

At the peak of your rise to prominence, you presented your first collections at the Calabar Carnival, what year was that and how did you get that opportunity?

We were invited for fashion show in 2006, the organisers were M-Idol. It was a successful show which was attended by some top government officials and they later mentioned us to the governor's wife. I was at the International fashion show organised by Gov. Imoke's wife to raise money for the less privileged.

Were you set out for tailoring or becoming a tailor just happened by chance?

My love for creativity tailored my path towards tailoring. I didn't choose to be a tailor.

When did you start your own label, Crownlek and why did you choose Crownlek for a name?

I started my label 'Crownlek' in 2004. I named my brand Crownlek because my designs represent royalty. Also, I am from a royal family.

One of your VIP patrons is the former Nigerian president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, how did you get that opportunity and how do you feel about it?

President Obasanjo is like a father to me, we are from the same home town and he loves creative African work which we always replicate in our designs. When Baba Obasanjo was the president, his policy of banning imported fabrics almost ruined my life, I was one of the victims of the policy. My container of imported fabrics was banned, after three months of producing locally, my first major contract was from Bible Society of Nigeria where Baba Obasanjo was the special guest and I designed for all the ushers and some special guests, that was the beginning of the journey.



Meet ex-President Obasanjo's tailor who became an importer at age 14

From a humble beginning to a huge success, Olamilekan Balogun has put in tremendous hard work and dedication to reach where he is right now. Growing up as a lone hustler in the streets of Lagos, although his father asked him out of home at age 14, he didn't realize his fate lied somewhere else. Soon, he developed interest in tailoring after a stint at importing fabrics into Nigeria from Asian countries. He said in this interview that he remembered the family trade, fabrics making, when everything was lost and he needed to survive. Today, he stitches for the rich and affluent. One of his clients is former Nigeria's president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. He told the Editor, FOLORUNSHO HAMSAT, his story. Excerpts...

You must have been enjoying more opportunities from knowing and becoming Chief Obasanjo's tailor,

tell us about your experience.

His name has opened doors for us. In fact, I am well known as his tailor and

some people now call me 'Omo Baba'.

Do you design all of Chief Obasanjo's attires or there is

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