

# Obama calls Kanye West a jackass

President Barack Obama has labelled rap star Kanye West a "jackass" for interrupting Taylor Swift's winning speech at the MTV Awards on Sunday.

West stormed the stage in New York to tell the crowd Beyonce should have won the prize for best female video.

Since then, he has called Swift personally to apologise.

Speaking before a TV interview, Mr Obama said "I thought it was inappropriate, it's like she's getting an award, why are you butting in?"

He added: "The

y seems like a perfectly nice person, she's getting her award, what's he doing up there?"

Chatting with CNBC reporter John Harwood, Mr Obama made an off-the-cuff remark: "He's a jackass."

The comments came to light after ABC News staff mentioned them on Twitter.

The network said some of its employees had overheard a conversation between the president and Mr Harwood and did not realise it was off the record.

The network apologised to the White House and CNBC and removed the Twitter posts.

An audio recording of the remarks was later posted on showbiz website TMZ.

Since the incident at the MTV Awards, West has admitted he was in the wrong and has said sorry.

Swift told ABC News Radio that the rapper called her after the ceremony. "He was very sincere in his apology and I accepted that apology," she said.

But she told the US chat show The View, that his behaviour had "rattled" her.

"I had to perform live five minutes later, so I had to get myself back to the place where I could perform."

West, who was booed every time he appeared on stage after the incident, also wrote on his blog afterwards about how sorry he was to have ruined Swift's big moment.



## The Beam

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## 2face appointed NAFDAC Ambassador

Fans of 2face Idibia have more good news to rejoice about as the star has recently been officially appointed an ambassador for the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration (NAFDAC).

In a bid to increase the efficiency of the agency particularly in the area of public awareness which is a key element in the fight against the prevalence of fake, substandard and expired drugs and food items, 2face has been saddled with

the responsibility of lending his voice and star power to the laudable cause in the capacity of a global representative.

In a chat with Efe Omorogbe of Now Muzik confirmed that the official presentation will be done at a one-day sensitisation workshop organised for all the 774 local government chairmen to be held in Abuja, at the Thisday Dome on September, the 24th 2009.

The invitation letter signed by Dr. Paul Orhii, Director General of the

agency, highlighted that the move as part of a holistic and multi-dimensional approach towards eliminating counterfeit drugs, unwholesome food and other sub-standard regulated products in the country.

Wife of the president, Hajia Turai Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, will declare the event open as the Grand Matron of NAFDAC and Special Guest of Honour for the occasion.

## Nigerian author Uwem Akpan says humbled by Oprah pick

Nigerian author Uwem Akpan, who is a Jesuit priest, said he was "humbled" that his debut collection of short stories was chosen by influential US talk show host Oprah Winfrey for her book club.

Oprah picked "Say You're One Of Them" as her 63rd book club selection, the first time she has chosen a book of short stories, saying these stories "left me stunned and profoundly moved."

The collection, published in 2008, includes five separate stories from the perspective of an African child that were described as capturing the resilience of children growing up in the face of unimaginable devastation.

Uwem Akpan, who runs a parish in Lagos, told Entertainment Weekly that he was "very, very humbled" to be chosen by Oprah.

He said he was not currently working on another book as his parish had been so busy but the church supports his writing with no conflict of interest between writing and being a priest.

"I have permission to write, but I do not need an imprimatur from the church that is more for people who are writing about theology and philosophy. They see that I am writing fiction and assume it is made up," he said.

"Don't forget that Jesus was a priest and a poet."

Oprah's book club is the biggest in the world with almost two million online members and books chosen for Oprah's book club invariably skyrocket to the top

of the US bestseller lists.

Akpan studied philosophy and English at Creighton and Gonzaga universities then studied theology for three years at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa.

He was ordained as a Jesuit priest in 2003 and received his master's degree in creative writing from the University of Michigan in 2006.

His story collection was first published last year by Little Brown & Co, which is part of the Hachette Book Group that is owned by French publishing company Lagardere. Reuters.



## Jim Iyke begins musical campaign to save Nigerian child

Nollywood's bad boy, and one of Globacom ambassadors, Jim Iyke who recently veered into music has several ways of surprising those who join issues with him. After months of speculation on the launch of his much talked about album, Jim is set, not only to launch his album but also to flag off his charity campaign to bring sunshine to the underprivileged Nigerians.

Jim last week disclosed plans to use launch of his album to flag off a musical campaign to lift the soul of the children of Adonai Orphanage in Kaduna.

The event which comes up on Saturday, 26 at Thisday Dome in Abuja will witness the unveiling of his album and fund raising to support the work of charity. Also, according to him, the event which is being planned by Rita Echeozo led Promotie Entertainment, will be used to mark 2face Idibia's 10th year anniversary.

Speaking about his album, Jim said, "my album is a way of trying to define myself, to the people without coming across as in-your-face-kind of person."

"Music has always been a part of me. I am using this as a tool of expression, telling my own story with my own mouth and lending a helping hand to the orphanage with over 30% proceeds from the album. That is the kind of person that I am. I am emotional about children."

I sympathize with them. I feel their pain and I'm most comfortable around them because they are less complicated unlike adult."

According to Omar Oyin Bala, Jim's manager, this album is not about Jim Iyke as a star. "Jim is comfortable. He is doing well but he feels uncomfortable seeing children who could be better off with little assistance. He is embarking on massive drive for this work and he is leaving no stone unturned to make it a success so that the little children at Adonai

Orphanage in Kaduna would have access to better life.

The tour, the album, the concert and donations are not all about him. Everything is about expressing a part of him that yearns for the less-privileged kids. He is trying to put his money where his mouth is."

To this end, Jim is having a 7000 children walk through the streets of Abuja to raise awareness for the children of Adonai Orphanage in Kaduna whom he is planning to build a N5 million worth of house for because the landlord of their present location gave them quit notice. The walk which involved several celebrities started from the FCT Minister's office and ended at Millenium Park.

"We must quickly point out that whatever case it is, a lots of people are waiting for our client and he is more than prepared to give this his best, which is the reason he has given this his very best to make this musical work a world class."

The videos of 'Who am I' and 'Born to do this' were shot with world class hands and fortunes were spent on them. And we all know the credibility of Puffy T, the producer of most of the songs. All in all, Jim Iyke will not disappoint us. We believe not a few skeptics would be wooed when the album finally drops. He is our own bad boy with a good cause," the publicity company wrote.

