

THE LEAP

STAY INFORMED, STAY CONNECTED!

Volume 2 Issue 4
April Edition



Monetizing Your Talent in the Digital Age

Talent without visibility is like a well
without a bucket

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Digital Detox: Reclaiming Balance in a Hyper- Connected World

It's an opportunity to reset

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Coffee with Justus George

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April in Focus: Vision, Care & Connection

When we take care of our vision we're
better equipped to show up

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In this Issue, explore a variety of engaging activities like...

Pause & Play
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Restaurants & Café Recommendations
Music to Enjoy
Puzzles
Movies to Watch

EDITOR'S NOTE

By Joy Ahaiwe (Social Media & Community Manager)



Dear Readers,

Hello April,

Welcome to a brand-new edition of The Loop—where fresh perspectives and thoughtful conversations come to life.

There's something about April that feels like a deep breath—the kind that reminds you to pause, stretch, and realign. The rush of the new year is behind us, and now comes the season of intentional momentum—a time to focus on what matters, declutter the noise, and lean into purpose.

In this edition, we're going unplugged—starting with a Digital Detox. Whether you're feeling screen fatigue or just craving more offline presence, this piece is your gentle nudge to reclaim your attention and reconnect with the real world.

Then we shift gears with Gloves Off, Aim High: The Real Stories Behind Training, Sweat, and Small Wins—an honest, raw dive into discipline, grit, and the

power of small, consistent efforts. You'll love this one if you've ever had to fight through setbacks and keep showing up, even when no one's clapping.

And because we're all sitting on goldmines of skill and creativity, our feature on Monetizing Your Talent in the Digital Age offers practical, real-life ways to turn what you're good at into something valuable—and profitable. Whether you're a side-hustler, a creator, or someone just figuring it out, this one's for you.

As always, The Loop blends the thoughtful with the joyful. So you'll also find your regular dose of things to smile about—entertainment picks, creative prompts, and moments that remind you it's okay to slow down sometimes.

So here's to April—intentional, grounded, and full of potential.

Thanks for looping in.

Joy Ahaiwe

Editor, The Loop



MISSION

Connecting markets, creating value, and promoting sustainability.



VISION

To be the most respected multi-asset investment and capital management business in Nigeria.



VALUES

Productivity, Proactivity, Integrity, Adaptability, Leadership, Intellectual Curiosity, Entrepreneurial Mindset, Service Oriented.

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PEOPLE AND CULTURE LEADERSHIP: A DAILY PRACTICE, NOT A POSITION


By Adedoyin Samo (Head, Corporate Services)

At CFG, leadership is one of our most essential values, because without it, culture is passive, performance is accidental, and progress is uncertain. But here, leadership is not defined by titles or roles. It is a mindset, a way of working, and a way of being.

We believe that everyone at CFG, regardless of function or level, has the capacity and responsibility to lead. Whether you're managing a team, driving a project, or simply

showing up each day with integrity and purpose, you are leading.

Leadership, at its core, is about ownership and influence. It is about seeing something that needs to be done and taking the initiative to act. It is about setting high standards for yourself and inspiring those around you to rise as well. It is about listening, learning, challenging, and creating space for others to thrive.



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and a way of being.*

“Leadership is not about being in charge. It is about taking care of those in your charge.” – Simon Sinek

In a fast-paced and highly regulated industry like ours, effective leadership is especially critical. It requires a balance of foresight, adaptability, and resilience. It means making tough calls with empathy, navigating uncertainty with clarity, and always aligning decisions with our values.

But leadership is also quiet. It is in the everyday moments: choosing collaboration over competition, giving credit rather than taking it, and holding yourself accountable even when no one is looking.

“The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers.” – Ralph Nader

At CFG, we champion this broader view of leadership. We encourage everyone to think beyond hierarchy and begin leading from wherever they are, by mentoring others, driving change, staying curious, and showing up with consistency and courage.

Leadership is not a one-time achievement or a milestone on your career path. It is a daily practice, shaped by your values, reflected in your decisions, and measured by the impact you leave behind.

Let us all commit to leading with clarity, character, and conviction. Because at CFG, leadership isn't reserved for a few, it is expected from all.



Gloves Off, Aim High: The Real Stories Behind Training, Sweat, and Small Wins

By Ahmed Mudashiru (Investment Operations)

*What they
don't always
see – what
they often can't
see – is the
grind.*

*Almost
everything
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doesn't reward
comfort. It
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People glamorize boxing.

They see the raised arms, the trophies, the perfectly timed knockouts. And What they don't always see — what they often can't see — is the grind.

The days when you wake up before the sun, and the mat smells like old sweat and yesterday's frustration. When your body aches, your confidence wobbles, and your only reward is surviving another round of sparring that makes your head ring like a church bell.

But that's where the real stories live. Not in the wins. In the work.

Let us gist:

In my short experience, I have seen motivation make good impacts, brings out the best in people and yields positive results. Little drops of water, they say, make an ocean. It may depend on the source of those drops, I wonder sometimes.

Let me tell you a secret I've never really said out loud: I didn't choose boxing because I wanted to fight. I chose boxing because I needed to find myself. I was 19, angry at the world, restless, and dangerously close to giving up on structure.

The first move is that I started, just like everyone would start a business, try new things, organization setting an objective and strategizing in meeting them.

Almost everything worth doing doesn't reward comfort. It demands discipline.



Then, it's the 5 a.m. runs when your body wants more sleep. It's showing up to train on the days your spiritz is low.

It's clean eating when your friends are ordering junk food. It's holding your guard up, again and again—even after you've been hit. Boxing teaches you that comfort is temporary, but discipline pays rent on greatness.

The Advantages and Lessons

That lesson followed me into life. Into the corporate world. Into every client or corporate meetings, into every decision where the easy option whispered, "Take a break," and the disciplined voice answered, "Show up anyway."

The truth? Life will punch you. Sometimes softly. Sometimes square in the jaw. But if you've trained your mind to stay standing, you'll get through it.

Make a round of precision to survive the Punches.

HOW CAN YOU ACHIEVE THAT?

1 Round one: Control Your Emotions

Emotions don't win. Clarity does. Learning that no one is perfect is the same way you are not perfect. Stay calm. Don't swing wild. Think. Move smart.

2 Round Two: Take the Hits, But Don't Stay Down:

Though times don't last. You may have split lips, swollen jaws, bruised ribs when those punches come at you. But you learn that pain is information. It tells you where you're exposed. You fix your guard. You adjust. You rise, dust off, learn, and return smarter.

3 Round Three: Prepare Like Everything Depends on It

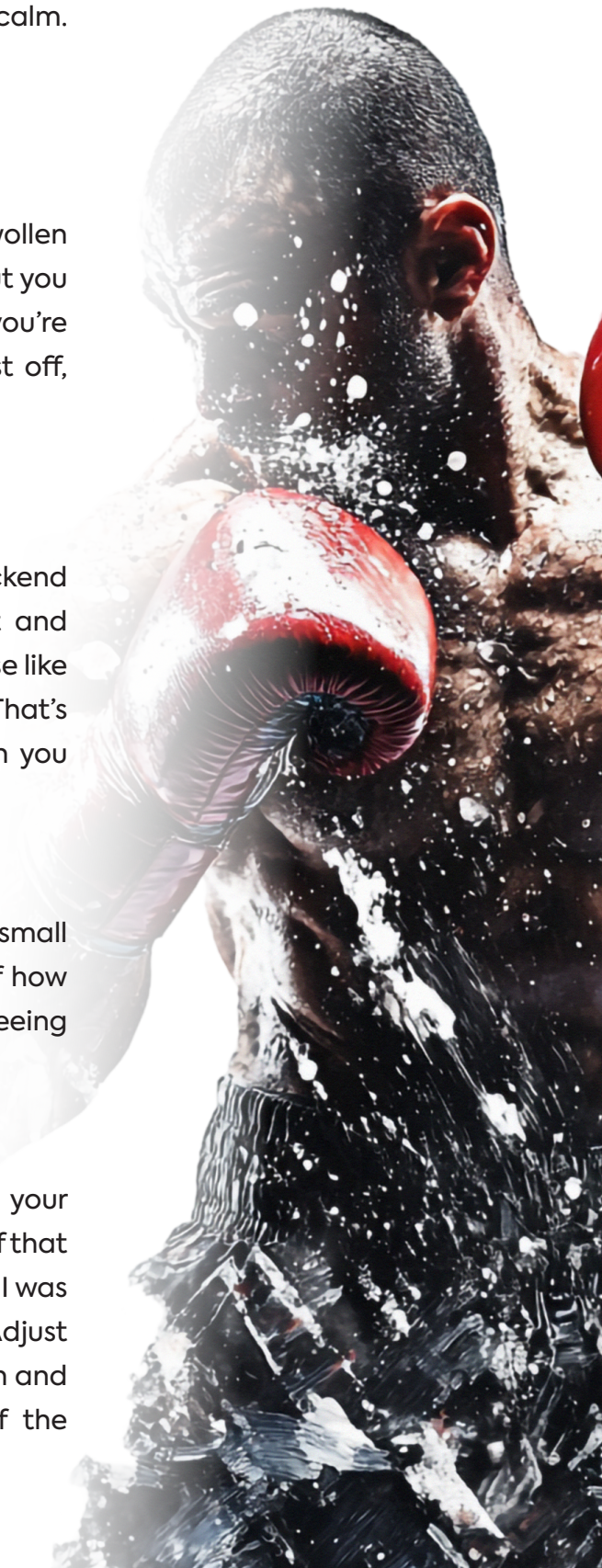
Just like People see the wins, they do not know the backend preparation. They see the results, but not the silent and backend efforts. Always anticipate challenges, rehearse like it happening tomorrow. The confidence in meetings? That's not luck. That's training — just a different kind when you have your shelters properly placed.

4 Round Four: Celebrate

There will always be a different feeling to celebrating small wins and the big ones. It could serve as a reminder of how far growth has been, where you need to do better. Seeing your mistakes as a learning curve.

5 Round Five: Breathe

Every day is an opportunity to try again. Accept your mistakes and do better next time. So, to remind yourself that you are not done and all you must do is keep moving. If I was in your corner while you fight, I'd tell you "Breathe. Adjust your guard. You've been here before.". Take that breath and get laced up on your next rounds, for the end of the challenge gets nearer.



Conclusion

Every jab, every round, every loss built something deeper in me – discipline, strategy, emotional control, resilience.

Now, I may not wear gloves much these days. But the mindset? That's still strapped tight. I just fight different battles — with a pen, a laptop, and a mind that knows the rules of the ring.

And between you and me, I think I'm still winning.

Gloves off. Heart in. Head high.

Let's go another round!!



Monetizing Your Talent in the Digital Age

By Alexander Elendu (Finance)

Are you building a brand or just building vibes? I often ask my talented friends this question, and the answer I often get is, “I am waiting for the right time to start”. However, whether you start now or later in the future, you cannot change the fact that the digital age is the greatest bazaar the world has ever seen, and the earlier you stopped window-shopping your dreams and start selling your gold, the better it is for you.

Figuratively speaking, Talent without visibility is like a well without a bucket. This sentence may sound a bit cold, however, it is an undeniable truth. You can be deep, rich and full of brilliance, but if no one can draw from you, you remain hidden and thirsty just like everyone else. The internet does not reward the most talented, it rewards the most intentional.

Monetizing your creativity is an art form of its own. In my special words, I call it a dance between authenticity and strategy. The Authenticity is the rhythm that draws people (Audience) close, while the strategy is the choreography that keeps them dancing. Hence, monetizing your talent needs three things: a platform, a niche (Audience) and a strategy.

Prior to now, making money meant showing up in person or chasing record deals, especially for those with musical talents and creative art skills, but today, digital platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, X, Instagram, TikTok, etc. have become a global stage. Additionally, talented writers no longer need to beg publishers, they can now self-publish on Amazon Kindle, run newsletters on Substack, and sell their words directly to the world. And guess what? Everyone, absolutely everyone, fits on the stage.



Having said all these, do you think you still have an excuse not to monetize your talent?

What are you really waiting for?

- 1 The perfect moment? This does not exist.
- 2 The right tools? You already carry a smartphone that has more power than the computers that sent a man to the moon.
- 3 More followers? You don't need a million followers to make a living, you need 100 true believers who are ready to buy, support, and tell others about you.

The ones who will thrive are not the ones who hoard their gifts, waiting for permission to use them, but rather the ones who boldly offer their talents to the world, imperfect but unstoppable, building as they go.

So today, I am not just asking you to “think about” monetizing your talent, I am daring you. Build your stall in the global bazaar. Light your fire. Beat your drum. Tell the world you have arrived.

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Digital Detox: Reclaiming Balance in a Hyper-Connected World

By Joy Idakwoji (Compliance Officer)

In today's era of constant connectivity, the term "digital detox" has emerged as a much-needed antidote to the stress and distraction caused by our hyper-connected lifestyles. As technology becomes more ingrained in every aspect of our lives from work emails to social media feeds, the need to occasionally unplug and recharge is increasingly vital for our mental and physical well-being.

The Case for a Digital Detox

Our smartphones, tablets, and computers have transformed the way we communicate, work, and entertain ourselves. However, the omnipresence of digital devices can lead to several negative consequences:

Mental Overload: Continuous notifications and the pressure to respond immediately contribute to anxiety and mental fatigue.

Sleep Disruption: Exposure to blue light from screens interferes with our natural sleep cycles, leading to poor-quality sleep.

Reduced Productivity: Constant interruptions from digital devices can fragment our focus and decrease our efficiency.

Social Disconnection: While digital platforms connect us virtually, they sometimes erode the quality of face-to-face interactions.



Benefits of Stepping Away

A deliberate break from digital devices can lead to numerous benefits:

Enhanced Focus

Disconnecting allows the mind to rest and rejuvenate, fostering improved concentration and creativity.

Better Health

Reducing screen time can improve sleep quality, lower stress levels, and even lessen eye strain.

Stronger Relationships

Unplugging paves the way for deeper, more meaningful conversations and interactions with family and friends.

Mindfulness and Presence

A digital detox encourages mindfulness, helping individuals become more present in their everyday experiences.

Strategies for an Effective Digital Detox

Implementing a digital detox doesn't require completely abandoning technology rather, it involves mindful regulation of screen time and establishing healthier habits. Some healthy habits include the following:

Set Boundaries: Define specific periods during the day when digital devices are off-limits. For instance, consider no-screen rules during meals or an hour before bedtime.

Designate Tech-Free Zones: Create physical spaces in your home where devices are not allowed. This could be the dining area, the bedroom, or a cozy reading nook.

Schedule Regular Breaks: Integrate short breaks throughout your day to step away from screens. A few minutes of stretching, a walk outside, or simply practicing deep breathing can do wonders.

Engage in Offline Activities: Rediscover hobbies that don't involve digital devices e.g. reading, cooking, gardening, hiking or engaging in a physical sport or other outdoor activities.

Mindfulness Practices: Techniques such as meditation or yoga can help reduce stress and bring clarity, making it easier to resist the lure of constant connectivity.



Conclusion

A digital detox is more than just a break from technology. It's an opportunity to reset, reconnect with our surroundings, and cultivate a balanced lifestyle. By incorporating mindful practices and setting clear boundaries, individuals can reclaim their time and energy, leading to improved well-being and a renewed sense of focus. In a world where digital distractions are ever-present, taking the time to unplug might just be the key to a more fulfilling and grounded life.



Pause & Play!



ABOUT APRIL

Did you know April 22 is Earth Day?

It began in 1970 and sparked the modern environmental movement. Today, over 190 countries participate to promote sustainability and climate awareness.



THE LATIN WORD “APERIRE,”

Did you know the word “April” comes from the Latin “aperire,” meaning “to open”?

Fitting for a month when flowers bloom, trees bud, and the world seems to slowly open back up after winter.



THE SPACEFLIGHT

Did you know the first human spaceflight happened in April?

On April 12, 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first person in space—launching the world into a new era of exploration.



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Did you know William Shakespeare was born and died in April?

Both events are marked on April 23rd, making it a poetic day for literature lovers worldwide.



THE EASTER BUNNY

Did you know the Easter Bunny wasn't always a bunny? In some early traditions, Easter was symbolized by a bird or a fox, and the egg symbol evolved from pagan spring festivals before it was embraced by Christianity.



1 What famous environmental observance takes place on April 22 each year?

- a. World Nature Day
- b. Earth Day
- c. Green Planet Day

2 April gets its name from the Latin word “aperire.” What does it mean?

- a. Rain
- b. Bloom
- c. Open

3 Which flower is officially associated with April?

- a. Rose
- b. Daffodil
- c. Daisy

4 Which bird is often seen as a symbol of spring, commonly associated with April?

- a. Owl
- b. Robin
- c. Sparrow

Corporate Humour

Cartoons



**When you go to work to earn money
to get gas to drive to work to earn
money to get gas**



Flash Fiction: The HOLDING PATTERN

By Joy Ahaïwe (Social media and community manager)

There's something surreal about sitting in a cockpit 38,000 feet above ground, watching the sun rise in reverse—first a faint glimmer on the edge of the horizon, then a fierce burst of light slicing through the clouds. For Captain Ireti Adigun, this view was routine... but that morning, nothing about her flight felt normal.

It was Flight 804—Lagos to Nairobi. A smooth check-in. A quick pre-flight. Clear weather. A nearly full flight. Ireti had done this route over 50 times in her 17-year career with the airline. But on this particular morning, 43 minutes into the flight, she got the call every pilot dreads:

“Captain, we’ve got an issue with the landing gear indicator. It’s not confirming gear deployment.”

A technical snag. One that could mean anything from a false reading to a serious failure. Her co-pilot looked at her. The cabin crew waited for her signal. Her instincts kicked in.

“Let’s hold at FL280 and loop the checklist again,” she said calmly, even though her heart had already started thudding harder.

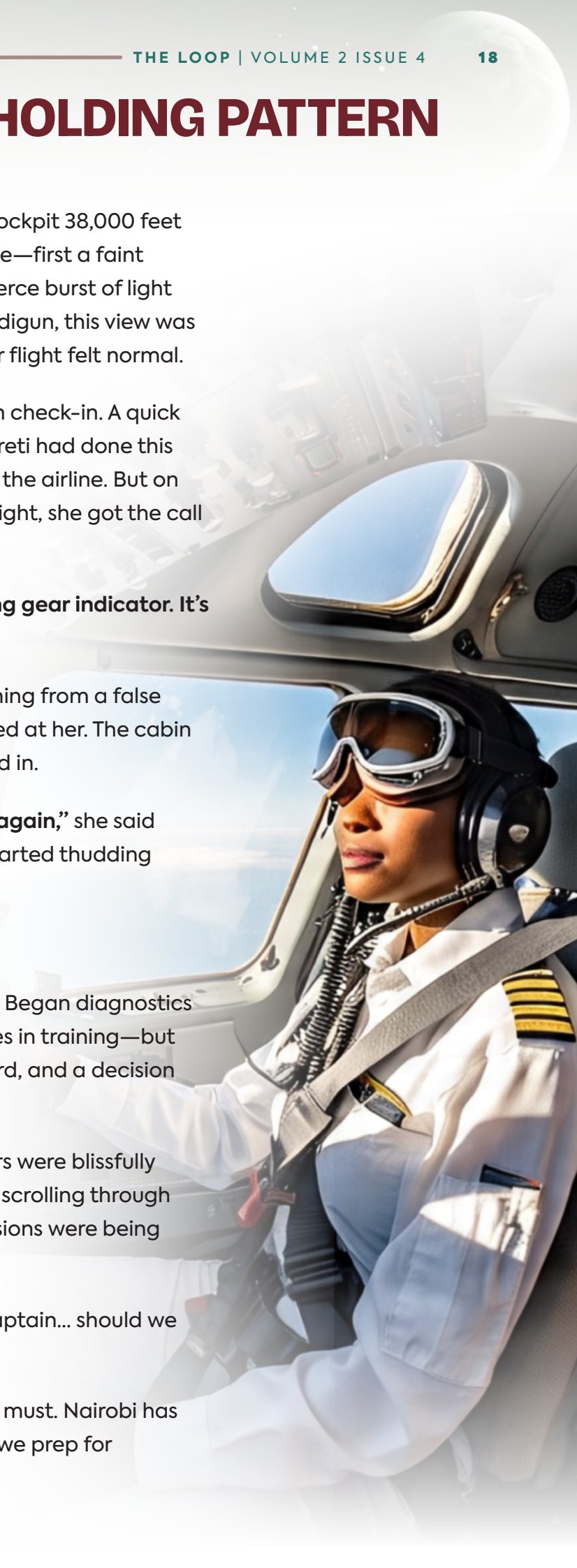
Twenty Minutes in a Holding Pattern

They radioed ATC. Entered a holding pattern. Began diagnostics midair. Ireti had done this drill a hundred times in training—but this wasn't training. This was 143 souls on board, and a decision that could make headlines, or worse.

As they circled over Central Africa, passengers were blissfully unaware—drinking coffee, watching movies, scrolling through their phones. Meanwhile, in the cockpit, decisions were being made with surgical precision.

At one point, her junior officer whispered, “Captain... should we turn back?”

She shook her head. “We don’t panic until we must. Nairobi has better emergency support. We proceed, but we prep for anything.”



She thought of her daughter in Lagos. Of the headlines if things went south. Of the passengers—businessmen, honeymooners, a woman flying to see her aging mother. This was more than a flight. It was people's lives hanging in balance.

Final approach. Nairobi tower cleared them to land. But the green light—the one confirming gear was fully down—still didn't blink on.

Ireti did what very few people on Earth could do with clarity: she flew blind. Trusting training, instincts, and her team.

The landing was one of the softest the airline had ever recorded. When they taxied to the gate, emergency crews surrounded the aircraft just in case.

Turns out? The gear was fine. A faulty indicator. But it could've gone another way.

That day, Captain Ireti taught her crew—and herself—a lesson many never forget: In aviation, calm is a skill. In life, too.

When things don't go as expected, you don't always need to make a big move. Sometimes, you just enter a holding pattern. Stay calm. Diagnose. Trust your training. And land—gently—when you're ready.



Restaurant & Café Recommendations

Shogan Restaurant ABUJA

📍 55 Lake Chad Crescent, Maitama, Abuja

🍴 Meal: Sashimi Platter

🍷 Sake or Japanese-inspired cocktails

💰 ₦ 15,000 – ₦ 30,000 per person

Gaby LAGOS

📍 6a Agoro Odiyan Street, Victoria Island, Lagos

🍴 Best Meal: Mediterranean fusion dishes

🍷 Best Drink: Artisanal cocktails and fine wines

💰 Price Range: Moderate to high

Placebo LAGOS

📍 51 Bashiru Shittu Avenue, Magodo, Ikosi Ketu, Lagos

🍴 Best Meal: Truffle pasta and grilled chicken platter

🍷 Best Drink: Cocktails from their extensive bar menu

💰 ₦ 10,000 – ₦ 20,000 per person

The SIG Restaurant LAGOS

📍 7/9 Molade Okoya Thomas Street, Off Ajoose Adeogun, VI

🍴 Best Meal: The SIG Party Jollof Rice with Chicken

🍷 Best Drink: Mojito

💰 ₦ 20,000 – ₦ 35,000 per person

Otres Restaurant LAGOS

📍 Block A, Plot 7 Wole Olateju Street, Off Admiralty Road, Lekki, Lagos

🍴 Best Meal: Stewed Oxtail

🍷 Drink to Order: Chapman or Freshly Squeezed Juices

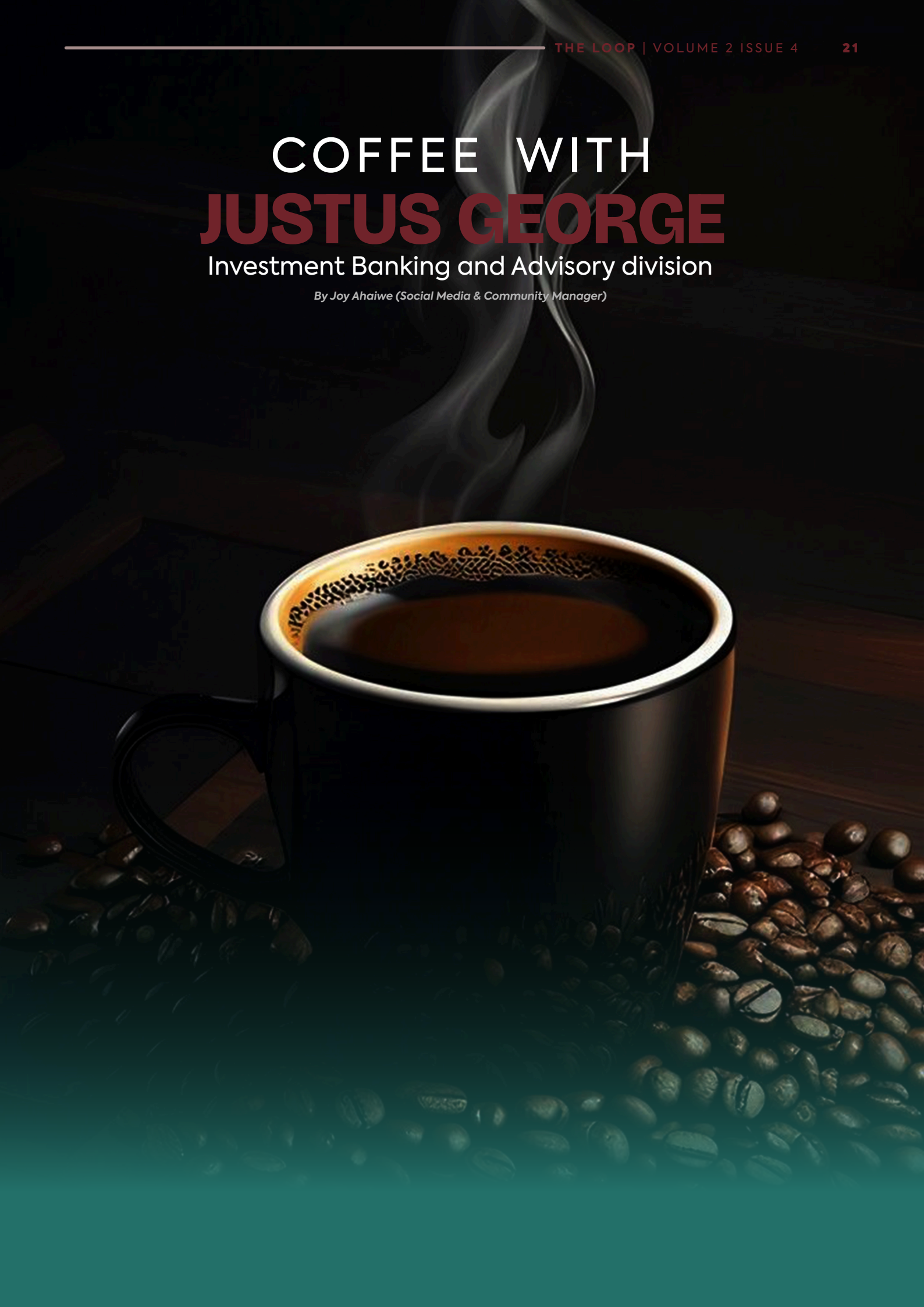
💰 ₦ 20,000 – ₦ 35,000 per person



COFFEE WITH **JUSTUS GEORGE**

Investment Banking and Advisory division

By Joy Ahaiwe (Social Media & Community Manager)



Please introduce yourself

My name is Justus, and I work in the Investment Banking and Advisory division at CFG Africa. We act as strategic advisors to corporations and public institutions by supporting them in executing complex transactions such as capital raises, mergers and acquisition, business restructuring, and other high-impact advisory mandates.

What inspired your interest in investment banking?

My interest in investment banking was sparked during my early career in management consulting, which began in 2021. I was primarily involved in conducting feasibility studies and building financial models to assess the viability of various business ventures. Through this work, I became deeply interested in how businesses secure the capital needed to bring these ideas to life. I wanted to understand the processes behind capital raising and how financial resources are structured and deployed to drive strategic growth and social impact.

This curiosity naturally led me to explore investment banking more seriously, as it sits at the intersection of finance and strategic execution. While I didn't move directly into an investment banking role when I joined CFG Africa in 2023, I was fortunate that CFG Maynard Limited, a subsidiary of CFG Africa, secured its issuing license in 2024. This milestone marked our formal entry into regulated investment banking and gave me the opportunity to transition fully into the space. In many ways, it felt like a convergence of my aspirations and the right opportunity.

Today, as an Associate in CFG Africa's Investment Banking division, I'm actively involved in the kind of transactions that first inspired my curiosity—capital raises, business transformation initiatives, and advisory mandates that support meaningful growth.

What does a typical day in the investment banking unit look like for you?

Investment banking is far from routine. While some tasks may be repetitive, what truly sets an investment bank apart is the level of sophistication and the nuanced approach applied to even the most traditional activities, this is a point our Managing Director often emphasizes.

If you ask me what a typical day looks like, I'd say it varies greatly. One moment, you might be building a financial model, the next, you're developing key presentation materials such as pitch decks, proposals, investment memoranda, or private placement memoranda. You could be on a client call, trying to understand their strategic intentions and working through tailored solutions, or drafting transaction documents like term sheets and deal tickets. On other days, you're out meeting with prospective institutional or individual investors, pitching investment opportunities we serve as arranger on such as commercial papers, bonds, or private debt notes. But then, t h i s
d y n a m i c



nature of tasks is what makes investment banking both challenging, interesting and deeply rewarding.

Investment banking is often intense — how do you stay grounded and maintain perspective?

For me, staying informed is essential to succeeding in investment banking, which is a highly knowledge-driven profession. Investment banking is undoubtedly intense as you have mentioned, with high expectations, long hours, and constant pressure to deliver. To stay grounded, I intentionally cultivate balance through continuous learning and meaningful relationships. I engage with peers across the industry to share experiences, challenges, and insights which helps me maintain perspective and avoid tunnel vision.

I also make time to stay intellectually refreshed by listening to relevant podcasts like Merger & Acquisition Podcast by Guus Greeve and Investment Banking Insights by Alex Mason, and by reading books on financial markets and deal-making. These resources not only deepen my knowledge but also remind me of the broader purpose and long-term value of what we do.

Importantly, I focus on managing stress by maintaining a structured routine and drawing motivation from the tangible

impact our work has on businesses and economies. Recognizing that success in this field requires both resilience and perspective, I make a conscious effort to stay informed, balanced, and purpose driven.

Where do you see the biggest opportunities for growth in African investment banking in the next 5 years?

Over the next five years, I see significant growth opportunities in African investment banking across several fronts, driven by structural shifts, regulatory advancements, and evolving investor interest.

Firstly, infrastructure financing will remain a major area of opportunity. Africa's infrastructure gap presents a unique need for innovative capital structuring, PPP arrangements, and project finance capabilities. Investment banks that can structure blended finance instruments and attract development finance and private capital will be key players in closing this gap.

Secondly, the deepening of capital markets in key African economies—including Nigeria, Kenya, Egypt, and South Africa—continues to unlock opportunities for equity and debt capital raising, particularly among mid-sized, high-growth companies. Local currency bond markets are progressively maturing, and there is a notable surge in interest around private credit and structured finance solutions. While I can't share too much just yet, CFG Africa is preparing to launch a landmark fund in this space something truly unprecedented that will contribute meaningfully to this evolving segment. Watch out!



Technology and fintech-driven deal activity will continue to rise. Africa's digital economy is expanding rapidly, and investment banks are well-positioned to support M&A, fundraising, and strategic advisory in this space, particularly as global investors seek exposure to African innovation.

Additionally, ESG and impact-driven investing is gaining momentum. There's growing demand for sustainable finance structures, green bonds, ethical funds and climate-focused investments.

What's a misconception people have about investment banking that you'd like to correct?

One common misconception is that investment banking is overwhelmingly intense and demanding and interestingly, that's not entirely inaccurate. In fact, the notion that the work involves long hours, high pressure, and complex deliverables is largely true. However, what's often overlooked is the immense value, exposure, and professional growth that come with the intensity. The depth of insight you gain into industries, financial markets, and strategic decision-making is unmatched. So, while it's challenging, it's also incredibly rewarding for those who are passionate about creating real impact and driving transformative business outcomes.

Another common misconception about investment banking is that it's purely a realm of intricate mathematical wizardry and relentless quantitative analysis.

While a strong grasp of finance and numbers is certainly foundational, the reality is that success in this field hinges significantly on qualitative skills. Building and nurturing client relationships, truly understanding their unique needs, and effectively conveying complex financial concepts are paramount; deals often materialize through trust and clear communication, not just spreadsheet prowess. Strategic thinking, comprehending the broader industry landscape and a client's overarching business objectives is crucial for offering insightful advice that goes beyond mere number crunching.

Tell us about a moment in your career that really challenged you. What did it teach you about yourself?

One of the most challenging moments in my career came right at the start, during my transition from academia into the professional world. Coming from a school environment where success was largely defined by reading and passing exams with limited exposure to practical applications. It was a steep learning curve to adjust to the demands of a real business setting. The Graduate Trainee Program I undertook at a management consulting firm was a turning point. It



exposed me to real-life business challenges, financial materials, self-development resources, and for the first time, the fundamentals of financial modelling. It required deep focus, long hours, and in many cases, sleepless nights. But it taught me an invaluable lesson: academic excellence alone is not enough. What truly matters is the ability to apply that knowledge in a way that creates commercial and strategic value.

I know only a single moment was requested, but I'd like to add another that significantly shaped my growth.

When I joined CFG Africa in November 2023, I encountered a different kind of challenge. The culture, pace, and expectations were distinct from what I was used to. I moved from a setting where tasks were typically handled in teams to one where I had to take full ownership of deliverables with minimal assistance. Initially, the tasks felt overwhelming, and I often questioned whether I could meet expectations. But instead of backing down, I chose to adapt. I began learning aspects of projects I would previously have relied on others to handle. That experience not only increased my technical and strategic capacity but also boosted my confidence and independence. It taught me the value of being versatile, proactive, and ready to step in and fill critical gaps when needed.

If you weren't in finance, what other path could you see yourself exploring?

Having been raised by two retired secondary school principals, my upbringing profoundly shaped my appreciation for education. Had my career not taken root in finance and

investment, I firmly believe I would be in the realm of teaching or lecturing. This inclination isn't just a hypothetical; after secondary school, I dedicated nearly two years to teaching at the primary level before entering university. Even during my undergraduate studies in Economics, my passion for pedagogy manifested in regularly tutoring my peers.

However, my academic pursuit of Economics ignited a compelling interest in the intricacies of finance and investment, ultimately steering my professional trajectory towards the financial services industry. Nevertheless, if I were to explore a completely different path outside the realm of finance and education, acting holds a surprising appeal. Despite not possessing an inherently extroverted personality, I've always been captivated by acting as a powerful medium for expression and storytelling.

How do you unplug or recharge outside work hours — any go-to hobbies or interests?

Well, I enjoy video games, although I rarely find the time to play these days. Most

“

Initially, the tasks felt overwhelming, and I often questioned whether I could meet expectations. But instead of backing down, I chose to adapt. I began learning aspects of projects I would previously have relied on others to handle.

evenings, I fall asleep watching movies unless I'm at the cinema. After a long day of work, sometimes what I need isn't more fictional storytelling on a screen, but the kind I can explore in dreams. I'm also a big fan of Afrobeats; to unwind, I occasionally blast the latest Wizkid track at full volume and let loose with dance moves you'd probably never catch me doing in public well, maybe once in a while, if the environment feels just right. I also like watching football games as I am a Chelsea FC fan. I know this isn't a direct answer to your question, but feel free to pick any of these as a glimpse into how I relax and yes, sleeping definitely makes the list.

If you could take a month off to do anything in the world, what would you do and where would you go?

I'd love to spend a summer in London as a sports analyst at Stamford Bridge. Even here in my small corner of Lagos, I often find myself analysing football matches breaking down tactics, suggesting formations, and imagining what the coach could have done differently to avoid a loss, playing the role of a coach, I'll probably never be. But truly, watching a live Premier League game at Stamford Bridge while soaking in the atmosphere and exploring the charm of London would be a dream come true.

“

*After a long day of work,
sometimes what I need isn't
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explore in dreams.*




April in Focus: Vision, Care & Connection


April was a month of clarity—literally and figuratively. It reminded us that taking a pause to see—really see—what matters can make all the difference.

We kicked off the month with a vision screening exercise in partnership with Locus Eye Clinic, giving team members the opportunity to check in on their eye health. From subtle strains to more noticeable shifts, it was a chance to focus on the one thing we often take for granted: our sight. As part of this, a Knowledge Sharing Session (KSS) was also held, where the experts from Locus broke down practical tips on eye care—covering everything from screen time habits to nutrition and protective measures. Simple, actionable, and so important.

As we wrap up April, the message is simple: When we take care of our vision—both literally and in how we move forward—we're better equipped to show up, stay grounded, and see the bigger picture.



April was a month of clarity—literally and figuratively. It reminded us that taking a pause to see—really see—what matters can make all the difference.



April Town Hall: A Moment of Realignment, Reflection & Reconnection



April ushered in more than just a new quarter, it brought with it an opportunity for us to pause, realign, and reconnect as a team.

Our town hall meeting this month wasn't just another calendar event, it was a meaningful moment of truth-telling and transformation. In a safe, open space, every team had the floor to speak candidly about what was working, what wasn't, and what needed to change. The conversations were honest. The energy? Purposeful. And the outcomes? Powerful.

Pain points that may have lingered in the background finally came to light, not to complain, but to build. From communication gaps to workflow hiccups, each concern was

met not with defensiveness, but with solutions. Real ones. Together, we tackled challenges and mapped out practical steps forward. It was the kind of dialogue that reminds you why collaboration is at the heart of progress.

More than anything, the April town hall proved that when we listen with intent, respond with empathy, and act with clarity, growth is inevitable — not just for the company, but for each of us.

Here's to building a culture where every voice is heard, and every solution is a shared win.



Hangout

Hangout



FRI

5:30

April Team Bonding: Good Vibes Only

There are days that remind you how much magic happens when people simply come together to be. No agendas, no deadlines just music, food, laughter, and the kind of joy that bubbles up when you let go.

That was our April hangout. It was our very first team bonding moment for the year and

quarter. From the minute the music started playing, the tone was set: this wasn't going to be a stiff, polite gathering. Nah. This was going to be a vibe and it was.

Karaoke kicked things off. Some of us sang like pros, others? Let's just say the courage was louder than the vocals and we loved it. Off-

key or not, we clapped, cheered, and laughed till our stomachs hurt. There was something so freeing about watching your colleagues let their guards down, mic in hand, giving Beyoncé or Burna Boy a run for their money (or at least trying to!).

The food? Don't even get us started. Plates were filled, emptied, and filled again. People went from "just a small portion please" to "is there more of that jollof?" in minutes. We danced. We played. We laughed at inside jokes. We made memories.

It was goofy. It was wholesome. It was good.

Somewhere between the karaoke battles, the shared plates, and the random bursts of laughter, we remembered why we're not just a team, we're a crew. A really cool, slightly chaotic, genuinely awesome crew.

That hangout? It reminded us that team bonding isn't just a tick on the HR calendar. It's where connection happens. It's where walls come down and we see each other, not just as colleagues, but as humans.

And honestly? We can't wait to do it again.



Recommended Books

By Joy Ahaive (Social media and community manager)

The Wedding People

BY ALISON ESPACH

The Wedding People is an irresistible novel about love, friendship, dysfunctional families, and the unexpected paths that lead to happiness.



The Gifts of Imperfection

BY BRENE BROWN

This book is a quiet revolution—a reminder that your story matters because you do. It's about showing up, embracing joy and truth, and choosing authenticity in a world that often asks us to hide.

Who Moved My Cheese

BY SPENCER JOHNSON

Who Moved My Cheese? is a simple parable that reveals profound truths about change. It is an amusing and enlightening story of four characters who live in a 'Maze' and look for 'Cheese' to nourish them and make them happy.



The Bee Sting

BY PAUL MURRAY

An irresistibly funny, wise, and thought-provoking tour de force about family, fortune, and the struggle to be a good person when the world is falling apart.



check out the Answers to
the POP QUIZ!



ANSWERS

- 1** What famous environmental observance takes place on April 22 each year?
b) Earth Day
- 2** April gets its name from the Latin word “aperire.” What does it mean?
c) Open
- 3** Which flower is officially associated with April?
c) Daisy
- 4** Which bird is often seen as a symbol of spring, commonly associated with April?
b) Robin

Puzzles

Theme: April – A Month of Love, Legends, and Changing Seasons

G P Z X V P W W E L M G O Y O W G W L K Q Q N M
 Z E A O I J J V T O J I G S C P O B V O V I J B
 K Y P X Q Z Q M R X U M M A A Q M V E E L U C Q
 A P R S P O S Z T L Z K Q L H E H A Y A F P S E
 A J I B C U F B W W E K U P O E T R Y M O N T H
 R J L A B B F X C E L T H W D Y V V E V Y E G G
 I T S Q O U T A Q N F S K I C S W E E T P E A Y
 E J T K F L N P I J P T M A C P V R U C C Z R Q
 S Z T T A L M F H F E R X E V Z B Q U G D H R I
 B J D P V K I J R C Y E M I U G I B A M Q G H L
 D L A D S Y M S E B L S T L J R S L A F P W U G
 O O I S U N S H I N E S F H R E N E W A L O M F
 B K S W V D Y Q Y L A R V K I W K R N J X Y O E
 S U Y R J I A O F O D E S O H R H M X X B P R E
 S T O T Q A J W W O E L H L Q A Y E M A O J M P
 B E R A M M V Q E T R I O V Y X F H C J P Z O D
 W C Z C V O B P G T S E W X P B G S M O C L N X
 R C K B U N L A P A N F E G S Q I W G I U V T G
 R D Q C T D O B L U S H R U P D S N P T F Q H P
 Y Q C T Z X O K H R H L S M R Q A Q O G D F A N
 D S X U L W M H E U O V R V I Q Q M R E Y I M A
 M X F H C C S M J S P P K Q N U X K Y Y J R T I
 R J Y F F O H B S C E H L D G X L Y Y Z X E A M
 U V P H F L O W E R S V X X F Z E H Q I Y D V W

STRESSRELIEF
 POETRYMONTH
 HUMORMONTH
 SUNSHINE
 SWEETPEA
 RENEWAL
 FLOWERS

SHOWERS
 LEADERS
 DIAMOND
 SPRING
 BLOOMS
 TAURUS
 DAISY

ARIES
 APRIL
 HOPE
 BULL
 FIRE
 RAM

Movies to Watch

By Joy Ahaife (Social Media & Community Manager)



Zero Day

Rating: ★★★★★

A former U.S. President is called out of retirement to find the source of a deadly cyberattack, only to discover a vast web of lies and conspiracies.

Where to watch: [NETFLIX](#)



Jewel Thief

Rating: ★★★★★

A master thief accepts a mission to steal the legendary African Red Sun diamond. What begins as a meticulously planned heist spirals into a dangerous game.

Where to watch: [NETFLIX](#)



Bullet Train Explosion

Rating: ★★★★★

When panic erupts on a Tokyo-bound bullet train that will explode if it slows below 100 kph, authorities race against time to save everyone on board.

Where to watch: [NETFLIX](#)



Unicorn Academy

Rating: ★★★★★

When a dark force threatens to destroy Unicorn Island, a brave teen and her five schoolmates must rise up to protect their beloved magical academy.

Where to watch: [NETFLIX](#)



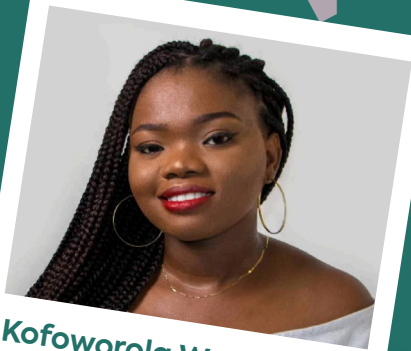
Broken Hallelujah

Rating: ★★★★★

Broken Hallelujah explores faith, love, resilience, and the unspoken pressures many Nigerians couples face.

Where to watch: [NETFLIX](#)

APRIL CELEBRANTS!!



Kofoworola Woghiren

13



Ivy Ojigbede

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Ameerat Awonuga

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Abimbola Adigun

26

HAPPY Birthday



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