



The AFREPRENEUR

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN TALENT

GOOD READ

What of my
fellow ghetto
children?

MINISTER

OF WHITELINEN

*Anesu Mhembe, professional Image
Consultant and Fashion Stylist*



Editors Note

Grace Mavunga, Editor-in-Chief

A Tribute to a King

I am a confessed Marvel Cinematic Universe (commonly referred to as MCU) junkie when it comes to movies. I am such a fan that no matter how many times I watch Avengers Endgame, I still drop tears every time I watch the death scene for Tony Stark and Natasha Romanoff. I always get excited every time Thor shows up with his new hammer blasting the bad guys in Avengers Infinity War. But best of all I can never get over the scene where King T'Challa says "Give this man a shield" to Captain America.

Which is why on the early morning of the 29th of August 2020 I was shocked and saddened by the sudden (as we all thought, unknowingly later to realise he had a four-year battle) death of Chadwick Boseman aka King T'Challa of Wakanda. For the past several years, I watched him grace the MCU films, delivering outstanding and unforgettable performances. I recall after watching Black Panther in 2018, thinking that Wakanda was what Africa could be and so much more. A beautiful place overflowing with well-utilised resources. The fact that it consisted of an all-black cast in the lead roles resonated well with me at a very emotional level, being a Black person. Chadwick as the Black Panther was the icing on the cake that brought the whole movie together. His entire act was impressive and so memorable that I find it hard to imagine anyone else being T'Challa.

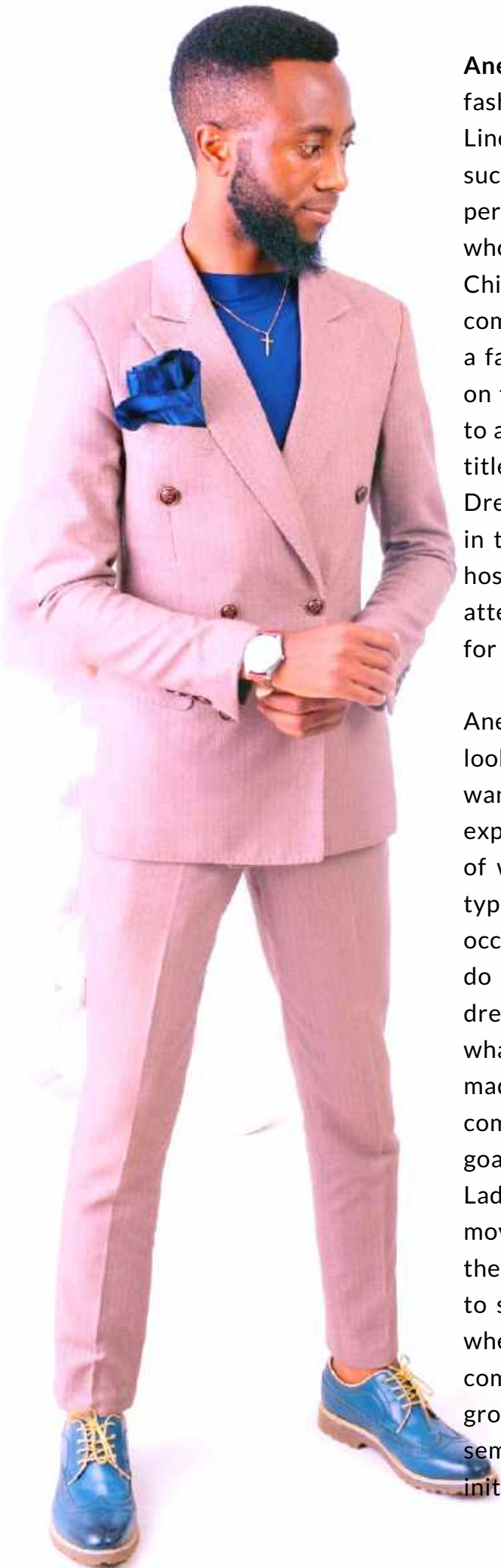
As such, I keep wondering how he managed to accomplish it all while battling colon cancer since 2016. Indeed it could not have been easy going through the many surgeries and rounds of chemotherapy, and still, show up and deliver every single time. I respect the fact that he kept his illness private, I guess because he did not want people to identify him by his condition. Black Panther was meant to be a superhero, and so despite fighting the inward battle for his life, Chadwick brought the hero to life. His work ethic is one many of us can take notes. I believe his role as the Black Panther inspired a generation because today, many girls and boys have a black superhero they can look up to. It also appears he was not only a superhero on screen, but it seems even in real life according to those who knew him personally.



One lesson that I picked from his story in the last few days is that giving up is never an option. No matter how big the challenge you face, find a way to keep going and make the best of every opportunity that comes your way. If you still have breath in you, keep standing and fight on. So, while many MCU fans like myself will have to live in a world without Chadwick Boseman as the Black Panther, my heart goes out to his wife and family who will have to live in a world without a husband, son, nephew, brother, uncle and friend.



Minister of Whitelinen



Anesu Mhembere is a Zimbabwean Image Consultant and fashion stylist who operates under the Minister of White Linen brand. He specialises in helping his clients dress for success and creating an image that compliments their personality. He is also a professional Chinese Interpreter who has facilitated many business discussions between Chinese nationalities and the non-Chinese speaking community. In 2019 he launched the Friday Fashion Fete, a fashion, grooming and etiquette seminar where experts on the field are called upon to come and do presentations to an invited audience. The official launch of the event was titled “Tackling Common Errors Committed in Formal Dressing” which focused influencing dressing and outlook in the corporate field. Several of these events have been hosted since, and many people have testified to how attending helped them find their fashion groove and dress for success.

Anesu believes that there is never an excuse for not looking good; everyone must dress for the future they want to see. Being fashionable is not about wearing expensive labels, but instead, it is all about making the best of what you have. Simple things like knowing your body type, how to coordinate colours and dressing for the occasion can make a big difference. Often people say they do not judge a book by its cover, but when it comes to dressing and grooming people often assess you based on what they see. First impressions matter; that is why Anesu made it his purpose to help people dress in a way that compliments the pages inside the book. To support this goal, he established the Dandy Gentlemen and Vogue Ladies initiatives. There are two parallel fashion movements aimed at creating a fashion consciousness in the community and providing a platform for fashion lovers to showcase their creativity. Each has an Instagram page where fashion lover can showcase their style. Various community initiatives such as fashion flash mobs and grooming/etiquette/personal development training seminars are also hosted as part of these two initiatives. Anesu’s love f

Anesu's love for fashion started at an early age, and back in high school when others despised the tie, for him, it was a signature part of his dressing. Every day was dressing up day for him, and his attention to detail on his appearance made him attract compliments wherever he went. The early days of his career as a professional image consultant had many ups and downs. Some people even told him that he was chasing after the wind thinking he could make it in the fashion world. Some ideas were turned down, and some events had very low turnouts. Yet despite all that, he persevered, and like an eagle, he kept his eyes on the prize. Now he is climbing up the ladder in the Fashion industry, providing grooming and consulting services to an ever-growing database of happy clients.


This journey to becoming the Minister of White Linen has not been in isolation; God has sent several 'wise men' to help him along the way. These include people like Lee Madyara aka 'Hollywoodlee' a Zimbabwean fashion entrepreneur and Fungai Kampira aka 'The Gospel DJ'. Anesu is a devout Christian who accredits his success to God. He believes that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Fashion is not just a profession but an area of calling that God has placed upon his life. One client at a time he is making a positive difference in people's lives by helping them find their style and be the best version of themselves.


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His big dream to create a fashion movement in the Southern African region, like the *Pitti Uomo of Italy that will bring together big fashion brands and fashion lovers from across Africa under one roof. Anesu hopes to unite the fashion industry and promote growth the same way Tyler Perry is doing so in the American film industry. He has already started laying down the foundations by bringing together talented individuals to help him make this dream a reality.



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WHAT OF MY FELLOW GHETTO CHILDREN?

By Darlington I. Mawoneke



As I walk through the streets, I hear an echo of my former headmaster's words 'education is the key to success'. Yes, I have heard it and have worked towards attaining the best results. Today I am studying a BSc Honours Degree in Human Resources Management with one of the best local universities in Zimbabwe. I come from a very humble background in the small town of Chegutu. All that used to be rosy has vanished in the economic crisis bedeviling in our country. Poverty has wormed its way and settled in most homes. As a boy, the only hope that I had to sickle through poverty was education, and with the little resources provided in the local schools, I have made it thus far. There is hope that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and the future will be brighter. But this is not the fulfilment that is unique to me alone, life has taught me that what affects me often affects others. For this reason, I will take a stand for my fellow peers.

As I ponder on these thoughts, a question comes to mind; 'What of my fellow ghetto children?'. Will they have a chance like mine in this lifetime? Will they ever be able to be where I am today? Before I escape this dilemma, my brain captures a glitch 'Coronavirus and Lock Down'. Wow, what a great pandemic, one of the most disastrous in the history of the world. As I pen this in June 2020, to date, over 10 million cases have been confirmed with half a million deaths worldwide.

The Zimbabwean government announced that the country was going in lockdown and all educational institutions were to be closed. This decision to contain the spread of the virus was welcomed with open arms; however, the far-reaching effects could not be ignored. Lockdown brought about a new normal, and for the first time, an increase in the use of online learning has been witnessed in the history of Zimbabwe. Learners and parents are now participating in this new form of education. This setup whilst convenient requires a lot of technicalities to be considered such as access to a good internet connection as well as having a computer/laptop/smartphone to access the educational materials and participate in the lessons. Local research showed that the least price you can get for a functioning second-hand laptop locally is \$150USD while Telone requires at least \$300USD for WIFI set up in the home. Alternatively, the minimum amount you can get for a smartphone is around \$35USD, and in the past few months, local mobile operators reviewed data prices more than three times upwards.

The crucial question is how many children within the country can afford this type of learning? To answer that, in my ghetto where I come from very few children have access, a few that can afford are learning via WhatsApp learning, where teachers are conducting lessons via this platform. This method while a little bit more affordable has its own disadvantages, which include the issue of monitoring and evaluation because most children are either using their guardian/parent/friend/neighbour's phones to receive the schoolwork. Therefore, there is an assessment gap here present.

This disruption in learning has found many youths and children in the ghetto finding themselves with more idle time at their disposal. Until now, little government action has been taken to combat this situation or to at least provide children and youths with alternative projects to do. Boredom is the order of the day as these young people go out of their way to find something interesting to do. Simple research may show that since the beginning of the lockdown, some young adults have resorted to substance and drug abuse while there may also have been an increase in the number of teenage pregnancies.

Perhaps socialists would even pose a question, isn't this the reproduction of social classes? Since only the children of the elite are having access to adequate education during this period. Shamwari Yemwanasikana Organisation even echoed the same sentiments, though they mentioned the girl child in the village in particular. So good people while we mourn friends/family we have lost during this pandemic and sympathise with the government in these trying times, I still ask you "WHAT OF MY FELLOW GHETTO CHILDREN?".

Author



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Arts & Crafts



Hilda Netsai Mapuranga

 @nzouletaccessories

My name is Hilda Netsai Mapuranga and am into knitting and crocheting. A hobby that I picked up in February 2020 after losing my mother, who had spent many years generating income via knitting and crocheting, selling her products locally as well as across the borders. She was a full-time housewife who spent most of her time with knits and the crochet hook. Not one day did she ever buy jerseys for me and my siblings, she made them all herself. Being a typical African mother, she also imparted the skill to my sisters and me, but back then, we never saw the importance and thought it a waste of time. I remember being embarrassed for my friends to know that I can do 'ma dhoiri' (crochet). So, when I was older, I shelved the skill and pursued other skills.

This year after she passed, I decided to put her knitting and crocheting equipment to good use, and now I embrace what she taught me, and believe she is proud of me. I am also passing the skill to my daughters, and I hope it is a skill that can pass to many more generations to come. I have started turning basic crochet into more exciting and unique designs that people can use to accessorise their look. I am a qualified primary school teacher by profession, so once I come back from work, I start working on my newfound passion.







The
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SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN TALENT


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