

Written by Titus Banyoh

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If that was the first time she was doing it, then 24-year-old **Belagie Ayuk** shall never afford to forget her 13<sup>th</sup>

birthday. "It was such a special day in my life," the Belgium-based Cameroonian fashion designers told

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recently. On that day, she was clad in some gorgeous dress she personally designed. Yet, the top model who features on Belgian, Dutch and French podiums has designed her path and is speeding through it with an unending passion. This stems from some early ambitions nursed during her young girl and school days in Mamfe's well reputed

**Queen of the Rosary College, Okoyong i**

n Manyu Division in the South West region of Cameroon. She had however known her world was found fashion designing and modeling as she grew up in the seaside resort of Limbe, University settlement of Buea and the famous K-Town, Kumba, the economic nerve centre of the South West. But as the 1.75m-tall Belagie joined her parents in Belgium, her journey to her world began and how far the young artist has gone is what she recounted in the following interview with TIPTOPSTARS' man on the beat there. Amongst other things, Belagie told

**Titus Banyoh**

about her source of inspiration, trade mark, shows and modeling. Excerpts of the chat!

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**Titus Banyoh (TB): How are you doing Belagie?**

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**Belagie Ayuk (BA):** I am fine thanks and you?

**TB:** *I'm good. Tell me a bit about yourself?*

**BA:** Hummm a bit about myself? Well, apart from me being the best in all I do, just joking though, I'm the first in a family of five. As a child, I grew up in Limbe, Buea and Kumba. I attended QRC Okoyong, Mamfe , then moved to Belgium to join my parents. Now, I'm one of the top African professional models in Belgium, Holland and France. I own a design company.

**TB:** *What does fashion mean to you?*

**BA:** It's part of me.

**TB:** *Trace your route into fashion designing?*

**BA:** It all started when I made a dress for myself on my thirteenth birthday. Actually, it was my birthday dress and I made it thanks to my needle work lessons back at home. Of course my lovely aunty was a seamstress, so she gave me a hand once a while.

**TB:** *How long does it usually take to you to design a piece?*

**BA:** Well it all depends on the type of occasion you are designing for, and most of all your inspiration.

**TB:** *What does it take to become a fashion designer?*

**BA:** I would say it takes patience, courage , determination and most of all love for the fashion industry. Then creativity is ultimate.

**TB:** *Do you have your own trade mark?*

**BA:** Yes off course I do .It's called Beldior Fashion and Designs.

**TB:** *How did you come about that?*

**BA:** Haahahaha! Well, that'll be a subject for another time lolololol.  
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What are some of the challenges in fashion design? professionally. It is a very competitive industry and you need to be able to stand out from the crowd. You also need to be able to work with a variety of people and have a good understanding of the market. It is a very fast-paced industry and you need to be able to adapt to change. You also need to be able to work under pressure and have a good sense of timing. It is a very creative industry and you need to be able to think outside the box. You also need to be able to work with a variety of people and have a good understanding of the market. It is a very fast-paced industry and you need to be able to adapt to change. You also need to be able to work under pressure and have a good sense of timing. It is a very creative industry and you need to be able to think outside the box.

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