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**HAWA TOMBO
GAINS AUTOMATIC
QUALIFICATION
AFTER GOLDEN
BUZZER**

**SIERRA LEONE: MICHAEL
BASSEY SETS TO MAKE
HISTORIC DEBUT**

ON NETFLIX'S "OBLITERATED"

Entertainment Ambassador bemoans financial challenge in the industry

The Entertainment Ambassador and legendary Hip-hop star, Kao Denereo, has expressed financial challenges which has been plaguing the entertainment sector.

In a post via Facebook, the ambassador lamented on how the industry has been starving financially and that the industry must show its value if it is to attract investment from government and the private sector.

"Until our industry shows its value and financial leverage, it will be very difficult for rapid investment from the government and the private sector. Entertainers have to show growth, and financial importance to entice interest from outside. As of now,

our industry is more like a liability rather than a profit-driven entity. Wake up," said Kao Denereo.

It is no secret that the country's entertainment industry has not been able to project itself to Africa and the world at large. It is for this reason the present government established the Office of the Ambassador of Entertainment and Investment.

Since its establishment, the Office of the Ambassador of Entertainment and Investment has been charged with the responsibility of projecting our industry to the world and attract both internal and external investment. Many are now hopeful and anticipate the revitalisation of our slumbering entertainment industry.



Sierra Leone: Michael Bassey sets to make historic debut on Netflix's "Obliterated"

Michael Bassey is set to make history for Sierra Leone in the soon-to-be released Netflix series "Obliterated". The series is slated to be released in November 30, 2023.

Bassey first gained recognition when he appeared on big brother Africa reality TV show. Since then, he has been making significant inroads in his acting career. Bassey has starred on movies like "Voiceless Screen" (2018) and "Loving Amanda" (2022).

Being the first Sierra Leonean, born and raised in the country, who is set appear on Netflix, Bassey posted on his Facebook page expressing his gratitude and jokingly boasted about his historic achievement.

"Soooooo Grateful to be a part of this. Save the date (NOVEMBER 30th) only on Netflix. Can I say I'll be the first Sierra Leonean on Netflix?" said Bassey.

The series "Obliterated" has an interesting storyline. An elite special forces team who thwarts a deadly threat to Las Vegas. After their celebratory party, filled with booze, drugs and sex, the team discovers that the bomb they deactivated was a fake. The now intoxicated team has to fight through their impairments, overcome their personal issues, find the real bomb, and save the world.



Rema makes history after spending 1 year atop Billboard Afrobeats chart

Nigerian superstar Rema has made history after his song spent 52 weeks at the summit of the Billboard US Afrobeats chart.

Rema is one of the stars leading Nigerian music global push with his mega smash hit record 'Calm Down' which has topped charts in across Europe, India, the Middle East, and North Africa.

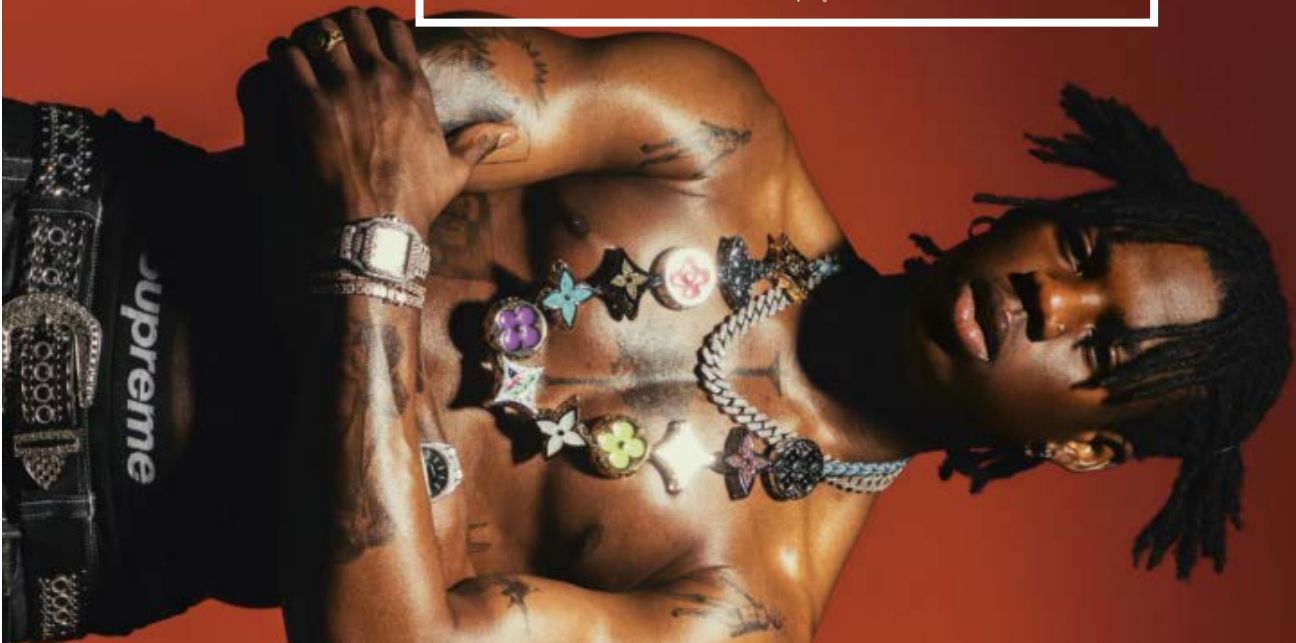
The Nigerian superstar has made history with 'Calm Down' his international mega-hit collaboration with Selena Gomez which became the first song to spend 52 weeks (1 Year) at the top of the Billboard US Afrobeats Chart.

The song released in February 2022 as one of the lead singles to Rema's debut album 'Raves & Roses' has spent 75 weeks on the Billboard Afrobeats Chart. 'Calm Down' has set multiple Nigerian records including being the longest-charting African song (51 weeks as of Chart week September 2, 2023) and the highest charting Nigerian song (second African song behind only South Africa's Hugh Masekela's 1968 record 'Grazing in The Grass') on the Billboard Hot 100 with a NO. 3 peak.

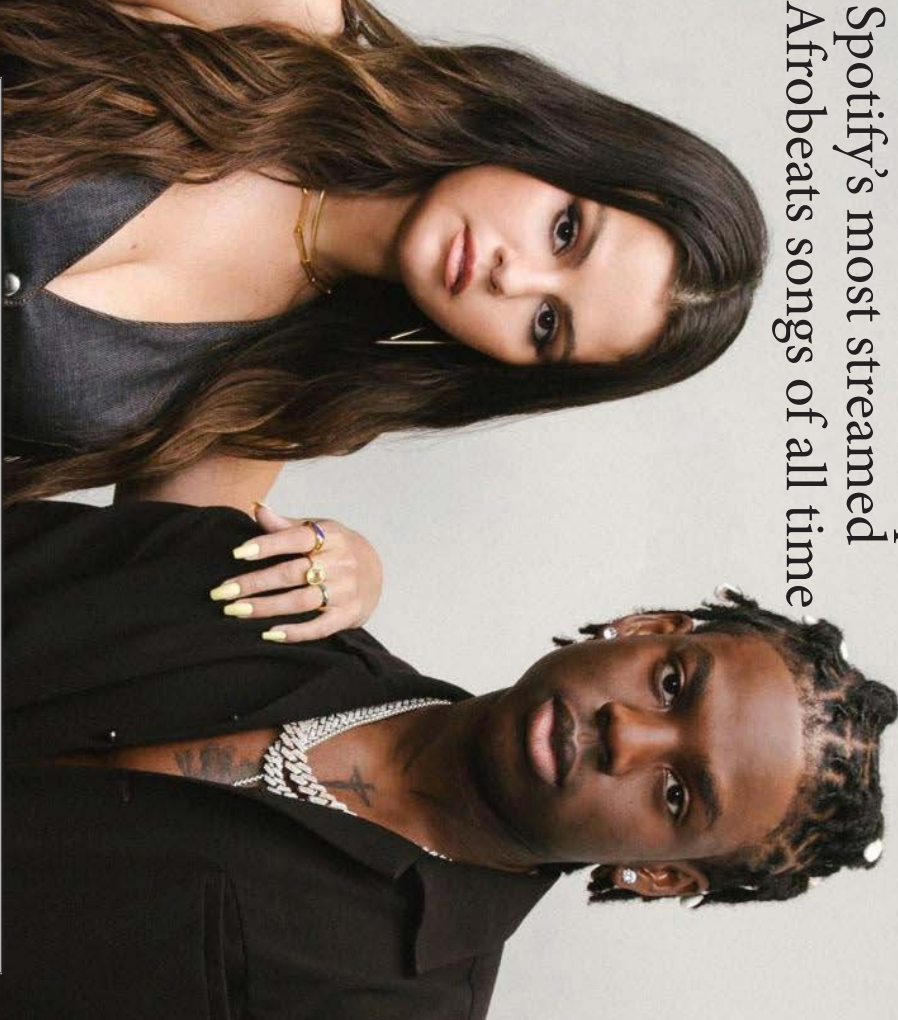
The song has received an RIAA platinum plaque for its exploits in the United States where it also made history for reaching the summit of the Billboard Pop Radio.

'Calm Down' is the most streamed Nigerian music video on YouTube.

The song was nominated for the 2023 VMAs in the collaboration of the year category as well as in the forthcoming 2023 Headies award where Rema is billed to perform. [Pulse.ng]



Rema's 'Calm Down' tops Spotify's most streamed Afrobeats songs of all time



Rema's 'Calm Down' tops the list of the most streamed Afrobeats songs of all time on Spotify. Afrobeats is on a global rise with the advent of social media and the entrance of music streaming platforms which increased its international reach, finding, and market.

Rema is one of the artists whose music is pushing the global frontiers of Afrobeats with his smash hit 'Calm Down' which has topped charts in different continents.

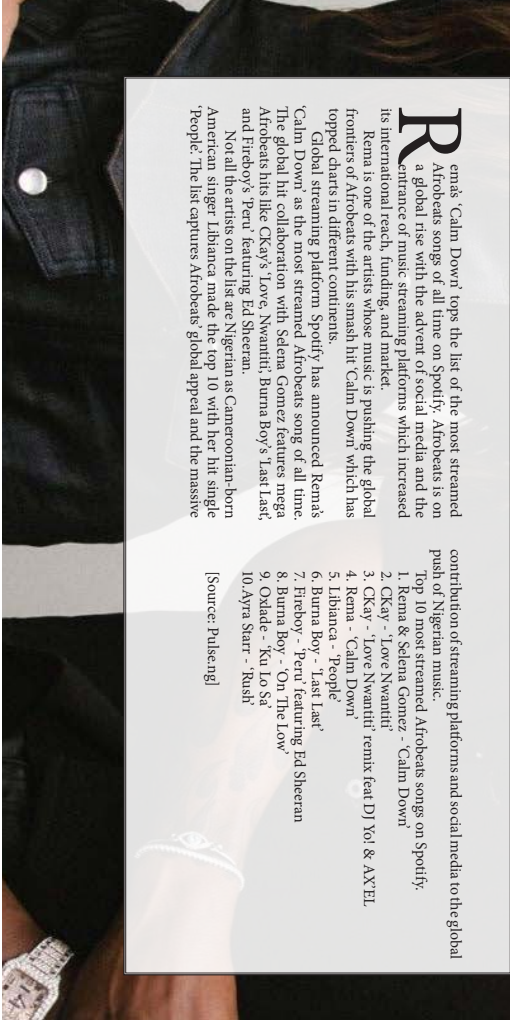
Global streaming platform Spotify has announced Rema's 'Calm Down' as the most streamed Afrobeats song of all time. The global hit collaboration with Selena Gomez features mega Afrobeats hits like CKay's 'Love', Nwanthi, Burna Boy's 'Last Last', and Fireboy's 'Peru' featuring Ed Sheeran.

Not all the artists on the list are Nigerian as Cameroonian-born American singer Libianca made the top 10 with her hit single 'People'. The list captures Afrobeats' global appeal and the massive

contribution of streaming platforms and social media to the global push of Nigerian music.

- Top 10 most streamed Afrobeats songs on Spotify:
1. Rema & Selena Gomez - 'Calm Down'
 2. CKay - 'Love Nwanthi'
 3. CKay - 'Love Nwanthi' (remix feat DJ Yo! & AYL)
 4. Rema - 'Calm Down'
 5. Libianca - 'People'
 6. Burna Boy - 'Last Last'
 7. Fireboy - 'Peru' featuring Ed Sheeran
 8. Burna Boy - 'On The Low'
 9. Oxlade - 'Ka Lo Sa'
 10. Ayra Starr - 'Rush'

[Source: Pulse.ng]



RELATIONSHIPS

Do friends-with-benefit relationships really benefit anybody?

How beneficial is sleeping with a friend?



Do friends-with-benefit relationships really benefit anybody? (Credit: Bustle)

Friends-with-benefits is a popular concept describing two people who are cordial, enjoy a sexual relationship with each other, but with no strings attached.

Basically, it's a situation where two friends decide to get sexual but not committed to each other.

The occurrence of this is actually quite common, and with movies like "Friends With Benefits" and "No Strings Attached" further pushing the narrative in recent times, there is no doubt that it exists well around us.

How much, though, is the benefit people get from these friends-with-benefits situations? Do they even get any at all?

What benefits do people get from friends-with-benefits situations? (Credit: Youmbe)

The obvious first thing anyone would want to say is sex. And in a way, sex may be referred to as a benefit but aside this, what else is the point of this kind of relationship? With traditional relationships, one expects more than sex. One expects, and gets emotional support, partnership, loyalty, care, love and all those good stuff that comes with hooking up. The same can't really be said for friends-with-benefits situations.

According to sex therapist Kerner, when you go down this road sex may be all you get, alongside the possibility of losing your friend along the way.

A FWB situation puts your precious friendship at risk. Even when we have no intention of letting it get messy, sex has a tendency to muddle your feelings," he tells Cosmopolitan.

Not all FWB relationships end badly. (Credit: Beautiful Black Couple)

This is not to say that all FWB relationships end badly. Some of them actually transcend that physical relationship to become a real, committed one.

Hedi Reeder, Ph.D., shared with Psychology Today that relationships can get better after being FBWs.

About 76 percent of those who went there with a friend said the relationship got better. Better! Okay, the reality is about half of these folks started dating their friend after the fun, even though that wasn't their original intention. But the other half kept on as friends—friends who said the quality of the friendship bond increased! Reeder said.

So obviously, the only sure benefit you're getting in a FWB relationship is sex, and that could actually be good or bad thing. Because, really, if the sex is bad, can it count as a benefit?



Retown socialite, Hawa Dunbuja popularly known as Hawa Tombo, has gained automatic qualification into the "House of Stars" reality TV show after getting a golden buzzer. The audition was held at the Mamz Beach Bar and Lounge on August 29, 2023.

Tombo, who is also the ex-wife of popular football star Musa Tombo, has been prominent figure on social media but this is her maiden appearance on a reality show. Representing "Team Pkin Dem Mama", Tombo and her fans have high hopes of winning the show.

According to Hawa Tombo, she was not the golden buzzer since it her first of appearing on such audition. She also promised to her fans proud because of their massive support.

"I was not expecting this, to get into the audition for the first time and get a direct qualification. I'm dedicating this victory to fans all over the world. I have made you proud today and I am ready to make you proud again," said Hawa Tombo.

The House of Stars reality TV show is expected to have 24 participants ranging from various acts within the entertainment industry such as musicians, movie stars, DJs, comedian, models, fashion designers, social media influencers, bloggers, dancers etc.

It was reported that Kings Empire is set to invest a whopping sum of around \$750,000 to roll out the first edition of the House of Stars show, with fortune star prizes for the winner including a furnished three-bedroom apartment, a car, N16 100,000, and an array of other exciting prizes.

The runner-up will also take N16 50,000 and other goodies. All 24 contestants will have something to take home in kind and cash.



Hawa Tombo gains automatic qualification after golden buzzer

The 10 most viewed African songs



African music is gaining global recognition, thanks to the extensive reach of platforms like YouTube and other streaming services. The proliferation of smartphones and affordable, high-speed internet in Africa has facilitated the widespread consumption of music through digital mediums.

African music spans diverse genres like Afrobeats, Afro-soul, Afropop, Anapiano, and traditional folk melodies, captivating audiences worldwide with its richness. YouTube has played a pivotal role in revolutionizing how music is consumed, providing a platform for both established and independent African artists to gain international exposure and success without relying on major record labels.

Here are some of the most viewed African songs on YouTube:

1. Master KG - Jerusalem: With a remarkable 539 million views, Jerusalem holds the record as the most-viewed African music video on YouTube. It has also become the top-viewed South African music video on the platform.

2. Magic System ft Choti - Magic in the Air: This West African hit, released in 2014, boasts over 405 million views, making it the second most-viewed African music video on YouTube.

3. CKay - Love Nwantiti Remix: The remix of "Love Nwantiti" has garnered around 346 million views, largely due to its viral success on platforms like TikTok.

4. Renna - Calm Down: The song by Nigerian artist Renna has crossed the 318 million views mark, establishing its place among the highest-viewed Afrobeats music videos on YouTube.

5. Burna Boy - On the Low: "On the Low" has achieved over 310 million views, combining Afrobeats and dancehall elements to create a smooth, infectious sound.

6. Die Antwoord - Baby On Fire: With more than 266 million views, "Baby On Fire" ranks as the second most-watched South African music video on YouTube.

7. Davido - Fall: "Fall" has crossed the 254 million views mark and has garnered Gold certification in the US and Canada, boosting the Nigerian artist's international profile.

8. Burna Boy - Ye: "Ye" has accumulated around 219 million views, showcasing Burna Boy's dynamic blend of Afrobeats and hip hop.

9. Wizkid - Joro: Nigerian superstar Wizkid's hit song "Joro" has achieved over 218 million views on YouTube.

10. Sinach - Way Maker: "Way Maker," a gospel hit by Sinach, has garnered over 217 million views, making it the most-watched African female video and Nigerian music video on YouTube.

[source: Pulse.ng]

Planning a wedding? Here are 4 mistakes to avoid

The couple are obviously engaging themselves for the first time in planning an important event, so that means a lot of different factors come into play.

From trying to handle things at the venue, to managing your budget and curtailing drama, couples must keep their head on a swivel and remember all details up until the moment they walk down the aisle.

Of course, every bride and groom wants to avoid wedding planning mistakes—and one of the best ways to do so is planning in advance and doing as much research as possible so that you're armed with all the right knowledge as you dive into ironing out all those details.

To help couples go through the process while not getting overwhelmed, we've listed some common wedding planning mistakes and unwanted stress to avoid.

Not booking early enough

Professional wedding planners stress that booking a venue and vendors as early as possible is the key to ensuring the wedding plans run smoothly. Not booking early means that you may run into issues securing your vendors on your chosen wedding date.

Not having a backup plan

Across the board, wedding planners advise that anybody planning a wedding should have a backup plan. From unforeseen weather circumstances to last-minute vendor cancellations, you just never know what could happen, and couples should be prepared.

Not hiring a professional

While many people know from the beginning of their wedding planning journey that they want to hire a professional planner, some couples may feel sceptical. But not enlisting the help of a wedding industry expert could mean that you're not getting the best prices, access to hard-to-book vendors and venues, and expert tips from those who know the industry better than anyone.

Enlisting the help of a professional planner will filter your options based on your wedding vibe, financial plan, and processes of the vendors that match your planning style.

Not setting a budget

It may seem obvious, but this is a big one: Setting a budget is a crucial planning step (and one of the very first things you need to do) in the wedding planning process.

Remember that your wedding budget will impact every single element of the big day, from the guest count to the venue, from the food and drinks to the decorations. If you don't set a budget, you'll have no way to track spending or understand what you can afford.



Top 5 most romantic cities in the world for lovers and those looking for love



Many of the world's most romantic cities have streets that look like they are from fairytales, magnificent waterfronts, and ancient, beautiful buildings.

Whether you're seeking an adventure that might lead you to that special someone or you're celebrating your anniversary with the love of your life, these cities will provide an experience rich in passion.

1. Venice, Italy
Venice is a picturesque city with twisting canals and pastel piazzas. Canal cruises, gondola rides, hot chocolate at Café Florian, and tours of Murano's glassworks are all available to visitors. You can also watch one of the most beautiful sunsets.
2. Paris, France
Arguably one of the most romantic places in the world, it is a romantic gateway famed for its ever-changing beauty and everlasting charm. Explore the city's famed patisseries, have a romantic dinner at the Eiffel Tower, and visit the Louvre, Montmartre, and the architecture of the Latin Quarter. Take a romantic stroll around the Tuileries Garden, admire the city's many attractions, and discover the city's many attractions.
3. Florence, Italy
Florence is a must-see destination with breathtaking ancient cathedrals and paintings on the ceilings and monuments such as Michelangelo's David sculpture.
4. Kyoto, Japan
Kyoto is known for its historic temples, shrines, monuments, and sanctuaries, but it also offers potential matchmaking opportunities. The Yasui Kompira-gu Shrine houses a powersome stone believed to bind good relationships and end bad ones. Not to mention the beautiful and romantic pink Japanese cherry blossom trees.
5. Rome, Italy
The Basilica Santa Maria, Sistine Chapel, Pantheon, Colosseum, and Borghese Gallery are just a few of Rome's breathtaking sights. Visitors may see the Trevi Fountain and other fountains throughout the city.

Rome's history and food are also endless, with alternatives such as pizza at Il Forno Roscioli, classic cacio e pepe (pesto) at Sora Margherita, and gelato at Prati on the Tiber. Suffice to say, Italy has the best restaurants.

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