



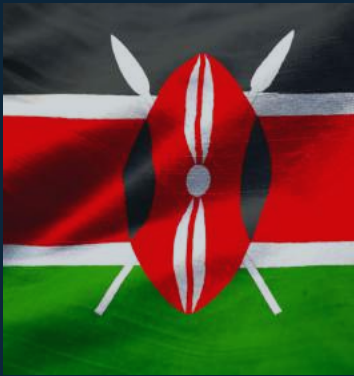
# The AFREPRENUER

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN TALENT



## 2020 IN REFLECTION

*The twenty-one profiles of 2020 in one Issue: Every success story starts from somewhere*



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# Editor's Note

It never ceases to amaze me how time flies; December has graced us with her presence, and the sun is about to set on 2020. A few months ago, we were celebrating the start of a new decade, and everyone was expectant that good things lay ahead. Indeed 2020 started just like any other year until Covid-19 showed up and literary shutdown almost all nations of the world. Since then, much has happened, and for most people, it has been a challenging year.

Some lost their loved ones to the virus, while others have spent months away from family and friends due to social distancing. Many organisations went through massive retrenchments as revenues plummeted due to circumstances beyond their control. Life as we knew it is gone and it remains a mystery if the former will ever return. Whatever lays ahead, all we can do is hold on to our faith, pray and believe that things will get better.

As you reflect on the year, if you did not manage to achieve much, do not be discouraged. The mere fact that you have made it this far is worthy of celebration.

*Grace Mavunga*

This year one of the things I am grateful for is how far this project has come. 2021 the mission continues, and new members will be joining the team to help grow the vision. An 'Avengers Assemble' moment is definitely in the making. Meanwhile here is my early Christmas present to you: all twenty-one profiles of 2020 in one publication. Pay-it-forward and share with someone; you never know who may be inspired!

Visit [gracemavunga.com](http://gracemavunga.com) for more inspiring stories and good reads.





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## Dr. Leah Matsinha (PhD)

*Researcher*

Dr Leah Matsinha holds a PhD in Chemistry awarded from the University of Cape Town. She has received several awards for her contribution in the field of Chemistry. The most recent award is that she is the recipient of the 2020 Royal Society funded Future Leaders: African Independent Researcher (FLAIR) £300 000 Grant. The FLAIR fellowship is a prestigious research grant awarded to young researchers to research in sub-Saharan Africa.

Dr Leah's research project focuses on finding alternative fuels that are cheaper and cleaner energy sources for Africa. The project seeks to convert cheap readily available glycerol (obtained as a by-product during biodiesel production) and use biological and chemical transformations to produce fuels which can be used for cooking. She is very passionate about this research area because it affects a significant number of women in Africa who depend on firewood for cooking daily, particularly in rural areas. Using wood comes with several disadvantages that include deforestation and health effects such as eye irritation, lung diseases due to smoke inhalation, hypertension and even heart problems. The alternative is usually paraffin or LP gas; however, both are generally beyond the means for most of the underprivileged households.

In addition, this grant also provides much needed financial support to conduct research, mentorship and help young researchers establish international collaborations with renowned international researchers. The goal is to equip fellows to take up the mantle of Future African Leaders with an ability to bring about positive change and development in their respective communities. In line with this, Dr Leah currently works with young women in her lab and hopes to impart the knowledge she has acquired over the years to these students so that one day they too can be change-makers.

*Throughout her studies and career, she has published several journals, including a book chapter in internationally reputable peer-reviewed journals.*

Dr Leah completed her postdoctoral research fellowship in 2019 at the University of Johannesburg and is currently a lecturer and researcher at the same university. Throughout her studies and career, she has published several journals, including a book chapter in internationally reputable peer-reviewed journals. Dr Leah has presented her research work at various international chemistry conferences in Portugal, Singapore, China, Italy, and the Netherlands. She is a member of the Catalysis Society of South Africa (CATSA), South African Chemical Institute (SACI) and South African Council of Natural Scientific Professionals (SACNASP).

When she is not mixing chemicals in the laboratory, she loves to spend time in the kitchen, making meals for her family. Next on her academic journey is a plan to enrol for law school, imagine that! I guess it is safe to say we have a Dr Advocate Matsinha in the making. She looks to the future with bright determination and her zeal for learning and development is one from which many of us can take valuable notes.

## PUBLICATIONS

[https://scholar.google.com/scholar?as\\_ylo=2020&q=leah+matsinha&hl=en&as\\_sdt=0,5](https://scholar.google.com/scholar?as_ylo=2020&q=leah+matsinha&hl=en&as_sdt=0,5)

## AWARDS

- Recipient of the 2020 Royal Society funded Future Leaders African Independent Researcher (FLAIR) £300 000 Grant.

<https://www.aasciences.africa/news/recipients-2020-flair-fellowships-announced>

- Recipient of the 2018 Arthur E. Martell Early Career Researcher Prize.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00958972.2019.1595470?journalCode=gcoo20>

- Winner of the 2015 Canon Collins Impact Award.

<https://www.canoncollins.org.uk/alumni/meet-our-alumni/leah-matsinha>

- Winner of the South African Women in Science Award (2013).

[https://www.dst.gov.za/images/Women\\_in\\_Science\\_Awards\\_in\\_2013.pdf](https://www.dst.gov.za/images/Women_in_Science_Awards_in_2013.pdf)



*Mark Madzinga*

*Musician, | Pianist | Music director | Producer*

**Mark Madzinga** is a multi-talented Zimbabwean artist who dons many hats. He is an established musician, pianist, music director and producer who has worked with some of the prominent musicians in the country. These include Zimpraise, Pastor G, Zaza Pokhethi, Ammara Brown, Prudence Katomeni, BCC Worship (Faith Ministries) and many others. Currently, he is the music director for one of Zimbabwe's leading gospel musicians, the talented Janet Manyowa.

This year he released his first single titled 'So Amazing', and he also broke boundaries when he became the first African pianist to be featured on Nord World Sessions; a platform that showcases videos from outstanding keyboard players worldwide. His brand continues to grow and doors of opportunity keep opening for him. Mark is currently pursuing studies in Music Production with Berklee College (USA) and also working on projects with various artists locally and abroad. His desire is to create and be a part of a community of musicians who make music right!



Mark Madzinga



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Mark Madzinga



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*I am a servant in the Kingdom of God, who has a passion for music. I also believe that I am here to encourage, empower, and help make the world a better place.*

Mark is a devout Christian who has always been passionate about music from an early age. Having grown up in an environment that did not have musical instruments save for clapping of hands, the day he encountered a full band set-up in worship, he knew he had found his calling. His passion lies in creating those captivating, magical musical moments that occur whenever lyrics, voice, and instruments blend together in harmony.

In everything, Mark has learnt to appreciate the abilities that God placed inside of him and uses them the best of his ability. The word of God says, your gift will make room for you, and for Mark, this has been his constant reality. He started professional music later in life than most, yet despite this; he has still managed to stand out and achieve significant milestones through hard work and his commitment to the craft. It is this dedication to running his race and fully utilizing his God-given gifts that keep him going even when life throws lemons his way. At first, his own father did not understand his desire to pursue music as a career, but after seeing his son grow and mature in the industry, he is proud of the man that Mark has become and supports him in all his endeavors. When Mark is not making music he enjoys playing football; and watching the trail blazing Lewis Hamilton doing what he knows best on the race track.





## Daniela Rakotomamonjy

*Entrepreneur*

*Advocate for food security and the preservation of bees*

Daniela Rakotomamonjy is the founder and CEO of ACE, a group of companies that focus on agribusiness and renewable energy projects in Madagascar. ACE consists of multi-sectoral companies specialized in public, private partnership projects in renewable energy, urban and rural land reform, agribusiness, and ecotourism.

Her passion lies in preserving nature through initiatives such as reforestation, beekeeping, organic farming, and green energy.

She is engaged in various community initiatives that are focused on building communities and supporting young people. Her main focus areas are women empowerment, equal access to education, fighting youth drug abuse and providing professional training opportunities for people in her community.

Below she shares more insight about her vision and how she is working towards achieving it.

More than 820 million people are hungry globally. Among them, more than 4 million dead since January this year! Feeding the planet is everyone's problem, but I decided to make it my advocacy, and this is how I bring my contribution to Madagascar!

Bees pollinate around 75% of all crops in the world. Since 2006, more than 30% of honeybee colonies have disappeared, posing a significant threat to global agriculture. This phenomenon is caused primarily by excessive use of pesticides. This reduction mainly affects the availability of honey, honey by-products, fruits, and vegetables.

As stated by Dr Samuel Myers of Harvard University, the disappearance of honey on the market would lead to dietary changes that could increase the annual global non-communicable diseases and malnutrition mortality rates by an additional 2.7% per year. On a local level, the loss of honeybees not only reduces the availability of essential sources of nutrition but also decreases the availability of related jobs (e.g. beekeepers and gardeners).



*More than 820 million people are hungry globally. Among them, more than four million dead since January this year! Feeding the planet is everyone's problem, but I decided to make it my advocacy*

My vision is to advocate for food security in the world and to create an environment favourable to the conservation and multiplication of honeybees.

The challenges are not only to promote beekeeping activities but also:

- *The restoration of arid lands destroyed by bush fires for many successive years*
- *The reforestation from honey species*
- *The creation of jobs and sources of income for the local populations (98 people from the marginalized villages surrounding the project area)*
- *Awareness of biodiversity conservation (mainly the bees) and soil enrichment (fertilization, fight against bush fires, etc.)*
- *And finally, the promotion of organic farming and healthy food*

My pilot project called Bee Mada counts 33 hectares reforested honeybee garden hosting 100 beehives, more than 25 000 tropical fruit trees and 1 hectare of fish and chicken farm. Apart from organic honey, fruit, and vegetable production, we also produce around 1.100 tons of organic rice per year.

We hand out more than 4% of our products to marginalized people, families, and the kids in the villages surrounding our projects. These include beehives, bee swarms, and different varieties of vegetables and bean seeds to them.

I still have many milestones ahead to achieve my vision, and so every day, I show up and give my best in everything I do.

I have learnt over the years not to be afraid of failure because it is part of the journey towards success. All you need to do is trust yourself and keep going eventually; you will succeed.

To find out more about our project visit and follow our page on Facebook:

**Group ACE Madagascar.**





*Taurai Mushove*  
Entrepreneur and Designer



*"Paper money does not define a country's riches. The nation's wealth lies hidden in its cultural heritage."*

I believe Zimbabwe possesses a rich cultural heritage that remains untapped. Over the years, I have seen my fellow kinsman eagerly embrace other cultures without hesitation. Dating back to the late '90s, and early 2000's when brands such as Fubu 05 and Sean John were a "must-have style" for the young generation of the day. Fast forward a few years into the millennium, Nollywood movies reached our borders and, suddenly every woman wanted to dress like the popular Mama Azuka.

Over the last couple of years, I have had the privilege of living in Dubai, Joburg and also travelled to parts of Europe and Asia. Throughout, I noticed one common denominator -they all possess a well defined rich cultural heritage that governs their way of life. One key pillar supporting that cultural heritage was the evidence of a national attire.

In Dubai, the men wear what they call a dishdasha while women wear the Abaya (a long, black flowing light coat over their clothing). In South Africa, you can quickly identify a particular tribe by merely looking at their dress code.



Upon reflecting, I began to wonder why, as Zimbabwe, we lacked our unique national attire? Was it because we lacked creativity or people were not bothered about the greater good of preserving our cultural heritage? As a result, I decided to fill in the gap by developing a solution to the problem.



## *How are you preserving your national culture for the next generation?*

My name is Taurai Mushove, proudly Zimbabwean, and the founder of Zimcollar, a brand that creates fabric prints using some of the national monuments of Zimbabwe. Amongst the prints included is our very own Zim dashiki print specially designed to reflect the colours of our national flag. The dream behind Zimcollar was to develop an authentic Zim fabric for making multiple African styled clothing that carries symbols of our cultural heritage. Under the brand, we also tailor-make various clothing items such as hoodies, kids and formal wear. To see all the available stocks, you can visit the Zimcollar online shop.

I believe today's youth need someone to inspire them to have a heart for our nation, and that is my vision. Culture survives through transmission from one generation to another as such; I too have a mandate to preserve the Zimbabwean culture.

The opportunities to explore our cultural heritage are endless; Zim Collar is only but one of them. My challenge to you is this; 'how are you preserving your national culture for the next generation?' Remember if each of us plays our part, then together, we can make a difference.

For more information about Zimcollar and to view our full product range please visit our website: [www.zimcollar.com](http://www.zimcollar.com)

You can also follow us on social media to get regular updates about any new developments.

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## Angelina Ampofo Asomaning

*Artist*

Angelina is a self-taught artist specialising in oil and acrylic paintings on canvas as well as pencil portraits. She is a BSc Accounting graduate from the University of Education, Winneba-Ghana. Her paintings are inspired greatly by the emotions of women, children, and society in general. In every piece her goal is to tell their unspoken story in an artistic manner. In the near future she plans to engage in various initiatives that provide support to women and children who are victims of domestic violence and abuse in underprivileged communities.


Drawing was always an area of passion for her Angelina since childhood and now it has developed into an area of gifting. For a long-time she drew for leisure however as the talent grew friends encouraged her to take it more seriously and promoting her work to the public. In September 2019, upon completion of the Ghana National Service Program she decided to do commissioned pencil portraits for a fee while searching for an accounting job. A portrait at a time she has been growing her collection and people are beginning to take notice of her impressive work of art.





Everyone needs a mentor to navigate uncharted territory; in January 2020 she linked with an established artist via Instagram who helped her start experimenting with oil and acrylic paints. Since then she has done several paintings and with every stroke the gift continues to grow. Her dream is to one day grace the world's leading art exhibitions across the globe. Generally, the art-of-paintings is not understood by many, more so in her home nation where she has been promoting her work thus far. What may look like a simple drawing is a work of art that takes many days and hours to perfect, giving attention to every minute detail. She hopes to be able to educate people about these traditional painting works and help them understand and appreciate the value behind each piece.


*I have learnt to believe in myself first and then work toward my dreams. I never knew I could paint until I tried it. So, do not be afraid to try out new things and do not be afraid to ask for help when you need it.*

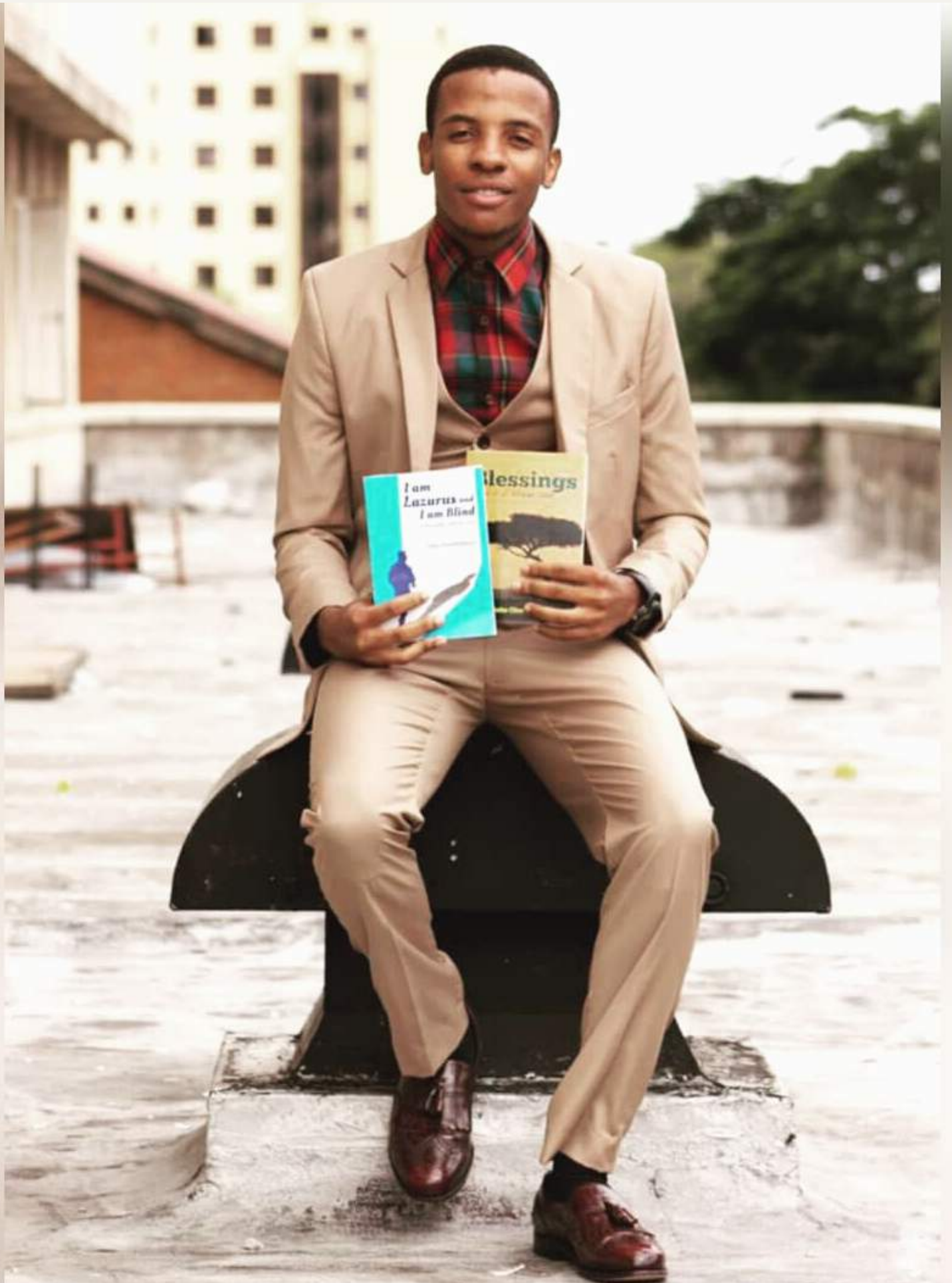


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*Thabo Clive Mathonsi*  
Author

My name is Thabo Clive Mathonsi, and I am also known as "Mjox" in my circle of peers. For the longest of time, I have wondered why I picked up a blank piece of paper and painted it with my ideas of a complex world! Yet in some way, we are all dreamers in this life. It is in this notion that I would like to present myself as a writer.

It all began in the year 2008 when I wrote my first poem as a form two student, at John Tallach secondary school in Zimbabwe. For some time, writing remained a hobby that I did for fun. However, with time the hobby became an area of passion, and I have continuously developed it over the past couple of years. To date I have written and published three novels namely;

- *Blessings Tears of An African Child,*
- *I am Lazarus, and I'm Blind*
- *Ezizweni Untold Stories of an Ancient Civilisation*

In addition to these three, I have also published one anthropology titled *Poetic Justice*. One of my accomplishments includes the recognition of my novel 'Blessings' by the African Writers Journal (JAYLit), where I represented Zimbabwe and Africa as one of the top authors of the year.

My dream is to have a foundation, authorial school and movie studio! I want to create a high opportunity free environment for anyone that is talented and truly believes that he /she is an author to not only write books but also develop scripts for their books that will become future plays and movies for everyone to see!

## *When I write, I am in my element*

Being a scriptwriter is my 2021 goal and I have already began writing the script for Blessings which I aim to finish by end of November 2020 after finishing other books.

The novel Blessings is available for purchase on Amazon Kindle, and I am working towards availing the remaining books on the same platform by June 2020. Hard copies for all novels are readily available in Zimbabwe for those who would like to purchase a copy. Please contact me for more information on the details below.

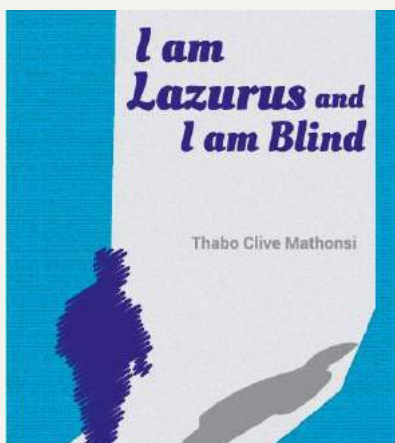
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Facebook: [Thabo Clive Mathonsi](#)

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## *I am Lazarus*

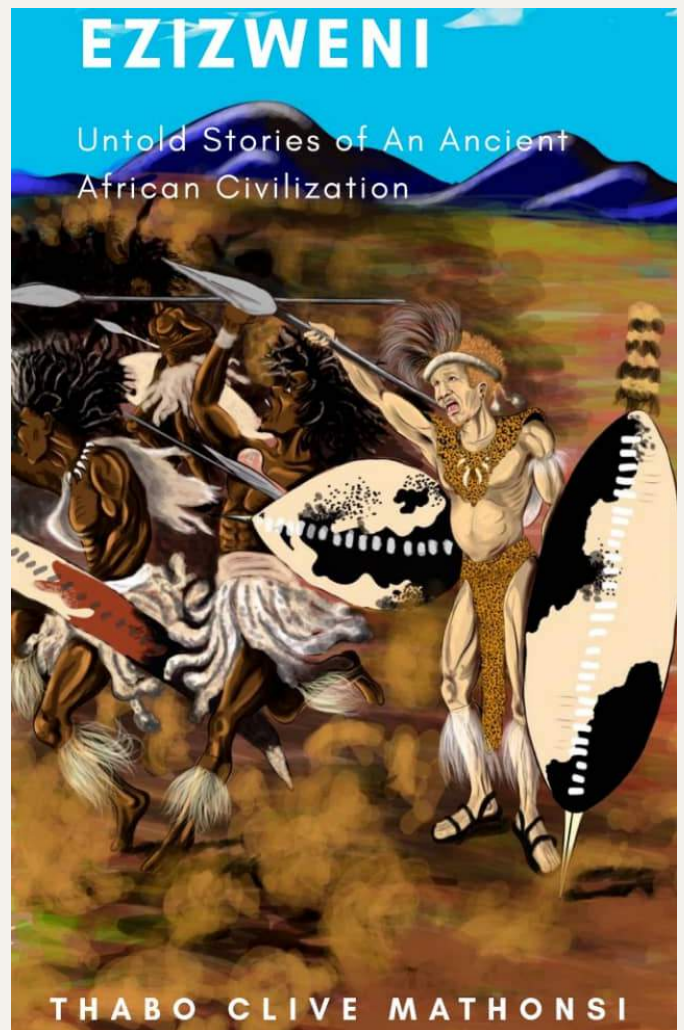
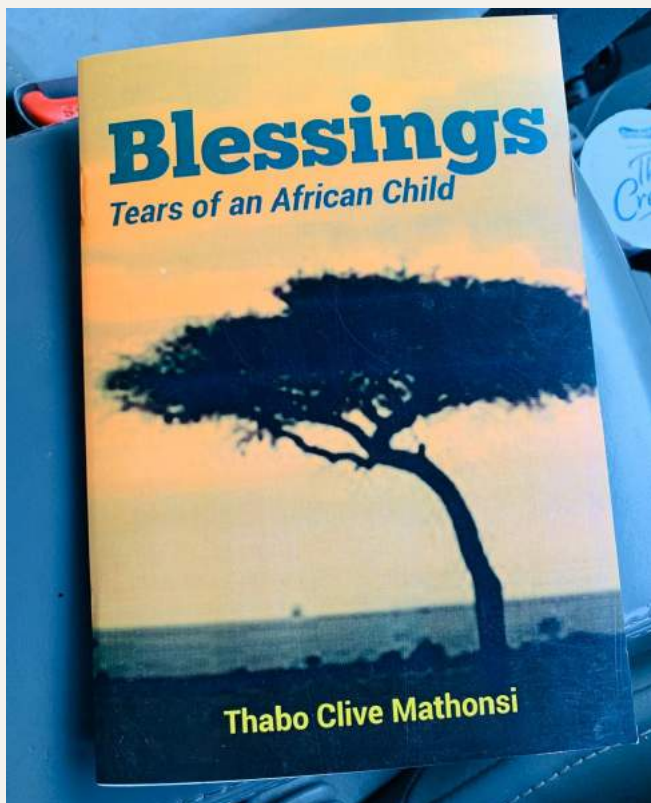
This novel depicts the day to day life of a blind African man who faces many adversities yet manages to tackle them all as they come. Often some mistake disability for inability; as such, this story aims to show that everyone can excel in everything they set their heart to accomplish, regardless of physical differences.

If you enjoy history-altering novels, then I am Lazarus, is a must-read, that is bound to keep you entertained till the very last page.

## *Blessings*

Lost and alone at the crossroads, a teenage girl finds herself facing the panorama of being run over by a huge truck called misfortune. Betrayal becomes the hump in front of her, pain the red robot that refuses reversal, and finally defeat, the noises from the car horns of family disputes that wait to take her down. With no one to trust, no one to believe her, and no shoulder to lean on, she is left with only one choice, overcoming the obstacles she faces and stopping the truck of misfortune or risk being run down. Predators, prey, betrayal, jaw-breaking experiences is all in Blessings.

If you enjoyed watching movies like Sarafina, The Pursuit for Happiness and 12 Years as a Slave, then this is a must-read. Blessings volume two of the book will be available next year March all things being equal.



## *Ezizweni*

Ezizweni is my most recent novel, and it is a collection of the untold stories of ancient African Civilisations. The book aims to bridge the gap between the present date and life back in the day.

It takes a close look at how eventualities such as religion, war, poverty, power, abuse, and migration have transformed the world, in particular Africa. It's a historical and epic fantasy that will undoubtedly keep you flipping through the pages until the end.



*Shingirai Katsvere*  
Legend in the making

Shingirai Katsvere is a distinguished Zimbabwean rugby player whose career spans over 12 years playing in both local and international tournaments. He has played in four HSBC World Rugby Tournaments and two Africa Cup tournaments alongside some of the nations finest players.

In 2018 he won the Africa Cup Champions playing with the Zimbabwe 7 aside team (The Cheetahs); then went on to take home the Victoria Cup Championship trophy in 2019 playing with the Zimbabwe 15 aside team (The Sables). Currently, he plays for Old Georgians Club and looks forward to one day showcase his talent at prestigious rugby tournaments such as the Rugby World Cup. He is a man on a mission.



Sporting excellence was an inherited gift passed on from his grandfather the Zimbabwean football legend Edward 'Madhobha' Katsvere, who played for the national team and Dynamos football club in the eighties. He played alongside the likes of Moses Chunga and David Mandigora. Their dream team lifted the domestic premiership trophy seven times during the period from 1980-89. Naturally, as a young boy Shingi wanted to follow his grandfather's footsteps; however, one day, he stepped onto a rugby pitch, and discovered his own path.

One of the key pillars that have kept this gifted sportsman grounded and driven has been the many destiny supporters that God has placed in his life throughout his career. These include family, friends and fellow sporting peers. Someone close to the heart is his childhood friend, Munashe Kamunda, who inspired him to try out rugby in the first place. Later on, he met Coach Victor Pekani and Milton Rankeni who nurtured his talent at the Mbare academy when he was still a rookie in competitive rugby. In 2016 after sustaining a severe injury while playing for the Zim Under '20s, Shingirai almost threw in the towel. It was his coach at the time, Mr Farai B Mahari who came to the rescue and helped him find his way back into the game.

Without God, there would be no story to tell nor successes to share. In his own words, Shingi says,

*"Growing up, I used to dedicate every game to my family. Then there was a time I played in honour of my former high school Prince Edward Tigers. I even remember at on point dedicating some games to my girlfriend at the time, talk about misplaced energy. But one day, I had a revelation that my gift was God-given, so instead of playing for people, I needed to start honouring Him with it. My family is my motivation, but I do not play for them. God is my source of strength; therefore, every opportunity I get to use this gift, all glory and praise belong to Him. When I play, I hope that people can see Christ in me. Rugby is how I preach to the nations and in the process, inspiring someone out there to pursue their area of calling."*



A devout Christian, Shingirai is the head of sports for Ignite Youth Organisation and also the founder of Sports Discipleship Ministry, an NGO established to support athletes and give them a platform to testify about how God is changing their lives through sports. The organisation also provides support and mentoring to underprivileged children passionate, helping them discover and develop their areas of gifting. Part of the organisation's vision is to one day establish a children's home for the disadvantaged and homeless.

Shingirai is an marketing student who is always eager to learn new things. He describes himself as a courageous, purpose-driven, humble and God-loving person. To everyone, he has the following words of encouragement.

*"Manage your circle because it will guide you when you are lost. Never listen to negative comments over your life because human beings will always have an opinion about you. Be wise, stick to your path and chase after your dreams. Remember when things falling apart, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. Positivity is the key to a fulfilling life."*





*Fatouma Ahmed Abdallah*  
Entrepreneur



**Fatouma Ahmed Abdallah** is the founder of K.I.M Construction and Barito Consulting and Advisory Services which operates an eLearning platform for secondary school learners in Djibouti. A holder of a master's degree in Strategic Management and Finance, she is currently studying towards an MSc in International Development with Economics through the prestigious Chevening scholarship. She is a Mandela Washington alumni under the Business and Entrepreneurship track and a One Young World peace ambassador representing Djibouti. Foutouma is currently also employed by IGAD, a regional organisation that promotes regional cooperation to achieve peace, security, and prosperity. Passionate about community development, peace, and women empowerment; she is involved in various charity activities across Djibouti and often does voluntary where she participates as a volunteer in support of these causes.

Her entrepreneurial journey started in 2017 when she established K.I.M, a construction company that provides repairs, renovations, and remodeling services for existing structures. Navigating the construction industry has not been a walk in the park with K.I.M being a small player in the industry; however, one project at a time, it continues to make strides in the right direction. She plans to grow the company and eventually take on innovative projects in energy-efficient home design and renewable energy. To date, the company has worked on [several] projects, and one of the most challenging but rewarding projects was the renovation of septic tanks. As a firm believer in self-development, Fatouma is always eager and ready to take on any opportunity to learn something new.

*“Do not let others define you or put you in a box. You can pursue as many passions and interests as you want. Do the things you believe in, as long as you are willing and able to put in the effort.”*

In May 2019 she founded Barito Consulting and Advisory Services; which was inspired the need to provide a digital learning platform after helping her nephew revise for the National exam. She noticed how it would have been more effective to use a laptop or phone as compared to writing on paper. The platform offers online educational and training support programs to secondary school learners, to help to bridge the gap between students, teachers, and parents while providing a cost-effective and convenient learning method. Through this platform, experienced teachers can easily provide lessons, tutorials and provide mentoring online at a reasonable fee to a wide range of students. The platform also provides convenience in that students can access these learning materials from home giving parents easy access to track their child's progress and identify areas of improvement.

If anything, COVID-19 has shown the importance of such digital learning platforms to ensure that students can continue learning remotely while practising social distancing, in the comfort of their homes. The long-term goal is to continue growing the course offerings, partner with more teachers and introduce innovative teaching methods on the platform.

Branching into entrepreneurship was inspired by experience working the banking and finance industry; the experience gave her the courage to acquire an entrepreneurship patent and establish K.I.M. construction, despite having limited expertise in the construction industry. It is amazing what you can achieve when you decide to push boundaries and pursue new challenges.

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A portrait of Greyson Chipote, a Black man with a shaved head, wearing a blue suit jacket over a patterned blue shirt and a dark tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. His arms are crossed, and he is wearing a watch on his left wrist.

# GREYSON CHIPOTE

Author of the  
transformational book  
**'When Fathers Go Missing'**  
which tackles the manifold  
consequences of  
fatherlessness in all facets of  
society.

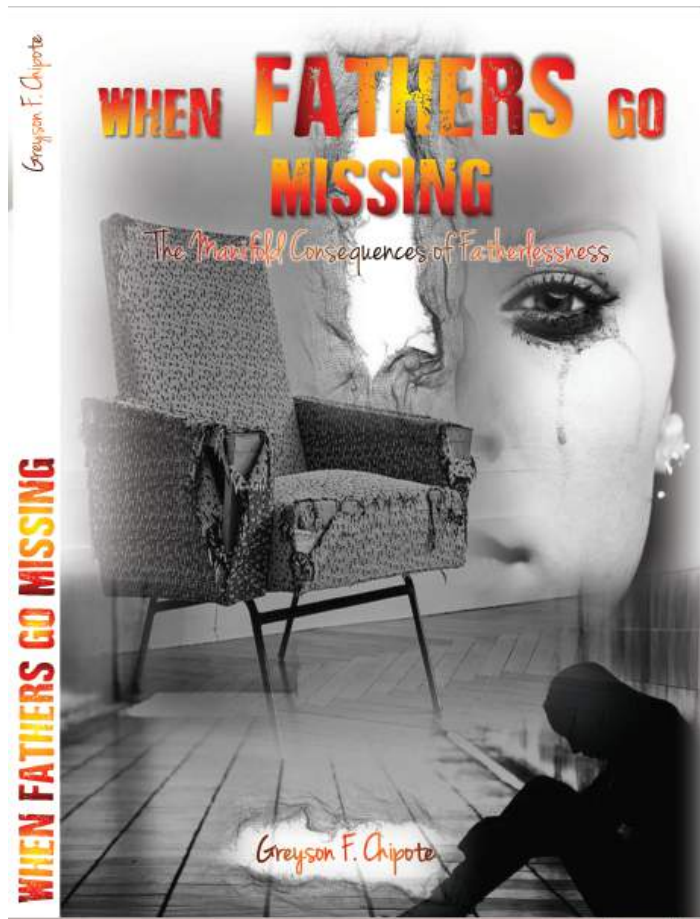
He is currently working on a documentary film titled '*Politics Without Paternity*' drawn from chapter four of his book. The film reveals the connection between ruthless political dictators and how their personal lives missed father figures. Greyson is a seasoned banker by profession with retail and investment banking expertise. He is also the founder of Wisdom Capital, a financial advisory boutique that has synergies cutting across four continents.

Greyson is a passionate minister of the word of God and currently serves as a Pastor at Grace Christian Church. It is from his interactions in ministry, business and mentoring spheres that he identified a desperate need for men to take their rightful place in the community. As a result, a passion awakened within him to engage society about the subject of fatherhood and its importance. He is married to his lovely wife Loice, and they are blessed with two children, David and Denise.

When Fathers Go Missing explores the critical role fathers play in shaping the destinies of their children. It highlights the disastrous effects the challenge of fatherlessness has on children and wider society. The emotional, social, political and economic implications can be dire, especially when individuals make decisions out of brokenness. Critically, Greyson provides eye-opening steps that may be used to heal broken relationships and nations.

This book, written in a captivating conversational style, makes a clarion call and provides a platform to have a much-needed conversation about fatherhood in the 21st Century. It is definitely a worthy read for every man!

The book is available on **Amazon**, or alternatively you can contact Greyson on the following number **+263 778 493 913** to get a copy.



### *Why Not Now: A message for every Man*

*And David said unto him, Fear not for I will surely show thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father, and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually." 2 Samuel 9: 7*

The book is not about the melodramatic life of Mephibosheth. However, the essence of this chapter cannot overlook and resist the story of David and Mephibosheth. Without laboring the reader with the story, I will spare you the narration of this passage and hammer straight to the point. David remembers that he has a debt he has to pay, the debt of fatherhood. He wants to know whom he can father for the sake of the absentee father-Jonathan. Wow! And that is the essence of this book – to awaken fathers that will search for sons and daughters to father. Evidently, there is a yawning gap for fatherhood and there is a desperate need for the Davids of this generation to take up the challenge. Now let's break this down. How is this achievable?

*"The admiration that a son seeks from his father when the child displays strength and competence is instrumental in boosting self-esteem"*

Take for instance how many young people do you know in your community who have no fathers? How about relating to them and encouraging them. Relate with them by finding out what they are doing in class, sport, art etc. Encourage them. Affirm them. Celebrate them. This does not demand that you do algebra with them necessarily. If you can- the better. If you can't, just ask for the school report, identify the needy areas and demand an improvement. Celebrate the areas that they are doing well. Children yearn for a father voice to speak into their life. There is need for a balance between correction and encouragement. The more they are encouraged, the lesser they focus on the areas of their weakness. In your engagement, affirm them. Ensure that the door is open for them and ensure they know that the door is open for them.

Realistically, it is unwise to expect overnight results. Little by little, they will begin to open up and warm up to you. Do this to another child. Encourage another fellow father to do the same to another child. Before we know it, fatherlessness ceases to be the challenge and catastrophe that it currently is.

Imagine if our male teachers take this challenge. They frequently come across fatherless children. Imagine just fathering a child and follow them through class then sport monitoring their associations etc at a personal level and not at a classroom level. Imagine the impact that it can have. It might be in primary, secondary or even tertiary level. The child will not forget their teacher/father. All this can happen without governmental intervention, support, grant, budget etc. It simply calls for men to rise up.

*"There is a father sized void in every person that only a father can fill"*

Lets imagine again, a sports coach at a school or in a community. Youths who come to sport are generally passionate about their area of sport or art. Be it netball, basketball, soccer, music, dance to mention but a few. Why not coach life to the lads. To some, you are the only father they have seen and that they will ever see. Is it not fulfilling that you coached beyond sport. You coached life! The life principles outlive sport. That is more rewarding than a monthly income. My sport coaches therefore arise and become a corps of patriots!



With His Worship The Mayor of Bulawayo Cllr Solomon Mguni

Now imagine a policeman who handles a case of drug abuse by young boys. Going beyond the call of duty, they take interest in the perpetrator and take it upon themselves to ensure the boy(s) become better people. All it might require is to send each other whatsapp texts to check on the boy, demand that you meet at a football game or at a social gathering where they can see you outside your uniform, at a "human" level. Youths respond to love. Love is irresistible. Again, there is no need for governmental support, aid, grant etc for this. It calls for men to rise!



With the Minister of Primary and Secondary Education, Cain Mathema

The ministry of Christ has never been about growing denominations, church buildings and having the largest congregations. Needless to say, this is an open invitation to all saved men to take their place in society and beginning in the churches. Identify a child whose father is missing. Engage. Fill the void. Do the same in the community. Once again, this does not need a governmental policy, funding etc nor does it need a church outreach programme. This is about being the salt of the earth. To pastors, the call is obvious but the hope is for you to identify and pair Mephibosheths to the Davids and vice versa. This will solve immediate and future problems. It will reduce future marriage failures, drug abuse, violence, crime etc. Is this not what ministry is about?

A portrait of Wambui Gachiri, a woman with long, dark, straight hair, wearing a bright pink top and a gold necklace. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is black.

# Wambui Gachiri

*Cake Designer & Retail Banking professional*

*Can you share insight about about your career in banking?*

I have been a banker for slightly over 15 years and have seen the banking industry transform from the brick and mortar to the digital banking space we have now. The Kenyan banking sector was among the first to embrace mobile banking via Telco's and through the agency banking model and digital payment platforms.

As a leader, I am to be a role model for my team by inspiring them and spending a lot of time coaching and focusing on business as well as their personal career development. I believe leadership is not only for accomplishing organizational goals but for also mentoring the people you lead to be future leaders.

Any institution and organization cannot function effectively without inclusive leadership and women's participation in leadership activities. Women create a perspective that brings healthy competition and collaboration to organizations and teams. The essential qualities required to lead, include the ability to connect, collaborate, empathize, listen, and communicate. These qualities are feminine in nature and can help propel an organization to a desirable future.

***What inspired you to start baking as a business?***

They say that it is good to find a hobby that gives you three aspects; one that allows you to have fun brings out your creativity, and that makes you money. After a busy day in the banking industry, I found baking and cake decoration to be a good form of therapy that gave me an outlet to unleash my creative streak productively. As I developed my skill in the area, the hobby graduating transformed into a business.

Positive reviews from my customers always give me a feeling of satisfaction, knowing that my desserts were a part of someone's once in a lifetime event and helped to make the event memorable for them. I also love the fact that the desserts I provide to my customers are all made from scratch, customized, and offer an extra special touch to events such as birthday parties, weddings, and many other wonderful life occasions.

***How do you balance your family, career, and business?***

Having well-defined Boundaries is vital in protecting my career and business from the distractions of family, as well as to protect my family from the obligations of career and business. With clear boundaries, it is easier for me to tell when my day-to-day actions are aligned to balancing family, career, and business goals.

During my struggle to attain a balance between the three, there are always times when I have to let career or family take priority. It is impossible to always be perfect in everything, but that does not mean we stop trying. At times, I make small adjustments that help me achieve this balance such as having an assistant to help with business when necessary, reorganizing family responsibilities we share at home, or bringing in trusted friends and family to help pick up the slack.





## **Dr Phylis Makurunje**

*Executive Secretary for the Space Generation Advisory Council)*

She is the Executive Secretary for the Space Generation Advisory Council (in support of UN space programs) based in South Africa. She is an outer space technology enthusiast, public speaker, policy influencer and upcoming entrepreneur. She has spent the past seven years working on composite materials for space rockets' hottest components which include the nose tips, wing edges and engine nozzles. Below she shares more detail about her journey and how she looks forward to the upcoming space planes...



*"The era of space technologies being viewed as abstract and far-fetched is long past. Space technologies are a part of every human being's everyday life 360 days a year; everyone has a role to play. From internet connectivity to GPS (global positioning system); growing telehealth systems to disasters mapping; economic resources mapping to precision agriculture – it is all-encompassing. The focus is to make the technologies more extensive and less expensive.*

*My story with aerospace materials is a reawakened childhood dream and a feat of serendipity. When I was looking for postgraduate research opportunities, I never thought much about the area of specialisation. Of course, I wanted it to be a composite materials speciality, but I had not narrowed it to specifics. One day I met a professor of ceramics, and he happened to be looking for a student to tackle aerospace vehicle applications. I enrolled!*

*Finding purpose is one of the most courageous undertakings in life, following purpose is the noblest of commitments and contributing to humanity is the highest call of fulfilling purpose.*

*The question I get asked the most on international platforms is, "You do this in Africa?" It brings to mind the line by Lupita Nyong'o when she said, "No matter where you're from, your dreams are valid." Our aim has been to work on materials in a manner that contributes to the field. Nothing less. In the process, we have made important connections and collaborations; geography has never been a limitation.*

*My encouragement to young people is for them to participate in civic development and leadership opportunities. In this fourth Industrial Revolution era, young people's grip and influence on information technology give incredible leverage in decision-making.*

*I have also learnt the value of volunteering; the lessons are invaluable. I am particularly indebted to the Space Generation Advisory Council for the opportunities to participate at the United Nations Office of the Outer Space (UNOOSA) and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) platforms and projects. Examples are the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee for the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (STSC) and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). My technical aspirations are on adding nuclear aerospace propulsion (power to move) to the fields of my contribution."*





*Bongani Mhlabi*  
Musician

Bongani Mhlabi is renowned Zimbabwean gospel artist passionate about bringing transformation through music. In the span of his career, he has graced the stage with prominent artists such as Israel Houghton and Micah Stampley (United States), Hiram Koopman (South Africa), Stanley "Pastor G" Gwanzura, Janet Manyowa, Audius Mtawarira, Mkhululi Bhebhe and many more. Years of serving in the choir at New Life Covenant Church and performing cover versions of popular songs helped him to perfect his talent. In November 2019 he released his debut album 'Victory Live' and is currently working on a couple of singles and a second to be released soon.

The saying 'an apple never falls far from the tree' rings true for Bongani who inherited his musical talent from his mother Rita Shoniwa, one of Zimbabwe's most iconic gospel singers. The ability runs in the family, his older brother Dumi Mhlabi is also a musician performing with the group Appointed that is well known for the famous song Somlandela which took Zimbabwe by storm several years back.

Bongani's dream is to go platinum and become an established international artist, spreading the message of Christ through music. In his own words "The purpose of my music is to spread the gospel of Christ and give an assurance of the abundant grace found in Christ, to all nations."

To aspiring musicians, his message is:

"Stay true to whom you are when creating your music because someone out there is looking for that unique sound you are carrying. The success of any musician lies in their ability to stay original and embrace the uniqueness of their gifting. So work hard, stay committed and above all trust God because, with Him, all things are possible."

Bongani currently serves as a worship leader at New Life Covenant Church under the leadership of Bishop Tudor and Pastor Chichi Bismark, and works for Econet OmniContact.



*The purpose of my music is to spread the gospel of Christ and give an assurance of the abundant grace found in Christ, to all nations.*

He is also the founder of DIY With Us a furniture-making business based in Harare specialising in creating various custom handmade, high quality, wooden furniture for the bedroom, lounge, kitchen and other spaces. The company, founded in 2019, aims to help clients create a unique and eccentric look without breaking the bank. DIY With Us delivers furniture that brings life and a sense of lightening in your home at an affordable price.

Check out his current debut album on all digital platforms: iTunes | Applemusic | Deezer | Amazon | 321beatz.com  
Get hold of him on WhatsApp and receive two of his latest songs for free!

FOLLOW and LIKE him on social media to hear more of his amazing music.



Bongani Mhlabi



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## **Annalisa Nyamweda** *Baker*

My name is Annalisa Nyamweda, and I am a baker based in Harare, Zimbabwe. As a young girl, I always thought I would grow up to be a hair guru because I loved everything about hair. However, life had other plans for me, and today I find pleasure moulding flour and fondant into various works of art.

My journey started after I became a mother when I decided to ditch the premixes and try baking from scratch so that I could control the ingredients to meet my family's preferences. At first, it was more of a hobby, but eventually, it came to be an area of passion. In 2018 I decided to enhance my knowledge and advance my skills, by enrolling for a basic and intermediary baking course with Cakes by Tamanda.

Beginning of 2020 the Cake Sensation brand was born, and today I supply cakes for all sorts of occasions, cupcakes and swiss rolls. Experience has made me fearless when it comes to trying out new things and upping my craft. Learning is a never-ending process as such; I continue to learn and perfect my skills. I know if I get comfortable, I will quickly become irrelevant. Customer expectations keep evolving, and the competition continues to grow as new talent, enters the industry.



I enjoy what I do and take pride in the quality of my work. I have learnt a lot by going through the process even though it's been hard at times. Indeed there are no shortcuts to success. My vision is to grow my brand and become one of the leading confectioners in Zimbabwe. I would also love to create a learning hub for vulnerable children with the same passion, to utilise their God-given talents.

I believe everyone should identify their area of passion and invest in it. Sometimes that means trying out different things until you find the right one. Dream big, believe in yourself and have the heart to learn. A journey of many miles starts with one step, so start moving and don't stop until you reach your goal.

Like Maya Angelou said "Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

Last but not least this journey would not have been possible without God. In everything put God first, trust in him, he has great plans for you and me.

*'But as it written Eye has not seen, nor ear heard nor entered the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love him" 1 Corinthians 2:9*

To see more of my work please follow Cake Sensation on social media.

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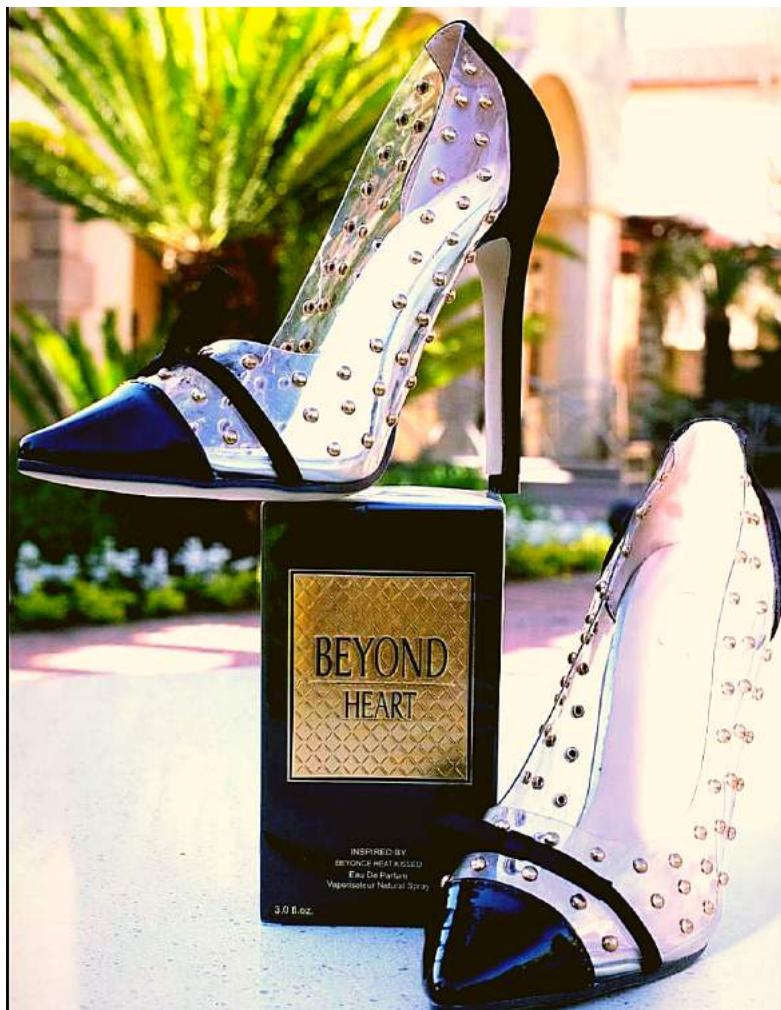
## **Catherine Jaramba** *Fashionpreneur and IT Professional*

Popularly known as Cathejez, Catherine is a fashion entrepreneur, shoe designer and an IT expert by profession. She is the founder of Cathejez Closet, an online store that sells exclusive clothing based in South Africa. In October 2019 she launched her shoe line Cathejez known as 'Glitz bottom'. The brand was birthed from her addiction to fashion and a desire to see women embracing their femininity in style. Each design has a unique personality and is crafted to make a statement.

Fashion has always been her obsession, which she decided to turn into a business. She says at some point, she had a huge collection of new shoes yet to be worn, among the collection were a few pairs that were a size bigger or smaller than she could fit. Inspired to declutter, she decided to sell off a few pairs, and after the first batch was finished, the orders kept coming in. Several pairs later, she decided to turn the idea into a full-fledged business, and today the rest is history. That decision paid off, and the Cathejez brand continues to soar. Her vision is to take the brand global and one day grace the International Fashion shows exhibiting her own designs.”



She is also an IT graduate from Rhodes University, South Africa and currently expanding her IT expertise working in the banking industry. In 2018 she co-founded TnC Solutions, an IT company which specialises in website designing, analytics and social media marketing. Her hope is to see more women pursuing IT as a career path because the world is changing, and technology continues to dominate, making it one of the significant drivers of economic development. The future is digital, and so more women need to rise and participate in shaping the future for generations to come.



In 2020 she was nominated as one of the best female personalities by Zimbabwe Achievers; an organisation that recognises the work being done by Zimbabweans in the diaspora. This was in recognition for her work after launching Glitz Bottoms and the performance of her business. She is also supporting Kudakwashe Home for disabled people in Zimbabwe; by assisting them with various basic necessities.

The future is bright for this driven young woman, who continues to aim for the sky. She is not afraid to take up new challenges and is always on the lookout for new opportunities to grow and develop her business interests. In the pipeline, she has two upcoming projects she will be launching soon, so be on the lookout for them!

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*Albert Mappumo*

*Entrepreneur | Author | Motivational Speaker*

Albert B.K. Mapfumo is an entrepreneur and the visionary behind the online platform called ABK Mart which markets unique hand-crafted sculptures and artifacts made in Zimbabwe. The vision behind the online store was to create a platform where Zimbabwean artists could gain access to a larger pool of potential buyers from all corners of the world.

To date, ABK Mart has managed to help over 25 artists sell their products across the borders of Zimbabwe. He is also the founder and sole author of The Day's Word (TDW) devotional. TDW is a spiritual as well as a thought-provoking, inspirational, motivational, and practical tool that aims to enrich the lives of people from all walks of life. TDW launched in 2013 and now has thousands of recipients in more than fifty countries across five continents. Albert is a columnist for several online and print publications for various organisations including Testimonies Magazine & Leaders Lead Institute. A well-recognised motivational speaker, he has graced the stages of many universities and corporate gatherings across Zimbabwe. He is also a daily devotional presenter on Sport FM and a guest lecturer at The Star Leadership Academy founded by Dr Tsitsi Masiyiwa which is one of Africa's most prominent leadership institutes.

He has written more than four hundred articles and readers enjoy his ability to draw lessons from the word of God and integrate it into everyday practical examples. He has an inherent ability to conceptualise principles for successful Christian living based on the Word of God and studying the lives of people that changed the world in diverse sectors throughout the centuries. In 2016 'Wakati Trust' awarded him the Most Innovative Social Entrepreneur in Zimbabwe award in acknowledgement of the impact that TDW devotional continues to make in the lives of Zimbabwean women.

His passion for writing started at a very young age, despite struggling with his handwriting as a student he held on to the dream of becoming a world-renowned author. The first breakthrough came when he won second place in a nationwide essay competition hosted by the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe. Next was an essay competition hosted at the annual Zimbabwe Book Fair in which he came first place. He has never looked back and continues to use his God-given gift to inspire and change lives through words.


*Everyone is born with the potential to be remarkable; all that is needed is the right motivation and attitude.*

Albert believes that everyone is born with the potential to be remarkable; all that is needed is the right motivation and attitude, which is why personal development and holistic empowerment remain fundamental areas of focus for him. Albert is a born-again Christian serving under Bishop Tudor and Pastor Chichi Bismark of New Life Covenant Church and a member of the Africa Christian Business Fellowship (ACBF). He is happily married to Dr Stella Mapfumo, a medical doctor and public health specialist, practising in Harare, Zimbabwe.

 [www.abkmart.com](http://www.abkmart.com)  
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 [Albert B.K. Mapfumo](https://www.youtube.com/AlbertB.K.Mapfumo)



Nancy Anataba Kyorku Dzikunu-Bansah is a Civil Engineer specialised in Geotechnical Engineering. She is the founder of Uppa Ghana Limited a Civil Engineering company established in 2015 that specialises in consulting, construction, and soil laboratory services. She started the firm focusing on consultancy and construction only.

Her first client needed the firm to carry out the ground investigation for an irrigation dam project in the upper east region of Ghana. Everything went according to plan, and the fieldwork and sample collection finished in time. However, the firm faced a challenge in obtaining the lab results as the provider took long to provide feedback. In the end, Nancy had one unhappy client who still expected the firm to meet the agreed timelines as per contractual agreement. While she eventually managed to deliver, the experience became a learning curve for her. Quickly she realised that to be successful in delivering results; her firm needed to have control over the whole process from start to finish. So she added the soil laboratory service wing to the firm's portfolio, and today Uppa Ghana Limited offers the service to other contractors in the market.

**Anataba Kyorku**  
Entrepreneur

*Geotechnical Engineering has a huge influence on sustainability of civil engineering projects, and this is due to its early position in the construction process. It is also the most resource intensive discipline within the profession.*



The firm is currently working towards establishing and operating a mobile laboratory to enable the sample testing to be done onsite. This will help shorten the time between the collection and analysis of samples and also cut down on transportation cost of samples needing transportation. Uppa Ghana Limited is also striving towards becoming a centre of excellence when it comes to research through collaborating with tertiary institutions in developing tailored solutions for the sustainability of projects.

Nancy is a member of the Ghana Institution of Engineers and a Civil Engineering graduate. She holds a master's degree in Petroleum Geoscience from the University of Ghana, and in 2018 she was selected as part of the Mandela Washington Fellow under the business and entrepreneurship track at the University of Nevada-Reno. Her career started with an instructor position at the Bolgatanga Polytechnic, Ghana, where she taught geology and soil-related courses for almost three years. During her tenure, she served as the department's representative to the academic board as well as union executive in her capacity as the general secretary and later the vice-chairperson of the Bolgatanga chapter of the Polytechnic Teachers Association of Ghana. In 2011 She left the polytechnic to pursue her master's degree and eventually founded Uppa Ghana Limited upon completion.



Nancy hopes to see more women choosing career paths in STEM, particularly engineering so that they too can make their mark in this predominantly male industry. Giving back to the community is close to her heart; currently, she is doing this by supporting women through various mentoring and grooming initiatives. When she is not in the field, she likes to read, travel, bake and spend time with family.

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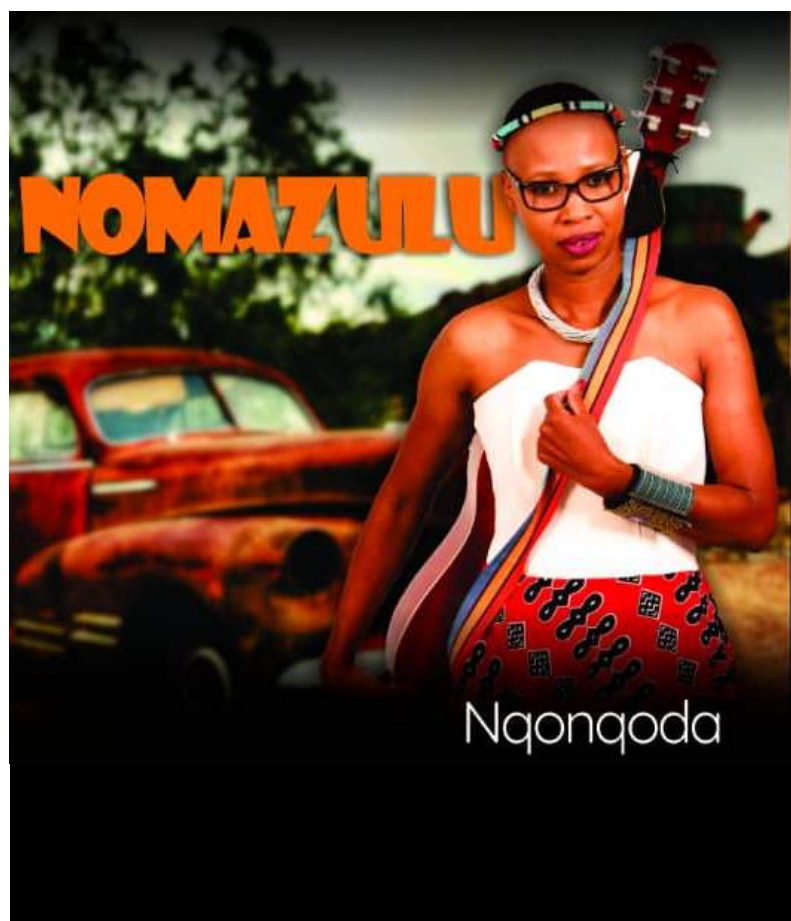
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*Nomazulu Malandu*  
Musician

My name is Nomazulu and music is my passion. Life has taught me that dreams are personal and should be guarded jealously. I come from a place where peers did not believe that one could have a meaningful career in music, so they laughed when I shared my desire to pursue music. Back then, their criticism felt like a punch in the stomach which left a dent on my confidence but eventually, I realised that what looks unreasonable to others is what may shape someone else's destiny.

I started singing at a very young age, and eventually joined the choir at my church. In 2006 I got the opportunity to lead the youth music team at my church, and this ignited my passion for music to another level. Throughout the journey, my husband has been one of my greatest supporters. In 2009 he urged me to enrol for a bachelor's degree in Music and Musicology at the Midlands State University, which I completed in 2014. Indeed he has been a destiny partner in every sense.



My passion together with the academic qualification, became a powerful tool in my hands as it gave me a more significant opportunity to be taken seriously. I started the Set-Apart School of Music, through which I offer practical and theory lessons in recorders, piano, guitar, nyunga nyunga mbira, choral and percussion training to various schools. Teaching music has been one of the most fulfilling moments in my journey thus far; it has helped broaden my skill in the art of music. In 2014 I submitted my dissertation abstract at the ZEGU call for abstracts, which went on to be published by the Cambridge Scholars Publishing alongside other great authors in the music field in 2018. My topic in the scholarly book Pentecostalism and Human Rights in Contemporary Zimbabwe focused on assessing the role of worship music in Harvest House International churches, the case study being Gweru branches.

I believe music plays an essential role in shaping a person's life, particularly at a subconscious level. Think about it this way, how often after you hear a song, does it keep playing in your head hours or even days after you last heard it? When you look through the lenses of history, there are many stories told of how music shaped people's lives and, in some cases, brought about a complete revolution. A good example is the history of Zimbabwe; music was one of the crucial aspects of the Chimurenga War that established Zimbabwe as an independent state. If I were to sum it up, I would say music is a potent communication tool that can easily touch the soul.



While my journey started by singing in the church choir, writing, and recording songs for family functions, I have since ventured into the field of writing jingles and songs for other artists as well. In 2019 I recorded my first single 'Nqonqoda' (Keep Knocking) which launched in May 2020. Nqonqoda is a testimony of the path I have travelled all these years and the determination, commitment, and hard work I have invested in pursuing my dream. Life has taught me that there will always be hurdles and challenges, yet no matter what giving up is never an option. Keep knocking, hence the emphasis on the phrase Phinda futhi unqonqode (just keep knocking) in the song.

It has been a journey fraught with many ups and downs, as such patience is one of my treasured traits. Patience positions you in the right place just like Zacchaeus on his thorny Sycamore tree so that the right person passing by will most definitely notice you. When you master the art of patience, you will ideally position yourself to quickly identify all the Godsent people assigned to help you progress towards your destiny.


I desire to change lives and testify of the marvellous works of God and the fullness of life found in Christ. My music comes from a place of overflow after being inspired by God. Psalm 139:5, NIV says that "You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me." This is what makes Nomazulu. I believe God has me safe in His hand, and He keeps me. Not only that, but He has imparted a gift on me to communicate with a certain kind of people, to give hope, inspiration, love and all the good things that He stands for through music.

*Don't let the difficulties you face along the way discourage you from pursuing your God given destiny. Everyone has something to share with the world.*


My goal is to be able to play as many musical instruments as possible before I draw my last breath and to also empower as many people as I can through my music. I do not believe in the word impossible. If you want to learn to sing or play an instrument, it is possible, all you need is drive and commitment. I used to desire to be as big as other artists of the day, but one day God rebuked me and said why are you limiting yourself to another person's ability? So, now my purpose is to fulfil God's plan for my life to the fullest. I want to go as far as He has predestined me and I know that path is unique to me as the lines on each fingerprint. With God on my side, nothing is impossible; I will achieve greatness in my lifetime.



My message to everyone reading my story is not let the difficulties you face along the way discourage you from pursuing your God-given destiny. Everyone has something to share with the world. I have a medical condition that made doctors conclude that I would never walk, let alone have a career in music. Yet today here I stand. It has not been easy, but I chose never to give up my dream. Refuse to let excuses rob you of the chance to accomplish your goal. Press onward and create the reality you want to see; success will never come on a silver platter, you must 'Make-It-Happen'.

**Get in Touch with me on the following**

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A portrait of Ellen Jena, a woman with short dark hair, wearing a light blue and white striped button-down shirt and large blue tassel earrings. She is smiling and looking slightly to the right of the camera.

# ELLEN

## JENA

Hair expert

My name is Ellen Jena, and hair has been my passion for as long as I can remember. Growing up with five elder sisters who had a talent for making hair, I naturally followed their footsteps and fell in love with braiding at a tender age. I used to plait family and close friends whenever I could, and during the school holidays, I assisted an aunt of mine who owned a saloon.

Fast forward to 2019 when I relocated to Doha and started to make wigs for myself. A friend fell in love with my work of art and asked me to make her one. She loved it and pushed me to advertise the wig on social media.

I was nervous and unsure of the response I would get, none the less I proceeded to post on various Facebook and ladies Whatsapp groups. The feedback was positive, and it helped me to create pages for Wig-studio by Ellen on Facebook and Instagram. To date, I have supplied wigs to clients in Dubai, Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, and Australia.

Wigs have become popular across all ethnic groups in the past several years, and the market continues to grow. They offer flexibility, and in this era of ever-changing fashion trends, I believe every woman needs one.

I make all types of wigs, from braids, human hair to cornrows. Each piece is custom made to meet the unique needs of every client. Be it wigs for work, interviews, parties, or date out with the girls I have you covered.

The journey has not been easy, several times I thought of giving up but my husband Keegan and my friend Teu, always encouraged me to continue pursuing my dream. The future is bright, and I am excited about what lies ahead. My dream is to grow Wig Studio by Ellen into an international brand. I also plan to study Beauty Therapy and eventually open my own Beauty and Hair Saloon.

# Wig Studio by Ellen

*Hair is my Passion*



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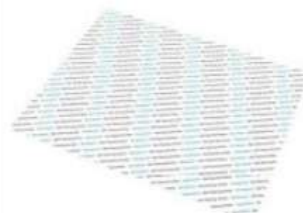
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# Minister of Whitelinen

Image Consultant

Anesu Mhembere is a Zimbabwean Image Consultant and fashion stylist who operates under the Minister of Whitelinen 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 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.



Dandy Gentlemen



*Pauline L. Mapisa*  
Event Planner



is a self-driven goal-getter who has managed to build a successful events company in Zimbabwe. To date, her company Wedding Gallery has successfully hosted over four hundred events and counting. The reviews from some of her clients are a testament to the quality of her work. Pauline's journey started at the age of 14 when her mother's passion for baking rubbed off on her. She would often spend hours in the kitchen, helping out her mother and learning the basics.

As she grew older, she continued to develop her skills by baking cakes for her sibling and friends. Later on, while waiting to start university, her boyfriend now hubby encouraged her to turn the hobby into a business. That was the beginning of her journey as a professional baker, and the rest is history. Today, she supplies cakes for weddings, birthdays and many other occasions.

Her parents instilled in her the importance of taking advantage of any opportunity to learn new skills. That is why, at the age of 15, she decided to join the decoration department at her church. It was during this time that she developed her passion for decoration. In 2014 she decided to do her wedding decor, and it came out so perfect that she was inspired to start an event decor company. Her wedding became her marketing tool; soon, more people were soliciting for her services and business started booming. Over the years she has since expanded to a full-fledged event planning company providing catering services, renting out wedding gowns and hiring out décor equipment and accessories.

Pauline, enjoys transforming her clients' dreams to reality, this is the best part about her craft. Whether it's the cake or event décor, she believes in nothing less than absolute perfection. Every event is unique, and her goal is to tailor-make each to the client's request. Weddings bring her the most joy as she loves working with brides to help them create that fairytale wedding they all desire. Their high expectations can be intimidating to some, but for Pauline, it is the fuel that drives her to deliver perfection. She believes when it comes, event planning the success lies in the ability to pay attention to every detail no matter how small. Her next goal is to create a onestop shop for everything events related. Talk about a woman on a mission.

To make an order or book her for events, please contact her on the following;



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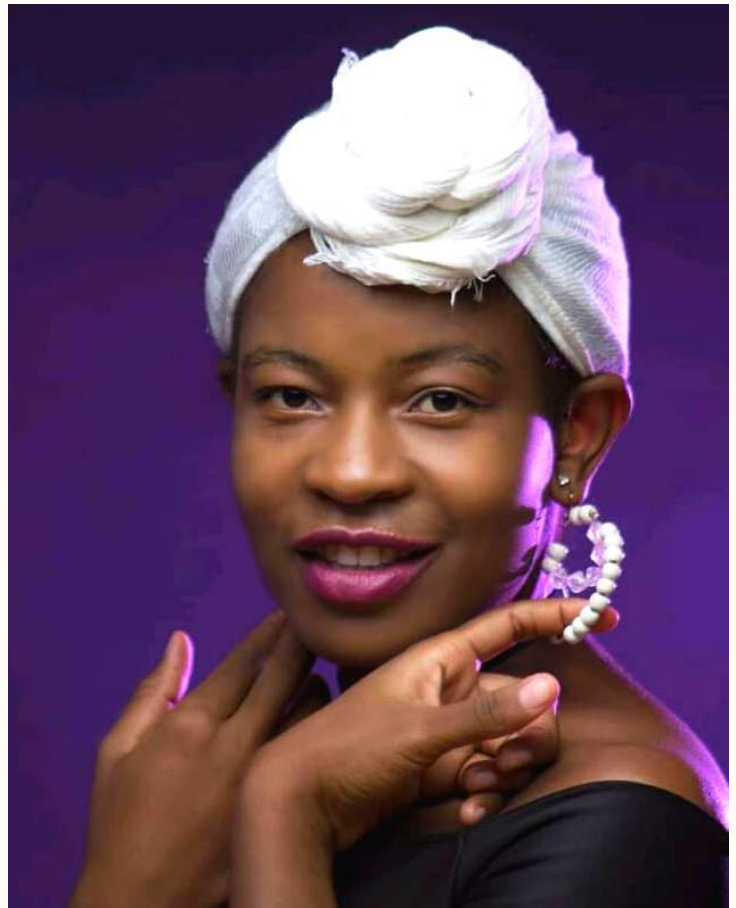
MICHELLE'S COLLECTION



# Michelle's Collection

"I am a qualified chemical and process systems engineer by profession now turned entrepreneur. I am the founder of Michelle's collection, a business that manufactures perfumes, hair and skincare products such as lotions and roll-ons. It is a direct sales company that empowers women to earn income through direct selling.

I love what I do, and daily I fill my mind with positive affirmations because I know I am a total sum of my thoughts. With Michelle's collection, you can confidently walk into a room and create a lasting memory through your scent!" Michelle Mugoronji  
Facebook/Instagram @Michelle's collection






## GIRLAND CHIBAYA

Author of "*Till death us did part*", a heart wrenching narration of event from the day he lost his lovely wife Bongzi while she was out running; to finding healing and the strength to carry on with life.

 Us Did Part Book

 usdidpartbook

## *One mans journey from grief to finding solace through writing*

### **Can you tell us more about your book in detail?**

This book is about my story. It is about how I have walked my grief journey since I lost my wife to a tragic road accident on the 4th of May 2019. The book talks about how I have used three things to try and heal from my grief; namely my religion, road running hobby and the use of conversations and journals that my wife left behind.

The book sets the scene by narrating the events of that fateful day and the feelings I experienced. I then go on to focus on the events that have unfolded since that time. Growing up as an African man, I was taught that men have to bottle up their emotions and never show that they are not coping. The book clearly appeals to everyone to understand that grief journeys are different, and bottling up emotions is not the solution.

Talking about our grief situation is always the first point of healing and hence led me to start to write this book. I did not want to be a statistic. I did not want to bottle up my emotions and end up doing things that may have resulted in me losing my life. I chose to live and fight!!!

### ***When did you decide to share your story and how was the journey from writing the first sentence to publishing?***

I never thought that one day I would write a book, let alone writing a book that talks about emotions. I have always been a naturally shy person who rarely shared any feelings with those that I am not close to. After the passing of my wife, I tried to look for reading material that would help me deal with my grief. I have always dealt with all my problems using a life toolbox. When I came unstuck, I always googled until I found the solution. This time around, I realised that all my strategies were not working somehow.

I could not find reading material that was directly applicable to my situation. Most of the material seemed like fiction – written by someone who had never experienced what I was going through. As a Christian, I looked for reading material that I could use, but that was also either too deeply religious without quoting real-life examples like mine or scratching on the surface and not applicable to me.

In the month of August 2019, as I was sitting on a flight from Johannesburg to Cape Town, the idea of writing down my feelings and thoughts came to me. I started typing, and by the time I got to Cape Town, I had typed a few pages in those hours. I then decided to post those pages on a blog under my Facebook profile. I received so many responses such that I was motivated to keep writing. A few friends then advised me to consider writing a book, and that's how the journey started.

### ***What kind of support did you have throughout the journey?***

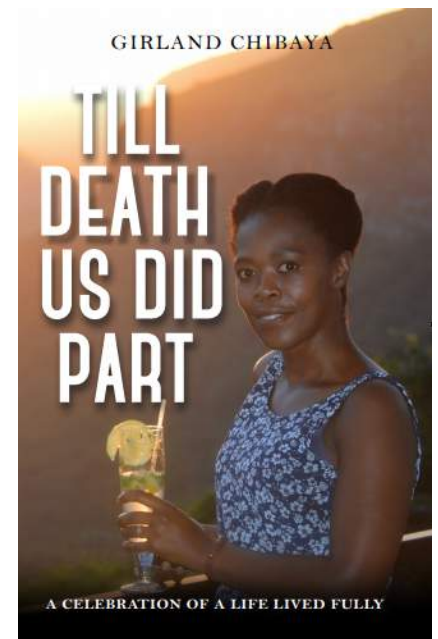
I got a lot of support from my friends, family, church family, fellow runners and colleagues. I would also get a lot of supportive messages every time I published on my blog.

In the book, I talk about how my friends would just rock up at my house to be with me. This was one of the main pillars of my recovery because I could have isolated myself from the world and gone into depression. Instead, they helped me talk about my emotions without judging me.

My church family kept me going with the messages or just verses of support. I never missed church because, to me, the church has always been like an oasis where I drink from the word of God when I get thirsty.

### ***Do you plan to write more books in the future?***

Yes, I plan to write more books in the future not only to help people heal from grief but to take people through my journey and help people see that despite the events that knock us down in life we still have to keep on moving forward.



### ***You are an avid runner tell us a little about competing in the Comrades marathon.***



I have completed three comrades Marathons to date and I received finisher medals with a completion time averaging eleven hours for all three. When I ran the first marathon, my goal was to prove that anything is possible when you have the will and motivation. My late wife was my number one supporter, and she was always there at all the races I participated. She motivated me to wake up and train on those cold mornings while preparing for the main race.

I remember on the day of my first Comrades marathon, wondering if I would be able to go beyond the 60km mark since I had not surpassed it before. When I got to 60km, I almost pulled out; I cramped, vomited and cried, but in the end, I finished the race. To this day the medal I got for completion remains by far my most valued of them all. I have it hanged in my car as a reminder that all things are possible with determination!

After running Comrades three times, my goal now is to run a marathon on every continent. I ran the Dubai and Nairobi Marathons respectively before my wife passed away. The last year I participated in the Jersey marathon in the UK and this year, I had entered for the Bangkok Marathon; however, the COVID-19 pandemic happened and therefore could not travel for the race.

# 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 AFRICAN YOUTH

## *An Untapped Resource*

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by Maureen Nyasha Hove  
[theeroyaldiadem.wordpress.com](http://theeroyaldiadem.wordpress.com)



*“Just the right drilling machinery and excavators will lead you straight to a belt of gold. The gold you saw on the surface, there is more to where it came from! Our youths are loaded and gifted! Hope you realize it sooner! “*

Millions of ounces of unmined riches are still believed to lie beneath the piles of the earth surface. Numerous occupants sit atop some of the world’s vastest mineral deposits. Large areas in Africa still hold substantial reserves of gold, uranium and other highly valuable minerals, unfortunately, remain inaccessible to exploration. While avant-garde technology has improved mining techniques, workers continue to lack the knowledge and skills to optimize the exploration process.

The lack of advanced technology and know-how only permits the miners to be restricted to surface mining. Some even call it quits thinking they have exhausted all the minerals albeit there is still more! Just the right excavators and drilling machinery would take them straight down to it!

On the 12th of August, we were observing the International Youth Day driven by the theme “Youth Engagement for Global Action” which sought to accentuate ways in which the engagement and participation of young people at all levels are augmenting and beneficial to any country or organization.

How many youths do you know around you with so much potential but are not living to their maximum potential?

Some don't even realize their worth and are in the oblivion of what they carry or are capable of because they have been incapacitated by circumstances. Some have been told that they will not amount to anything and will die like that or they had very big dreams that were crushed by circumstances beyond their control.

A country with at least sixty per cent of its population constituting of youths should deem itself heavily laden with novel ideas and innovations. Collectively, the youths offer a dynamic and remugient workforce and have a high affinity for technological know-how and the aptitude to take on a significant level of risk. Youth engagement in development issues still doesn't tally with population statistics.

The youths need to be assimilated and incorporated to guarantee achievements for future generations.

Full representation and engagement in all areas undoubtedly have to be significantly enhanced for the purpose of bolstering their capacity and relevance.

Most of the youth have a purpose and are talented in various ways. Only a small fraction are fortuitous enough to discover it very early, and some will discover it a bit late. The rest are there to water and enrich the graveyards with untapped potential.

Young people are therefore a key group for sustainable development; however, they rarely receive the education or support they need to feel confident and a voice to audibly speak out to impact on policies and participate in critical decision making. Youth representation and participation in politics, economy, agriculture, health, Research and Development can be amplified by investing and effecting an appropriate education and opportunities for youth empowerment.

Let's not only be satisfied and content with a few youths making waves let's also work towards delving deep and reaching out and empowering every youth from the urban areas, peri-urban and rural communities.

All young people should have access to information and the proper support to have a part in decision making. They should, therefore, not be overlooked in the developmental processes that take place in their communities. Training sessions with a motive to furnish young people in social responsibility and insight on civil rights are often unpopular in communities. Without financial emancipation, exposure and basic needs to live a fulfilled and decent life, young people won't be in a position to take part in significant policymaking.

Young people need a change of mindset too so that they realize the power of using their voice. Young people have the stamina to make sustainable development a reality if they take a leading role. Gone is the Victorian era when youths were only to be seen and not heard. A generation of information seekers will take us further than we can ever imagine.





# Camelot Awaits Me

by Grace Mavunga  
[www.gracemavunga.com](http://www.gracemavunga.com)

One of these days, I woke up feeling like giving up. I found myself overwhelmed with discouragement and started to question the sanity of thinking I can be more than this. The question “**Who am I to dream so big?**” stared me in the face like black mamba waiting to pounce on its victim, and deliver its famous killer strike. The figures were not adding up, the progress felt too little, and my usually clear line-of-sight looked blurry. Self-disappointment engulfed me and left me feeling as if I was carrying the weight of the world on my shoulders.

Yet in the midst of it all, a small voice within me came to life. It reminded me of the times I had been in this place before and the peril of allowing the mamba called ‘**Giving Up**’ to cut my journey short. Reality struck home, and I decided there and then that I had come too far to turn back now. I owed it to myself and my vision to see this through. No doubt the journey ahead is lengthy, exhausting and filled with many thorns, but still, it is my quest to complete. As ambitious as it appears, I will leap in faith and press on.

Like King Arthur, this is my quest, and only I can wield the Excalibur called ‘**My Vision**’. Camelot is calling my name, and the round table embellished fine linen and ornaments awaits my arrival. Ahead lies many divine encounters that will bring me face to face with my twelve knights; each one perfectly positioned to appear at the right time and place. Now more than ever, I am convinced that before me lies an adventure of a lifetime.

I am not afraid of the challenges that await me as I pursue this quest for where there is a will; there is a way. I will fight my way to Camelot and every scar I get from the battlefield will be worn with pride; as souvenirs of every triumph in my pursuit of success.

So to every mamba that may arise before me in the days to come, I say to you,  
**“I am who I am. If I do not dream big, then who? If not now, then when? Time and opportunity happen to all; this is my time, and I will make every minute count.**”

**If I fail, I will try again,  
If I fall, I will rise again,  
If one door shuts, I will knock on another, If one path ends, I will pave out a new one,  
If someone says no, I will keep asking around until I get a yes  
And if you say it is impossible then watch me prove you wrong!”**

# 'The Bible and a Picture'

BY CLIVE THABO MATHONSI



"When a disaster has submerged, the word of God doesn't cool down with waves". These words will unfortunately define calamities and lamentations of Cyclone Idai victims but as they suffer the trauma, not all was lost! Under the gigantic boulders of a totally wiped house, I saw two things that gave me a different narrative and perspective about life. A Bible and a picture!

You see when Titanic sank, it wasn't the grief that made the world marvel at what had happened but the individual stories of its victims! This Bible has a story of its own and the picture another but astonishingly, they all survived and were resilient enough to weather all the conditions before and after the cyclone.

A relative left a picture of a loved one. A beautiful young lady that has a contagious aura and bright eyes that look happy and twinkling everytime you look at the picture. However this was goodbye! A send off! A hey, I miss you, sister, daughter or maybe even wife! Whatever it was, the world will never know the last moments or feel the last breath that this lady took before her eventual demise but this picture! This window! This insight! This smile and twinkling eyes are the only things we have left!

The Bible on the other hand was drenched but all the words that are written God on the visible pages are clear as day! Let me repeat this, the Bible was drenched and the pages spoiled but the Lord's name is exalted in the scriptures even after paper and cover was spoiled! People search a lifetime for miracles and reason to believe and understand God but never bother to read his word but this Bible has answered the critics. It didn't have to speak out or be read out to quench doubtful minds, it simply had to survive a test of life itself to show the world how great God is.

Maybe I see things that other people don't and maybe that's insanity but if we don't talk about it then who will know to acknowledge the knowledge we seek to power and empower ourselves with? There is a Bible and there is a picture dear friend's and these monuments survived Cyclone Idai.



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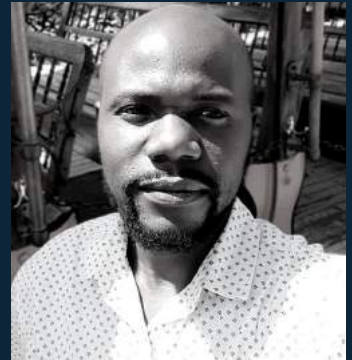
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# *Can the World Run Out of Good People?*

BY DR. TAWANDA CHINGOZHA

'Part of a series of blogs on the socio-economic impact, implications, and opportunities for a world after COVID-19'



Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic social media and the internet have been inundated with conspiracies around Covid-19's origin, whether or not communities should accept vaccines that will be developed among other stories. In almost all the cases attempts are made to convince the reader, listener or viewer of this huge international power grab or profit making conspiracy that is going on. Let's face it. It is so confusing and many times people do not know what to believe, and sparring news outlets from different political constituencies and outfits (even in developed countries we may look up to) does not make it better. We live in a murky, smoke-and-mirrors world where the massive availability of information is both a boon and a curse.

Almost all conspiracy theories and fake news are rebutted in one way or another. International bureaucrats, tech and pharmaceutical companies and others who understand the intricacies of globalization and the international economy may be able to provide more substance regarding veracity or lack thereof in the different conspiracy claims better.

This article discusses whether the different checks and balances, safeguards and tried and tested protocols and regulations in various industries, organizations and governments can indeed be overcome by groups/entities with sinister motives. Can the world really run out of 'good people' to such an extent that people just sit on the fence or condone the subjection of entire populations to sinister machinations of certain groups?! It is fitting that the discussion whether the world can run out of good people also begins by asking whether the world can run out of good things in general.

In 1798, Thomas Robert Malthus predicted that linear growth in food supply would be outstripped by exponential growth in population. In his view, the human population would sooner rather than later implode until a natural disaster (such as pestilence) or war reduces the population. On the contrary the human population has grown massively since the late 18th Century on the back of farm biotechnology-driven yield improvements to guarantee food supplies, advancements in medical sciences, medicine and vaccine development among other factors. The combination of human agility, ingenuity and clever use of the world's natural endowments has proved that a Malthusian implosion is unlikely.

The assertions of Malthus haven't really come to pass (most Economists would agree), but some bad things have happened since the beginning of time. Market failure (a scenario in which the free market system fails to efficiently allocate resources) has shown us that when people compete to use forest resources, or when they compete to maximize their utility on a public beach, deforestation and pollution are inevitable respectively. The events of the past decades have shown that when migrants and host communities fight for scarce resources, prejudice, hate and violence can flare up.

So indeed, good things may run out under some conditions. Since time immemorial, people have suffered from abuse, violence, war and other forms of injustice and in many cases yet no one has done enough about it. Even as the Covid-19 pandemic ravages across the entire globe, guns and mortar fire have hardly fallen silent in some parts of the world. Yet due to geopolitical complications, indifference or just inward-looking tendencies, many have buried their heads in the sand. The fact that people can sit on the fence as injustices take place is an important driver of lack of trust in the institutions and apparatus of individual states and the world in general's ability to protect us from the harms 'purported' in some of the biggest conspiracy theories.

Not everyone can truly claim that they necessarily have a firm handle on how the world functions. There is just too much information out there to process, and many things are obscure – too many information asymmetries. Information asymmetry or information failure is a phenomenon in which one party in a transaction has material more information than the other, for example in George Akerlof's Market for Lemons where the seller of a second hand automobile had more material information about its true condition than the buyer. To abstract, a government requiring compulsory vaccination may have more material information on side-effects (among other issues) than the ordinary citizen all things being equal. Murkiness and lack of transparency also mean that transaction costs are high and it is difficult to enforce contracts – including the social contract between a government and its people.

The social contract between a government and its people provides for the citizens to expect and demand that the state act in the good interests of the citizenry. There are countless examples wherein governments have betrayed the trust of the population. This can be understood in the context of the Agency Problem wherein there is conflict of interest between the objectives of the principal and those of the agent. In a business setting, the shareholder (business owner) is interested in preserving and increasing the value of the business whereas management may be interested in expense maximization (thereby reducing profit and value) through perks. To protect the interests of the shareholders, the Board of Directors (Board) maintain oversight over the activities of management – yet "Management and the Board play golf together" thereby potentially reducing the effectiveness of oversight.

When state bodies that are supposed to act in the interests of the public are not sacrosanct in executing their mandate (for example in protecting against harmful practices in a medical emergency or otherwise), if they “play golf with those they are supposed to supervise”, then it fuels distrust and creates an environment where conspiracies and fake news flourish. When levels of education are low, and there is little or no access to basic services including electricity and internet, people fall prey to fake content, including dangerous home remedies and even scammers.

There is clearly a need to increase access to Information Technologies (ITs) but also implement deliberate programs for digital education so that ordinary citizens are empowered to fact-check content but also to participate in digital education and in the digital workplace. Without digital education, negative consequences (fake news, scams etc.) of internet proliferation can spread almost unabated. The “new economy” post Covid-19 should do more to promote more accountability, transparency, disclosure so that people understand facts better. Institutions need to be strengthened and corruption rooted out decisively so that agency issues do not contaminate government-citizen social contracts – to restore trust. This is possible, because in the end the world can never run out of good people – generally.

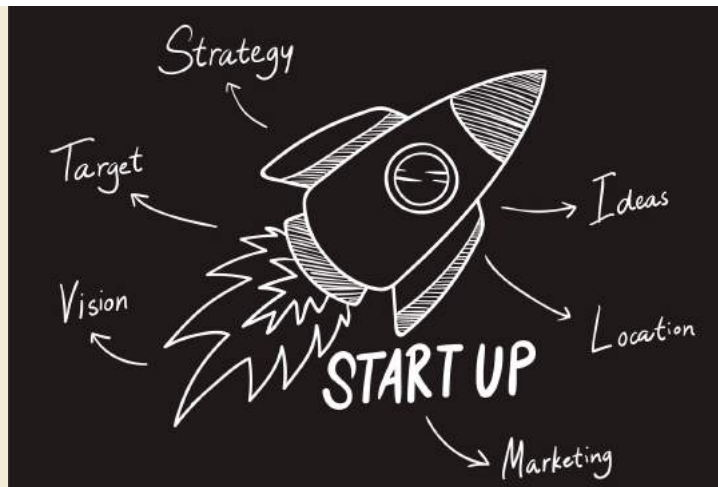
*All those nurses, doctors  
and ambulance drivers  
risking their lives in  
order to save us during  
the Covid-19  
pandemic confirms that  
there are many good  
people out there.*

The evidence is compelling and there for everyone to see. All those nurses, doctors and ambulance drivers risking their lives in order to save us during the Covid-19 pandemic confirms that there are many good people out there. More than ever before, different campaigns have raised enormous sums of money to help fund the health and economic responses of various countries, including safety net components to protect the poor and vulnerable. It shows that the world can save itself, it shows that this is not humanity’s cul-de-sac moment at all. Because our world can never run out of good people. .

**Source: Written by Dr. Tawanda Chingozha, development economist and OAD Fellow.  
Visit <http://www.astro4dev.org/covid-19/>**

# The Entrepreneurial Journey: *The Key of Persistence*

BY NYASHA MATURURE



*The entrepreneurial journey is a long and winding road to success. This series will highlight the lessons learned on my journey as a budding entrepreneur. I have not arrived but, I am sure you can glean some lessons which will encourage you.*

The seed of entrepreneurship was sown in my life in 1995 at the age of 9 in my then hometown of Chinhoyi. My mother, a very enterprising woman, would have us sell freezits / penny cools from a cooler box. I would watch her travel to South Africa to buy wares for resale. She would bring the latest fashions in clothes, toys and shoes. This was in addition to her jersey knitting business and her full-time job as a teacher. It is from her that I learnt that it was essential for one to work with their hands to earn an extra income. At the end of the month, I would earn a small income from my “part-time” job and what a joy it was to know that I had profited from my labours.

In today’s world, where we see the emergence of billionaires like Mark Zuckerberg, Ashish J Thakker, Dangote, there is one underlying factor, and that is hard work. To be an entrepreneur one has to have an inherent resolve to work hard and in most cases burn the midnight oil to succeed. To be an entrepreneur one has to realise that the only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.

As one takes up the entrepreneurship journey, one has to be willing to work, work long hours, rain or shine, and thanks to my mother, I learnt this early in life

The journey of an entrepreneur is not an easy one. It is a journey that is often wrought with a myriad of ups and downs. It reminds me of my experience of watching my sister learn how to ride a bike. The first bike she got was at about 3-4 years old; it had training wheels, and it was relatively simple for her to ride it. At the age of 9, she heralded the introduction of the mountain bike.

It was difficult to watch her struggle with that bike. It was quite a difficult task watching my other sister, who is a year older, teach her how to ride it. She fell repeatedly scuffed her knees and elbows but still, she continued. There were times when she would take the bike out by herself and “coach” herself and lo and behold the day came when she mastered how to ride. It was like watching Usain Bolt win a gold medal at the Olympics; the triumph on her face just said it all. A lot of hard work had been put into this, and she felt like the queen of the world, until the next challenge, of course.

When I look at my sister’s journey, it reminds me of the journey of building a business.

### **1) Building a business is not for everyone.**

Not everyone is gifted with the finesse and the grit to become an entrepreneur. The move today is to encourage entrepreneurial thinking that even as one is employed, they think and act like an owner.

### **2) Determination**

In order to achieve a certain target focus and determination is essential. In building a business, there has to be a focus on achieving the vision of the founders. If one looks at companies today, e.g. Air BnB and KFC, focus & determination of the founders despite previous failures have taken the business from just an idea in their head to a multi-million dollar business.

### **3) Agility and Adaptability**

Marketing myopia is a state that as a business person, one should be wary of. Don't be a person who fails to see the changing tides and reinvent yourself. Adapt or die is the mantra that should be tattooed on every business person's mind. Imagine if in this millennial age someone was still trying to design the best telephone handset ever the business would surely die.

### **4) Mental Toughness**

Once you have established a relevant business idea or endeavour to pursue its essential to have a crocodile skin. Mentors and other support structures play a part yes but, in the end, this is your baby. In business, there are challenges, and on your way to your destination, you may lose money, be criticized and face many such hurdles. An excellent example of such is Strive Masiyiwa who had a protracted battle to receive a licence for Econet in Zimbabwe. It took a few years to have him finally open the doors of the now telecoms giant but, because of strong self-conviction of the vision he persevered.

### **5) Organization and Planning**

It is critical that as one pursues the vision or goal, there is a roadmap to be followed, i.e. the business plan. Once the business is up and running strategic, tactical and operational plans should be put in place. A friend of mine had a good laugh about how as a nation as Zimbabweans, we are gifted in planning. The most beautiful plans are drafted but, gather dust in a credenza somewhere until the next strategy session in a cushy resort town.

### **6) Execute, Execute, Execute**

Talk is cheap; execution is real. Most people claim to be entrepreneurs but, are not willing to put in the essential hard work and exercise discipline to achieve it. No to NATO – No Action Talk Only. Each and every day have a plan, have a target, do something to get where you claim you want to go.

### **7) Accountability**

As you run your race get a mentor and trustworthy peers who you are accountable too. These people will push you to persevere and give you fresh insights on what to do next. They will be your failsafe when you feel like giving up they will egg you on and not allow you to quit.

### **8) Prayer**

I am a Christian, and I earnestly believe in the power of prayer. If you are Christian, this is a critical element in giving you the strength and the impetus to persevere. Business is not for the faint-hearted or those who easily give up. In order to succeed Perseverance is key. When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Success is only accessible to those who strive for it. It's not easy to being an entrepreneur, but once you begin to see the fruit of your labour. It's all worth it. Keep safe and keep going the light is at the end of the tunnel.



#### **About the Author**

*Nyasha is passionate about entrepreneurial development and customer experience management. A marketer by profession she assists startups in setting up their enterprises.*





## Make 'you' a Priority

BY PRECIOUS MELODY

We are in a world that requires us to show up and be present in different aspects of our lives. If we are not careful, we will spread ourselves thin by trying to show up for everything at the same time. I found myself literally suffocating at one point. My life had become extremely busy. So much that I was hardly copying. I was trying to juggle between my 8-4 job, my family, my relationships, my responsibilities as the youth leader at my local church and also creating content for my blog. The pressure was so intense, but the following lessons really helped me to live a more relaxed yet productive lifestyle. I hope that this will also help you on your journey.

### **Setting Daily Goals**

I became intentional about setting realistic daily goals. This helped my days to become more structured with less pressure. I avoided being all over the place like a headless chicken and ticking off stuff on my to do list became quite fulfilling.

### **Learning to say NO**

This was a big one for me because I wanted to please everyone, but to be honest this is not the healthiest way of living. If you don't have clear boundaries, people will take as much as they can from you. Be assertive and know how much of your time you are willing to give others. You do not have to always show up for them especially at the expense of your own vision. If you are always available for everyone then you are definitely suffocating your own dreams.

### **Movement doesn't mean productivity**

Just because your schedule is full doesn't always mean you are being productive. Take time to review your productivity because the last thing you want is to be a busy person with little to show for it.

### **Ask for HELP**

My mentor taught me this and it radically changed my life. The people around you have been placed in your life for a reason. Some have gone ahead of you and the knowledge they have acquired has turned them into fountains of wisdom. Be humble enough to reach out and ask your help if you need it. Even the Bible says "You have not because you ask not." When you allow people to assist, you will be amazed at how smooth and short the journey can possibly become.

### **Rest**

I can't emphasize this enough. Rest is very important. Always create time and an environment that is conducive for you to rest. Take time off social media, off emails and work related calls. Pay more attention to yourself. During that time, pamper yourself and reward yourself for all the hard work that you have done. After this, you will be amped up to being twice as productive because you will be looking forward to another time of rest.

I hope these tips will be of great help. Keep winning!

# NEVER THE TWAIN SHALL MEET

## *Business and Personal Finances*

BY LINDSAY NYASANGO



When one sets up a business they hope that it will make a profit and that it will be able provide enough to take care of their financial needs. However, the number one mistake that I have seen with new entrepreneurs and even some seasoned ones is that they mix business finances with personal finances. The business may have cash flows but it doesn't equate to the owner having cash. Let's not forget that business is a separate legal entity and therefore distinct from its owners. Suppose your business is making good cash flows, it's common for some people to use that money as and when it flows in. You will find some entrepreneurs buying home groceries, paying school fees, fueling personal vehicles and just treating company cash flows like a bottomless well full of water.


They then struggle to restock their business, buy raw materials or maintain their equipment. Others even fail to pay employees on time because they have used up all the cash. This is prevalent in large companies as well as in small sole trader businesses. Below are suggestions on how to remedy this.

- Obtain separate bank accounts, one for business and another for personal or household use. Cash received for the business should be banked the next day and must not be mixed with household cash
- As a business owner, pay yourself together with the other employees at the end of the month or fortnightly. Pay yourself a decent wage in relation to your business not a wage that you think you deserve because you are a director. The owners wage should not cripple the operations of the company.
- Prioritize reinvesting in your business and not spending all profits on yourself or family. Restock your business, grow your asset base, maintain your equipment and have a plan for scaling operations.
- Understand the difference between cashflow and profit. The business may be cash rich but is it making a profit. A business owner needs proper record keeping in order to analyse expenses and income correctly and to determine whether the business is making a profit or not.
- This all hinges on self-discipline. An entrepreneur must be disciplined enough to delay gratification, to keep your hands away from the business purse whenever you have a need. Put limits and systems in place such that you are accountable to someone and they can assist you in keeping away from that money.
- Educate your family on what you are trying to achieve, how you are running the business so that they walk this journey with you in understanding. The result is, your spouse doesn't expect to take money from the business at any time because they understand that the family finances and business finances are separate. You need to manage your family's expectations by making them aware of the business philosophy that you have adopted. Teach your children what it means to run a successful business, the difference between cash and profit and the importance of reinvesting in that business. Children learn best from their parents.

As an entrepreneur, establish your business with the future in mind. You have to feed the golden goose for it to lay the golden eggs. If you keep taking eggs without feeding the goose, it will not produce more eggs in the future and will eventually die.

# LET'S TALK CONSTRUCTION

with Fansen Nkomo  
Bsc Quantity Surveying, Project Manager  
Enhanced Construction Solutions

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## Avoiding disappointments when dealing with labour only building contracts

Clients who intend to execute building projects can either utilise supply and fix arrangements, whereby the builder/Contractor brings in materials, labour, equipment and everything necessary to bring the works to completion. With the client only left with the obligation to pay the contractor for labour and materials. Another option is a labour only arrangement, whereby the client buys materials and the contractor supplying labour and “equipment”.

The labour contract has some grey areas that can potentially create different expectations, which can result in conflict situations between the client and the contractor and these need to be ironed out beforehand. From the above, three things ought to be clarified, first, the meaning of materials and secondly what labour only is and finally who supplies everything else which is not materials or labour only.

### **The meaning of materials**

*For this article, we defined materials as items that will “permanently” stick to the structure or that will stay with the structure owner when the construction project is complete. Examples include cement, brick, and sand. One may also add water to the list, though it will not be tangible when the building is complete; this is because water helps to convert most materials into a usable form. Depending on the agreement in place, the client can take responsibility for the storage and security of the materials.*

### **Is it labour or labour only?**

*The inclusion of the word only after labour is often misleading. Apart from providing human resources, one would, and reasonably so, assume that the contractor should feed the employees. It implies that materials and labour have been clarified, including the respective responsibilities of the client and contractor. However, the question remains: What about everything else that is neither materials nor labour?*

### **Who supplies everything else**

*Everything else can refer to equipment (scaffolding, formwork), machinery (compactors, generators) and tools (wheelbarrows). Whose responsibility is it, between the client and the contractor, to supply ‘everything else’? Failure to clarify this area often leads to disappointment when one party feels let down by the other. It is vital that when the contractor submits a quotation, it should be clear on whether or not “everything else is included”. Similarly, it is part of the client’s due diligence to interrogate what a labour only quotation means.*

The choice of who provides everything else is entirely dependent on two contracting parties. At times the client may at their discretion opt to do so. However, where the client is silent, the contractor ought to include in their pricing, everything else that is necessary to execute and complete a construction project and avoid “surprising” the client. Before accepting a labour only quotation, it is prudent that the client seeks clarification on the supply of everything else; otherwise a cheaper quote may end up being expensive in the long run due to some grey regions.

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# AFRICA: A DREAM DEFERRED

By Brian Dzapasi

The African dream is a loose translation or colloquialism of the relative consensus of what was, is and will be the fate of Africa based on a shared dehumanizing historical past of racial discrimination and a hitherto shared sense of high expectations for the future. This can be interpreted technically by the euphoria of post independence celebrations in the many countries of Africa. In 1980 Bob Marley graced and performed in Zimbabwe, the consequent high voter turnout of even South Africa marked a much anticipated advent of a "promised land" type of situation.

That dream has been for years oscillating between nightmare and fallacy that its easy to get trapped in between knowing and not knowing whether we are coming or going, today The 25th of May marks 57 years since the formation of the OAU the alma meta of the AU (2002). Our forefathers met in Addis Ababa and corroborated to converge their diversity into a single vision to conjure their struggles and strengths into one goal for Africa. The dream was not based on race but on descent and above all creating a unity of purpose for the betterment of the future of the African Child by geopolitical advancement of the African epistemological narrative as a livid experience rather than some journal account of the African.

The fight against imperialism was unfortunately not the end of our problems if at all it marked the beginning of more to come, but little did they know that colonialism was not only physical actually not long after did they realize that its physical manifestation was a tip of the iceberg. Underneath it lay so much more mental, spiritual, political and socio cultural dismemberment of the African moral fibre that little could be done overnight to repair the damage.

Post colonial talk of decolonizing the education system to reflect the indigenous African culture and knowledge dissemination have of late been the buzz word to the future, they provide a new form of challenge for the Western form of hegemonic hold over the universality of knowledge.

Like the African dream the African soul was lost deep within itself and overcome by the colonial demons it could hardly recognize itself from the latter. Our forefathers began the journey, even though it would be a fallacy to assume utopic coexistence it is only right to presume that the situation could never have been worse than the colonial prevalence. Ubuntu pre-dates any form of moral standard known to men in Africa, and with that as the guiding compass, liberation wars were fought. Independence did not come cheap, it cost lives, blood and bone of the African fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, nobody was spared but the dream was to attain colonial independence and then everything would fall into place, right? It took men not only with opposite ideological difference but even fundamental existential standards to set their differences aside and fight the infiltration of imperialism.

*Ubuntu pre-dates any form of moral standard known to men in Africa, and with that as the guiding compass, liberation wars were fought.*

Years later the conditions of life in Africa ,save for the constant of inevitable change and intergration with the larger world in the form of , Globalism, are pretty much the same and in some cases worse. Sub-Saharan Africa which hosts 46 of the 54 countries in Africa has a total population of 1.3billion people second only to Asia , a total GDP of \$2.58trillion and a GDP per capita (nominal) of \$1.97. These figures are some of the lowest in the world and pose a humanitarian crisis potential in the face of Covid 19 given the possible economic repercussions of this virus. The state of Africa has been attributed to many causes manmade and natural, among other things like Political failure and diseases like HIV AIDS which cripple the working class of the state, Southern Africa has some of the highest infection rates ranging from 14% to 27% on average.

The progressiveness of African politics has been marred by excess rhetoric and tensions that have resulted in endless civil unrest or wars which by their nature affect economic growth. Coupled by an endless need to perpetuate divisions by political participants for their selfish benefit and the ever cancerous repugnant presence of corruption all contribute quintessentially to the demise of the African dream. While the politicians remain super rich while holding the ticket of many dreams of the African child in their pockets. To many African children, the hungry ones, the teenage mothers, the school dropouts, the orphaned ones, the African dream remains a mirage and for a long time it will be deferred.

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