAN OMATSONE



TOCHI WIGWE



AYO AMINU



AYO AROWOLO



IFEANYI ARARUME



SEN. CHRIS NIGIGE



OKEZIE IKPEAZU



SAMUEL ORTOM



AMAECHE OKOBI



MIKE IGINI



FUNKE-BABS KUFEJI



ENIOLA FADAYOMI



AYOBAMI ENIOLA-OLAITAN AND VIVIAN IMOHITA



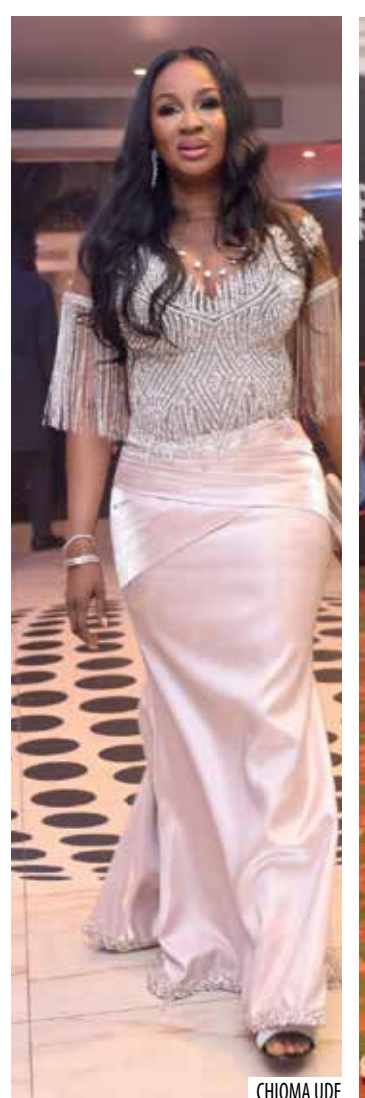
BIODUN AND JOYCE SHOBANJO



CHIEDU AND KEHINDE EBIE



MAGNUS ABE



CHIKE OGEAH



CHIOMA UDE



DELE AND FUNMILAYO FAROTIMI



ENO UDOH



MAIDEN IBRU



LATASHA NGWUBE



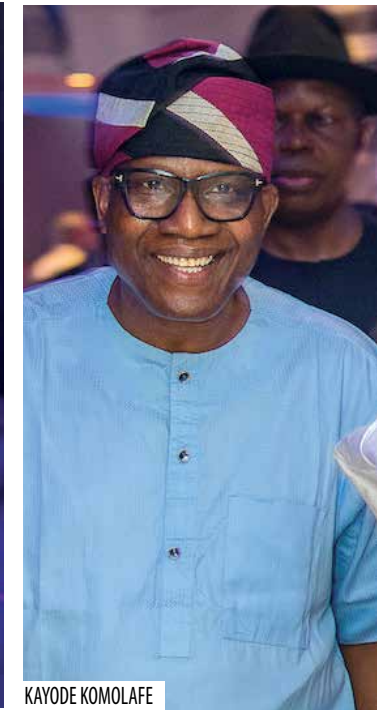
ABDULLAHI BASHIR HASKE



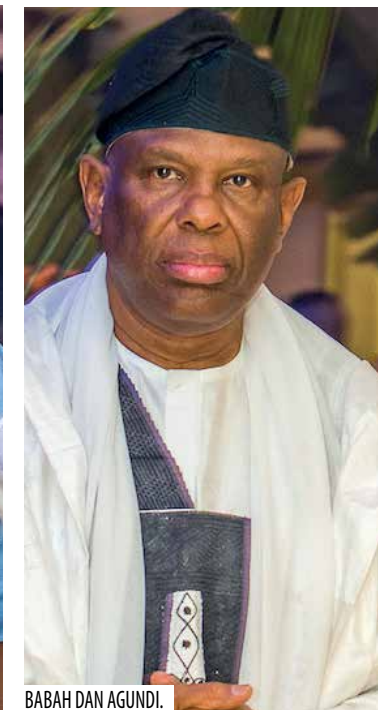
MAGNUS ONYIBE



AUSTIN ALEGHE



KAYODE KOMOLAFE



BABAH DAN AGUNDI



TONY OGEDENGBE



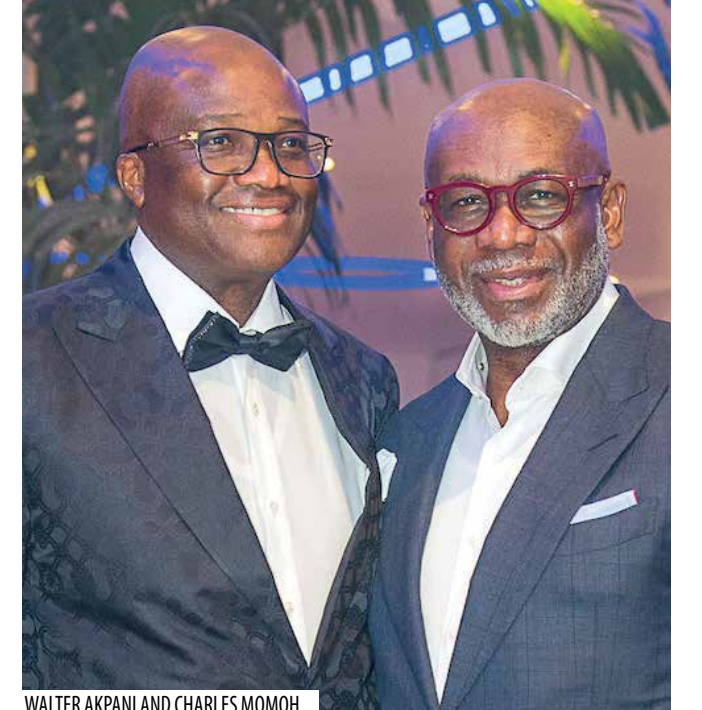
SEN. DAISY DANJUMA



SIMON KOLAWOLE



AZU ISHIEKWENE



WALTER AKPANI AND CHARLES MOMOH



YEMI AND SADE OGUNBIYI



GBENGA KOMOLAFE



HAFSAT HAYATUDEEN



DAKUKU PETERSIDE



EBENEZER ONYEAGWU



FOLAKE AKINDELE



OSCAR ONYEMA



PASTOR ITUAH IGHODALO



SONNY KUKU



TERESA EGBE IKIMI



WOLE ARISEKOLA



GABRIEL OGBECHIE



MODELE IDIAHI & BORJOJI OSINDERO



MODELE SARAFAYUSUF



NUME EKEGHE



OGOCHUKWU ANEKE



RAMON NASIR



OSCAR AND TIVE IBRU



SEGUN ADENIYI



KIRU ANUMUDU



KIRU ANUMUDU



UDOMA UDO AND SALLY UDOMA

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