

Issue No. 10

Afri-CAN

MAGAZINE

RBC FINED \$4.25 MILLION

According to FCAC, the root cause of the violation was "inadequate and ineffective control and oversight ...

UK AND UAE BANS SM FOR U16

The ban will apply to major user-to-user platforms, including TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, X, and YouTube.

BET AWARDS 2026

Full list of winners and categories for the 2026 BET Awards

AN ARCHIVIST OF HUMAN EMOTION

The exciting story of Sean Osborne. Sean isn't just hoarding plastic; he's mapping evolution.



POLITICS. ENTERTAINMENT. BUSINESS. FASHION. SPORTS

HAPPY CANADA
DAY



WED. 1 JULY, 2026

SUMMER

TIME



Editor's Note

Dear Valued Readers,

As the sun climbs higher and the days stretch long, we welcome the heart of summer, a season for lazy afternoons, ice-cold lemonade, and the kind of freedom that only July can bring.

This year, however, summer carries an extra electric buzz: the 2026 FIFA World Cup is here. From bustling city squares to quiet living rooms, the world is uniting in cheers, heartbreak, and glorious goals. So gather your family, invite your neighbors, and let the beautiful game remind us of our shared humanity, even if it is just for 90 minutes at a time.

But in between the matches and the beach trips, I want to gently turn our attention to a quieter, more persistent game being played in our homes, the scroll, the swipe, the endless loop of notifications. This summer, I invite parents and guardians to consider a bold experiment: start minimizing your children's social media use now.

Not as punishment, but as a gift. Let them feel the weight of a real ball, the grain of sand between their toes, the sweat of a bike ride, the boredom that births creativity. Let them watch a game without needing to post about it. Let them talk, face-to-face, without filters.

The world cup will end. The summer will fade. But the habits we plant today will root deep. So this July, let's cheer for goals, and for genuine connection. Wishing you sun, spectacular saves, and screen-free smiles,

The "CAN" in Afri-CAN is a verb. You can. You must.

Editor
Afri-CAN Magazine

Zee



WHAT'S INSIDE

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Men & Their Love for Denims

For men, jeans are about identity, utility, and the quiet confidence of wearing something that works as hard as they do. Here is the science, history, and soul behind why denim is a man's best friend.

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Marriage Complexities

Here is the cruel irony: when a man gives too much, he often enables his wife to give too little, not out of malice, but out of human nature.



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RBC Fined \$4.25 Million

The penalty addresses a systemic failure in the bank's credit card operations, highlighting the critical importance of accurate financial disclosure and the regulatory consequences of operational lapses

48

Eemoh Tour New Dates

The tour is set to hit four major Canadian cities, kicking off in July: Edmonton: July 17, Toronto: July 18, Vancouver: July 24, and Montreal: July 25.



50

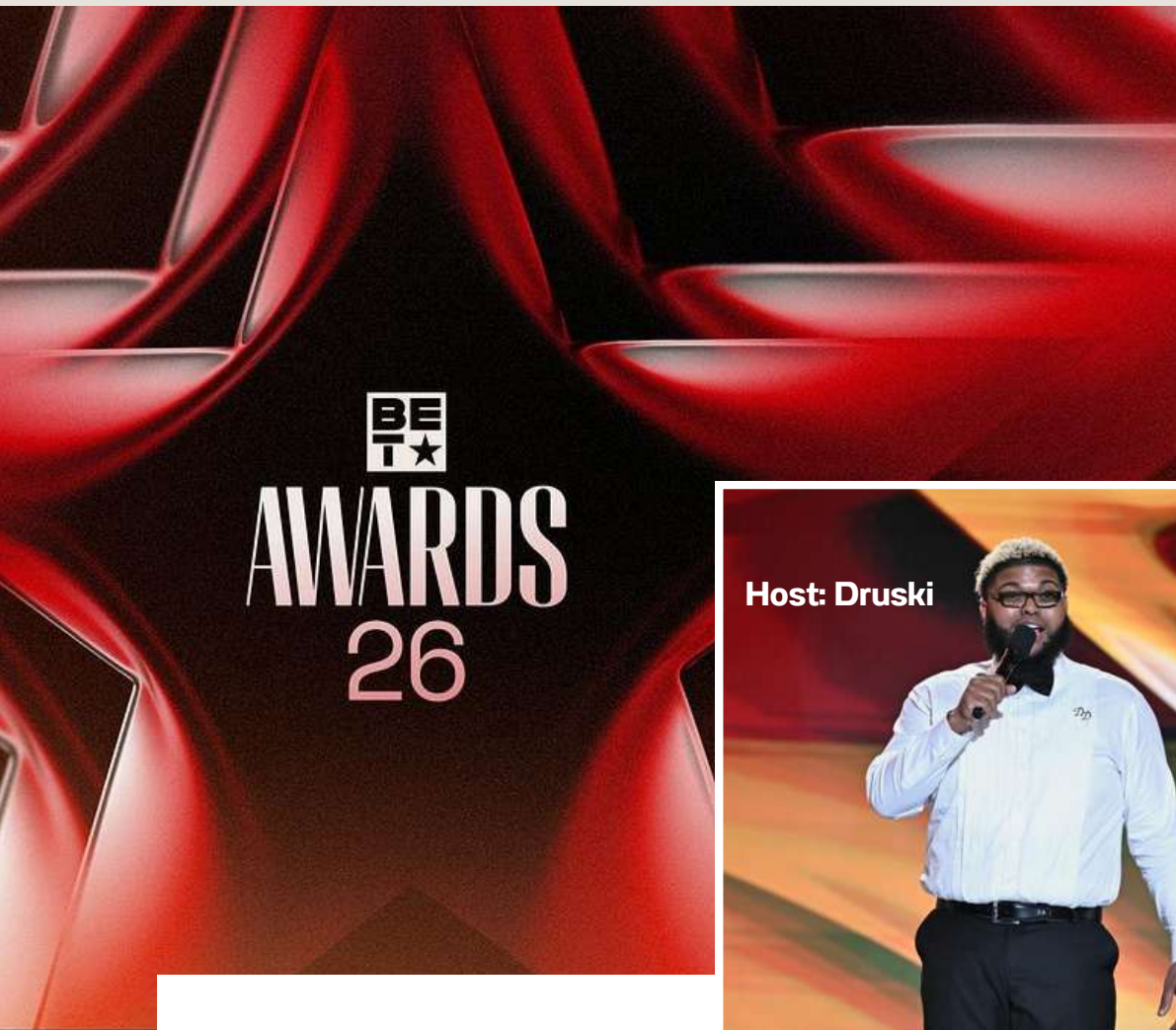
The Story of Sean Osborne

"Since childhood, I've always been enormously passionate about music, and it's been fun to use and share that passion throughout my career."



2026

BET AWARDS



This is the full list of winners and categories for the 2026 BET Awards, held on June 28, 2026, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles. Teyana Taylor and Clipse tied for the most competitive wins, with three each. Taylor also received the special Icon of the Year award.



Music Categories

- Album of the Year: Let God Sort Em Out – Clipse
- Best Female R&B/Pop Artist: Kehlani
- Best Male R&B/Pop Artist: Leon Thomas
- Best Female Hip Hop Artist: Cardi B
- Best Male Hip Hop Artist: Kendrick Lamar
- Best Group: Clipse
- Best Collaboration: "Chains & Whips" – Clipse & Kendrick Lamar
- Best New Artist: Olivia Dean
- Dr. Bobby Jones Best Gospel/Inspirational Award: "Headphones" – Lecrae, Killer Mike & T.I.
- BET Her: "girl, get up." – Doechii feat. SZA
- Viewers' Choice: "Burning Blue" – Mariah the Scientist
- Video of the Year: "Folded" – Kehlani
- Video Director of the Year: Teyana "Spike-Tey" Taylor



General, Film/TV, and Sports Categories

- The Fashion Vanguard Award (New): Teyana Taylor
- The Pulse Award (New): Druski
- Best Movie: Sinners
- Best Actress: Teyana Taylor
- Best Actor: Michael B. Jordan
- Young Stars Award: Jazzy's World TV
- Sportswoman of the Year: A'ja Wilson (Basketball)
- Sportsman of the Year: Jalen Brunson (Basketball)



Teyana Taylor



Michael B. Jordan



A'ja Wilson



Druski

Special Honors

In addition to the competitive awards, three special honors were presented:

- Icon of the Year: Teyana Taylor
- Living Legend Icon Award: Ms. Lauryn Hill
- Ultimate Icon Award: Sylvia Rhone



Lauryn Hill



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ZCUSA BBQ Event in Pictures

ZCUSA hosted its inaugural BBQ event in Edmonton. This was a moment of sharing ideas, networking, get together, and an opportunity to introduce businesses to the community. In addition, food was served for free to all attendees





THE UNDISPUTED KING OF MEN'S WARDROBES

Zvakwana Nomore Sweto

Walk into any room in the world, from a boardroom in Poland to a construction site in Texas, and you will find a man in denim. The blue jean is the great equalizer. It is the only garment that can be dressed up for a date, worn down for a workout, and survived for a decade without going out of style.

But why? Why do men love jeans with such fierce loyalty?

It is not just about fashion. For men, jeans are about identity, utility, and the quiet confidence of wearing something that works as hard as they do. Here is the science, history, and soul behind why denim is a man's best friend. Ladies pay attention;

"Built to Last" Mentality

Men are often utilitarian shoppers. We don't buy clothing for the sake of novelty; we buy it for the sake of function. Denim was originally invented for gold miners and cowboys because it needed to withstand abrasion, rocks, and saddle wear.

One other point is that durability is hardwired into the male psyche. When a man buys a good pair of raw denim, he isn't buying pants; he is buying armor. The heavy twill weave and copper rivets signify that these pants can handle a fight, a fall, or a full day of manual labor. In a world of disposable fashion, denim feels permanent.

There is a reason men often refuse to throw away old jeans. Unlike chinos or dress trousers, denim ages with you. It creases at your hips, fades at your knees, and contours to your thighs.



Men love this because it removes the "fuss" factor. A new pair of stiff jeans might feel rigid, but after a few weeks, they become the most comfortable thing in your closet. They fit you, not a mannequin. This personalization is a badge of honor. The whiskering patterns and honeycomb fades behind the knees are a visual diary of your life, telling the story of where you've been and what you've done.



The "Unspoken Uniform"

Men generally dislike ambiguity. We like to know what works. Jeans provide the ultimate sartorial safety net. They are the default setting.

- **The Casual Day:** Jeans and a t-shirt.
- **The Office (Smart Casual):** Jeans and a blazer.
- **The Night Out:** Dark jeans and a crisp button-down.

Jeans remove the guesswork. You never have to ask, "Is this appropriate?" (within reason). They act as a neutral canvas, allowing the man to project his personality through his jacket, Ts, or shoes without having to worry about whether the pants are "too loud."

The Authenticity Factor

Marketers talk about "authenticity" constantly, but denim is the real deal. It started as workwear. It was worn by rebels like James Dean and Marlon Brando, not because it was trendy, but because it was tough. When a man wears denim, he taps into that rugged heritage. It suggests that he is ready for action. Even if he sits in an office all day, the denim whispers a lie we all like to believe: "I'm a man who can fix things." It is a connection to a time when masculinity was defined by grit, not just grooming.

Low Maintenance High Reward

Let's be honest: men are lazy. We don't want to spend hours ironing creases or worrying about stains. Denim is forgiving. Dirt adds character. A wrinkle is a crease. The "no-wash" movement (wearing raw denim for months without washing) even suggests that washing them ruins them. For a man, hearing that he doesn't have to do laundry as often is music to his ears.



While we love tradition, the denim industry has finally caught up to the male form. Gone are the days of "one baggy fit fits all." Modern men love jeans because they can choose a fit that defines their physique:

- **Skinny:** For the younger, edgy look
- **Slim:** The universal winner
- **Athletic:** For the gym-goer who needs room in the thighs
- **Straight/Casual:** For the classicist
- **Baggy:** Stylish (those who follow trends)

from Page.

This variety ensures that every man, regardless of his body type, can find a pair that makes him look like he lost five pounds.

Men love jeans because jeans are honest. They don't pretend to be silk, they don't try to be shiny, and they certainly don't try to be comfortable in a delicate way. They are tough, practical, and look better the older they get.



In a world that is constantly changing, a man needs a reliable constant. Denim is that constant. Whether you are a CEO or a carpenter, when you pull on those blue jeans, you are pulling on a piece of history that says, simply, "I'm ready."

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TIPS

Why We Pay Extra, Why They Expect It, and Why the Stare Hurts So Much...

Staff Writer

You finish a meal. The food was good, the service was decent. The bill arrives. You do the mental math; 15%? 20%? 25%? and your finger hovers over the payment screen.

Then comes the anxiety.

You tip. Or you don't. And if you don't, you brace yourself for **The Look**.

Tipping has become one of the most emotionally charged transactions in modern life. It is no longer a reward; for many, it is a hostage negotiation. So let's strip it down: Should tipping be forced? What are we actually paying for? And why does that waiter look at you like you just kicked their puppy when you leave zero?

Historically, a "tip" (often said to stand for To Insure Prompt Service) was exactly that, a bribe for speed. You gave a coin to a waiter in 19th-century America to ensure your drink arrived before the other guy's.

But over time, it morphed into something else. In theory, a tip is a performance review. It is the customer's way of saying:

- You were attentive
- You made me feel welcome
- You went above and beyond.

In a perfect world, tipping is a meritocracy. Good service = big tip. Bad service = small tip. It puts the power in the customer's hands and incentivizes the server to actually care about your experience.

But that theory crashed into reality a long time ago.

Should Tipping Be Forced?

Absolutely not. By definition, a gratuity is voluntary. If it is forced, it is a "service charge" or a "fee" and it should be listed on the menu upfront.

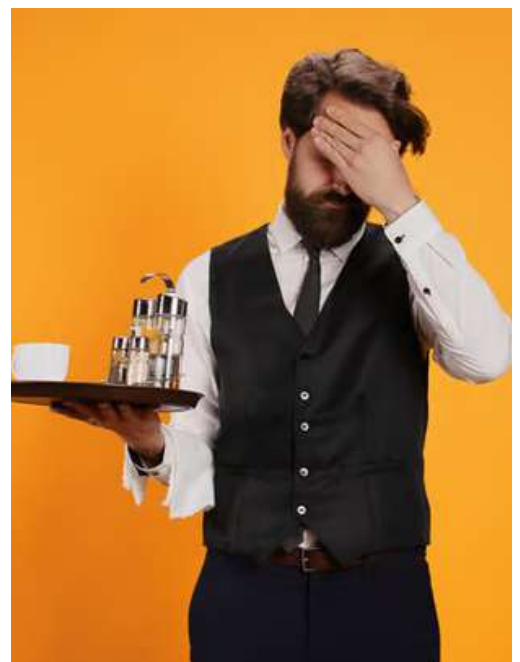
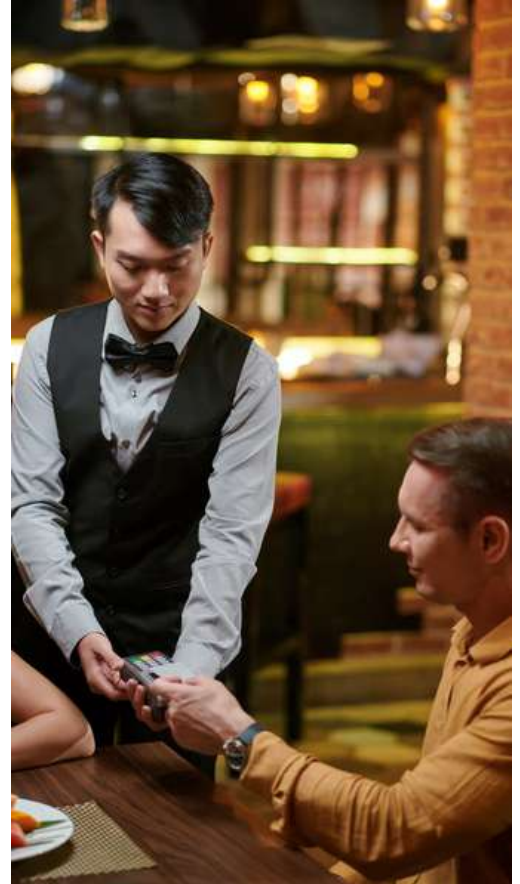
Here is the friction: When a restaurant adds an automatic 15%, 18%, OR 22% gratuity for a large party, that is honest. You see it, you pay it, you move on.

But when a touchscreen at a coffee shop flips around with suggested tips starting at 20%, 25%, and 30% for handing you a muffin? That is psychological blackmail. It preys on your fear of being judged cheap.

Forcing tips destroys the entire premise. If everyone pays the same amount regardless of effort, why would a server rush to refill your water? The incentive evaporates. Tipping should remain a choice, but that choice only works if the system behind it is fair.

Why Do Hospitality Staff Demand Tips or Show a Face When You Don't Tip?

Here is the uncomfortable truth the industry doesn't want you to think about: In most states, the tipped minimum wage is tragically low.





That look, the dropped smile, the cold "have a nice day," the audible sigh, isn't just rudeness. It is survival instinct.

Imagine you work a 6-hour shift. You have 5 tables. If just one table stiffs you, that is 20% of your expected income for the night gone. In their head, they aren't thinking about the meal you ate; they are thinking about the bus fare home, the groceries, or their kid's school supplies.

But there is also a psychological factor: Effort vs. Reward.

If a server runs around, juggles dietary restrictions, deals with a screaming child, and refills your diet coke four times, they have invested emotional labor. When you leave zero, it feels like a personal rejection. It says, "Your effort was worthless."

Is it professional to show that face? No. A true professional hides it. But servers are human, not robots. That face is the raw, unfiltered frustration of someone who just worked for free.

If we hate the pressure, and they hate the uncertainty, why keep this system?

Option A: Abolish tipping entirely. (The European model). Raise menu prices by 20% and pay staff a living wage. This removes the anxiety for the customer and gives the server stability.



The Conclusion: Should tipping be forced? No. A forced tip is a tax, not a reward.

But should you tip? In the current system, yes. You are not tipping out of charity; you are paying for a service that the restaurant owner refuses to pay for.

And that server who gives you the cold shoulder? They are wrong to show it, but they aren't wrong to feel it. They are the victim of a broken system, just like you. The real villain isn't the diner or the waiter, it's the employer who makes you two fight over the bill while they count the profits.



The downside? You lose the incentive for exceptional service.

Option B: Keep tipping, but reform the base wage. If servers made a real minimum wage plus tips, then the tip truly becomes a bonus for great service, not a lifeline. Suddenly, that 10% tip is fine. That zero tip might earn a confused look, but not a hostile one.

Option C: Transparency. Restaurants should print clearly: "Our staff is paid a fair wage. Gratuity is optional and appreciated." Or: "We operate on a tipped wage; please factor that into your budget."



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MARRIAGE COMPLEXITIES

The Unseen Burden: When a Husband's Dedication Begets Disrespect

Natasha Simpsons

He works late to pay the bills. He skips soccer with friends to help with homework. He swallows his pride to keep the peace. By every traditional and modern metric, he is a committed husband.

Yet, instead of appreciation, he is met with eye-rolls, criticism, or cold indifference. He is the devoted man who feels like a doormat, and he is more common than you think.

While no marriage is one-sided, a quiet epidemic is brewing: husbands who pour their entire being into their families, only to find that their very dedication becomes the weapon used against them. The result? Chronic stress, burnout, and a gnawing sense of invisibility.

Why does this happen? The answer lies not in villainizing women, but in understanding the psychological traps that turn commitment into contempt.

Familiarity breeds not just contempt, but complacency. When a husband is unfailingly reliable, always home, always

agreeable, always available; his presence becomes background noise.

Psychologists call this the "certainty trap." Humans are wired to value scarce resources. A husband who is perpetually dedicated, with no boundaries or independent identity,

inadvertently signals that his approval and effort are unlimited. And what is unlimited is often unappreciated.

His wife may not consciously think, "He's boring." But subconsciously, she stops seeing him. The very predictability that makes him a safe partner can make him an unexciting one.

Here is the cruel irony: when a man gives too much, he often enables his wife to give too little, not out of malice, but out of human nature. If he handles the finances, fixes the car, manages the kids' schedules, and suppresses his own emotional needs to avoid conflict, he becomes the "over-functioner." She becomes the "under-functioner."

And here is the kicker: under-functioners rarely feel grateful. They feel controlled or infantilized. She may resent him for making everything look easy, or for never asking for help, because his competence silently implies her inadequacy. Her lack of respect is not a rejection of his effort; it is a rebellion against feeling unnecessary.





A Word to Wives

If your husband is stressed and you feel distant, ask yourself: Do I respect him, or do I just rely on him? Have you confused his stability for weakness? Have you dismissed his feelings because he "seems fine"? The man who silently carries the world for you is not fine. And if you lose his dedication through indifference, you will not find a better man; you will find a colder one.



Countless marriage counselors have heard the same lament: "She says she wants a nice guy, but she only seems to light up around her assertive boss or her confident brother." Biologically and socially, many women are drawn to strength, decisiveness, and a degree of independence, not cruelty, but backbone.

The dedicated husband often confuses sacrifice with love. He thinks giving up his hobbies, his opinions, and his male friendships makes him a hero. In reality, it makes him a shadow. When a man has no life outside his wife's approval, he places an immense burden on her to be his sole source of meaning. That weight crushes respect. She cannot admire a man who has abandoned his own identity to worship hers.

This creates a devastating feedback loop:

- He gives more to win her approval.
- She respects him less for needing it so desperately.
- He feels the disrespect and gives even more, hoping to "fix" it.
- She pulls further away, seeing his increased efforts as desperate, not heroic.

The stress he endures is real, elevated cortisol, sleepless nights, and a quiet fury he cannot express because "a good husband" doesn't complain. He becomes a martyr in his own home, exhausted from a race he can never win because the finish line keeps moving.

If this describes your marriage, hear this clearly: Your dedication is not the problem. Your lack of self-dedication is. Respect cannot be demanded; it is earned through self-possession. That means:

- Reclaiming a life: Friends, hobbies, and solo pursuits are not betrayals; they are prerequisites for being an interesting partner.
- Learning to say "no": Kindness without boundaries is weakness. A respectful "I can't do that tonight" is more attractive than a resentful "fine."
- Stopping the scorekeeping: Dedication that comes with hidden expectations ("I did X, so you owe me Y") is not love; it is transactionalism. Give because you choose to, not because you expect a reward.
- Inviting her to step up: Let her handle problems. Let her struggle. Let her appreciate what you used to do by doing it herself for a while.

The Hard Truth

Marriage is not a performance where the husband earns love through labor. It is a partnership of two whole individuals. A husband who sacrifices his entire self on the altar of commitment is not being noble, he is being avoidant. Avoidant of his own needs, avoidant of conflict, and avoidant of the courageous work of being a fully formed human being.

The stress he endures is a symptom. The cure is not to give more, but to be more: more present to himself, more honest, and more willing to risk losing her approval in order to finally earn her respect. Because the only love worth having is the love that sees you clearly, not the love that takes you for granted.

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- Ed Sheeran: MetLife Stadium, November 7
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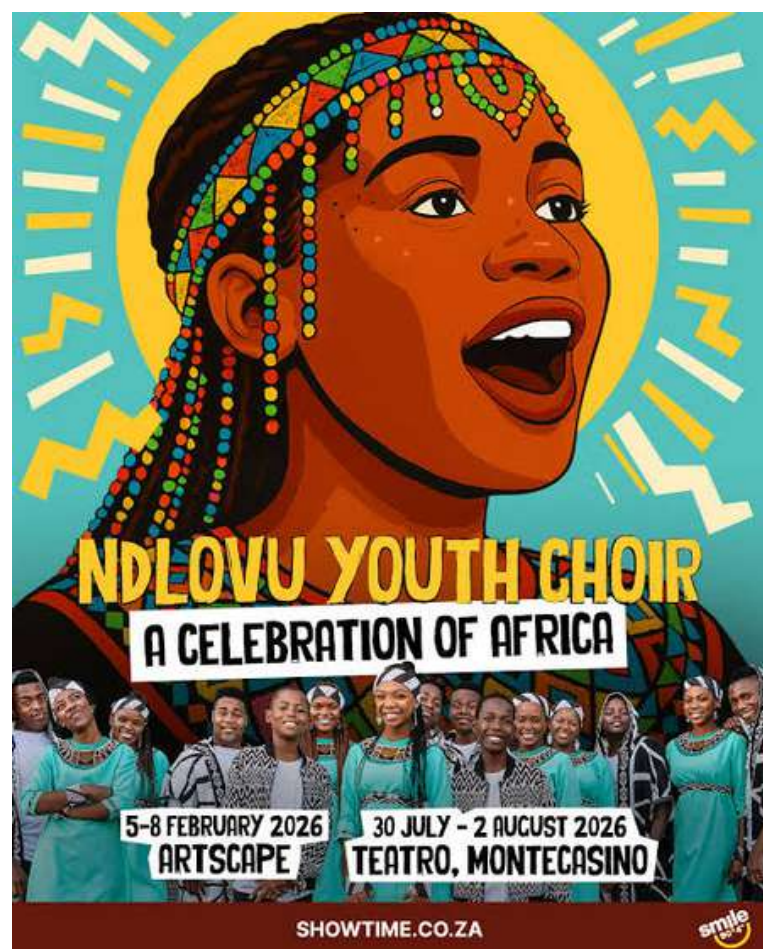
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UK AND UAE LEAD GLOBAL CHARGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA BAN FOR CHILDREN

Staff Reporter

In a landmark move that signals a seismic shift in digital policy, both the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates have announced sweeping restrictions on children's access to social media.

The UK declared on June 15, 2026, that it would ban all under-16s from accessing platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat, with the law taking effect in spring 2027. Days later, on June 18, the UAE became the first Arab nation to follow suit, imposing a ban for children under 15.



This coordinated action cements a growing global trend, building on the template set by Australia late last year. The question is no longer if governments will restrict children's online access, but how far they are willing to go.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer framed the UK policy as an uncompromising stance to "give kids their childhood back," stating that social media is "making children unhappy" and enabling bullying and harassment. The government's decision was backed by overwhelming public support: a national consultation received over 116,000 responses, with 90% of parents backing a ban for under-16s.



UAE President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan



The ban will apply to major user-to-user platforms, including TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, X, and YouTube. However, messaging apps such as WhatsApp and Signal are exempt, same as YouTube Kids and online gaming platforms like Roblox.

Notably, the UK is going further than a simple blanket ban. For 16- and 17-year-olds, harmful features such as livestreaming and the ability for strangers to contact them will be switched off by default. The government is also consulting on "infinite scroll" curfews for under-18s to combat addictive design.



THE UAE: A TIERED APPROACH

The UAE's Cabinet resolution takes a slightly different approach. It bans children under 15 entirely from creating or using personal accounts on social media. For those aged 15 to 16, access is permitted but with stringent safeguards. These include age-appropriate content controls, restrictions on interacting with unknown users, screen time management, and parental monitoring tools.

The regulations apply to all social media platforms operating in the UAE, requiring them to implement strict age verification mechanisms; such as digital ID and AI technology and disable accounts created by underage users. Platforms have been granted a 12-month transition period to comply.

Naturally, the tech industry has voiced significant opposition. Meta warned that a "ban risks isolating teens from online communities and information, driving them to unregulated alternatives that lack built-in protection." YouTube echoed this sentiment, arguing that blanket bans push children toward "anonymous, less-safe services."

However, governments are shifting liability onto the platforms. Enforcement will target tech companies with heavy fines, rather than criminalizing children. The UK and UAE are adopting a similar enforcement model to Australia,

where the eSafety Commissioner has already ordered the closure of millions of underage accounts. Australia's experience shows that while compliance isn't perfect, over 60% of some surveyed teens still retained access; the bans significantly reduce account ownership.

As the UK moves toward spring 2027 and the UAE begins its transition period, the world is watching. These nations are effectively serving as a regulatory lab, testing whether legislation can truly build a digital dike against the tide of social media's influence on youth.



Starmmer's **Tearful** Goodbye After 700 Days

World of Politics

By Zvakwana Nomore Sweto

In a dramatic turn of events on June 22, 2026, UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer announced his resignation, ending a turbulent premiership that lasted less than two years.

In an emotional speech outside 10 Downing Street, a tearful Starmer choked up as he confirmed he would step down as leader of the Labour Party, making him the sixth British Prime Minister to leave office prematurely in the last decade.

Starmer's rise to power was historic. In July 2024, he led the Labour Party to a landslide victory, securing 411 of 650 parliamentary seats and ending 14 years of Conservative rule. However, the "sunlight of hope" he promised quickly faded as his government struggled to deliver on key pledges.

The prime minister's downfall was precipitated by a combination of factors: a stagnating economy, controversial policy U-turns, and a series of self-inflicted wounds. His decision to appoint Peter Mandelson as UK ambassador to the US; given Mandelson's links to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein proved particularly damaging. The controversy forced Starmer to fire Mandelson and severely undermined public trust in his judgment.

The decisive moment came when Andy Burnham, the popular Mayor of Greater Manchester, won a by-election to return to Parliament. Burnham had explicitly framed his campaign as a verdict on Starmer's leadership, and his victory removed the final obstacle to a leadership challenge.



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer

With over 100 Labour MPs reportedly calling for his resignation and senior cabinet ministers privately urging him to step aside, Starmer conceded defeat. "The question my party is asking now is whether I am best placed to lead us into the next general election," Starmer said outside Downing Street. "I have heard the answer of my parliamentary party to that question, and I accept that answer with good grace."

Starmer will remain as caretaker prime minister until his successor is chosen, with a leadership contest expected to conclude before Parliament returns from summer recess in September. Andy Burnham is the overwhelming favorite to take over, and with former rival Wes Streeting now backing him, he may face no serious challenge.

BUSINESS NEWS

SYSTEMIC FAILURE IN THE BANK'S CREDIT CARD OPERATIONS

RBC Fined \$4.25 Million Penalty



In a significant enforcement action, the Financial Consumer Agency of Canada (FCAC) levied a \$4.25 million administrative penalty against the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC) in June 2026.

The penalty addresses a systemic failure in the bank's credit card operations, highlighting the critical importance of accurate financial disclosure and the regulatory consequences of operational lapses.

An investigation revealed that between 2001 and 2024, RBC failed to properly transfer credit balances from deactivated credit card accounts to customers' new accounts. This oversight occurred in situations where cards were cancelled, often due to suspected fraud, and the outstanding credits were not moved to the replacement account.

This procedural failure resulted in two significant consumer harms:

- **Inaccurate Monthly Statements:** Over 227,947 accounts received statements containing erroneous information regarding credited or charged amounts.
- **Incurred Charges:** Some customers were subject to additional charges due to the reporting errors.

RBC took a proactive approach following the discovery of the issue. According to Nathaniel Wallace, a spokesperson for RBC, the bank self-reported the matter to the FCAC and cooperated fully throughout the regulatory process. This transparency is a key factor in the resolution of such cases.

In addition to this, the bank has already taken significant steps to compensate affected customers:

- **Customer Refunds:** RBC issued over \$22.4 million in transfers and refunds directly to impacted accounts.
- **Charitable Donation:** For customers who could not be located or identified, the bank made a charitable donation of \$299,000



According to FCAC, the root cause of the violation was "inadequate and ineffective control and oversight procedures and operational challenges with processes and proper reporting." The penalty serves as a reminder of the regulator's focus on ensuring banks maintain robust internal controls to prevent consumer harm.

In conclusion, the \$4.25 million penalty against RBC underscores a foundational principle of the Bank Act: "For consumers to make informed financial decisions, they must be provided information that is accurate." While the bank's voluntary self-reporting and extensive remediation efforts are noted, this case illustrates the substantial operational and reputational risks associated with failing to maintain accurate financial disclosures for consumers.

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Celebrating Death Over Life

• The Grand Funeral Paradox

In this month's edition, we have decided to take a paradigm shift and talk about one of the most uncomfortable conversations that people find difficult to discuss. It is a topic that if people were to be honest with themselves, it really needs to be part of daily conversations.

I have heard people bragging about how expensive their funeral policy is, its benefits, the amount of the casket on their plan, grocery allowances, and the list goes on. This reminds me of one saying that “The day you die is most celebrated than the day you were born.”

In many African communities, the dead receive a farewell fit for royalty while the living often struggle to receive a simple “thank you.”

When someone dies, villages come alive. Roads fill with mourners. Tents rise from dusty fields. Livestock is slaughtered. Choirs sing. Speeches flow. Families spend fortunes they do not have. Tributes pour in from people who may not have called, visited, or supported the deceased in years.

But here is an interesting fact, when that same person was alive; fighting illness, pursuing a dream, teaching children, raising a family, or serving their community, the applause was often muted.



This is one of Africa's most enduring contradictions: we honor death with extraordinary passion while too often overlooking life.

For centuries, African societies have viewed death not as an ending but as a transition. The departed are believed to journey into the ancestral realm, remaining connected to the living. A proper funeral is therefore more than a ceremony; it is a sacred obligation.

Across the continent, burial rituals are designed to ensure that the deceased rests peacefully, joins the ancestors with dignity, and continues to watch over future generations.



These beliefs gave birth to some of the world's most elaborate funeral traditions. In many communities, funerals are larger than weddings, birthdays, graduations, and retirement celebrations combined. Families may spend months planning and saving for a burial. Attendance is considered a moral duty. A grand send-off is seen as the highest expression of love and respect.

There is beauty in this tradition. Funerals bring communities together. They remind us that no one grieves alone. They celebrate family, culture, and continuity.

Have you ever been added to a WhatsApp family group where they discuss tombstone after tombstone, and only active when there is a funeral? People are willing to contribute money towards purchase of the most beautiful tombstone available.

But somewhere along the way, the balance shifted. Today, many people are willing to spend more honoring the dead than supporting the living.

The irony is impossible to ignore. The teacher who shaped generations receives little recognition until the funeral speeches begin. The artist struggles in obscurity until death transforms them into a legend. The elderly parent who pleaded for medicine and companionship receives flowers, praise, and expensive ceremonies only after their final breath.

Across the continent, families take loans, sell land, and exhaust life savings to finance “befitting burials.” In some communities, funerals have become displays of social status, where grief competes with prestige and where the measure of love is reflected in the size of the tent, the number of cattle slaughtered, or the length of the guest list.



They even hire the most expensive décor, PA system, and just recently there is what they call professional mourners (people who hired to mourn on behalf of those with status and would like to maintain that under any circumstances).

Meanwhile, the living continue to struggle. We rename streets after heroes who died neglected. We erect statues to visionaries whose ideas were ignored. We celebrate pioneers only after they are gone.

History is full of such examples. Great men and women who challenged systems, served communities, educated generations, protected nations, and built institutions often received resistance, neglect, or indifference while alive. Yet after death, they are remembered as icons. Their portraits hang on walls. Their names appear on buildings. Their stories are taught to future generations.

The question is not whether they deserve honor. The question is why that honor arrives so late. The cost of this culture extends beyond emotion. It is **financial**.

Across Africa, families frequently emerge from funerals burdened by debt. Money that could have paid school fees, covered medical treatment, started businesses, improved livelihoods, or secured dignified care for aging parents is consumed in a single weekend of remembrance. The deceased cannot benefit from these sacrifices

The living bear the consequences.

But the greatest cost may be moral. What message do we send when appreciation arrives only at the graveside?

What does it say about us when eulogies overflow with praise that was never spoken face to face? What kind of society teaches its people that they will be valued more in death than in life?

A society flourishes when it nurtures the living. Recognition fuels purpose. Gratitude strengthens relationships. Encouragement inspires greatness. People who feel valued while they are alive are more likely to continue serving, creating, teaching, mentoring, and leading.

Africa does not need to abandon its funeral traditions. Our reverence for ancestors is part of who we are. What we need is balance.

Celebrate birthdays with the same enthusiasm as memorials. Honor teachers before retirement, not after death. Recognize caregivers, farmers, artists, entrepreneurs, community builders, and change makers while they can still hear the applause.

Invest in healthcare before funeral expenses. Give support before condolences. Give recognition before tributes. Give flowers while they can still be smelled.

Africa's future will not be built in cemeteries. It will be built through people who feel seen, valued, encouraged, and appreciated today.

Religion teaches us the dead deserve respect. But so do our mothers, fathers, teachers, neighbours, colleagues, journalists, and heroes who are still among us. Because true legacy is not measured by the size of a funeral procession, the cost of a casket, or the grandeur of a memorial.

It is measured by the lives we uplifted, the gratitude we expressed, the love we shared, and the dignity we afforded one another while there was still time.

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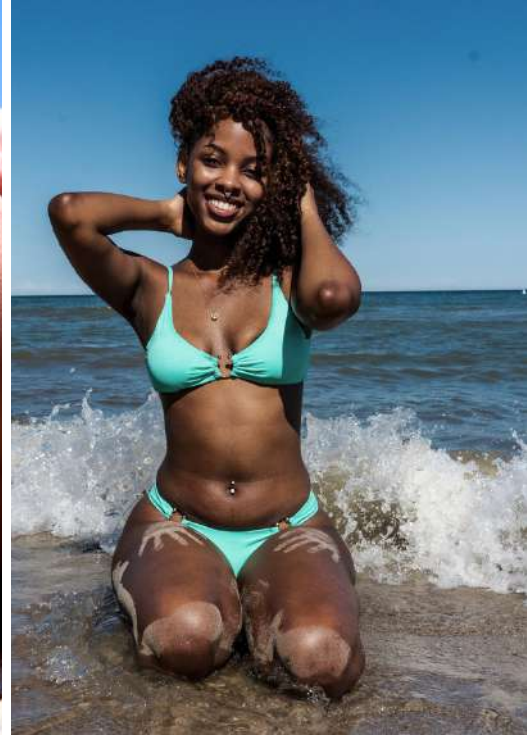
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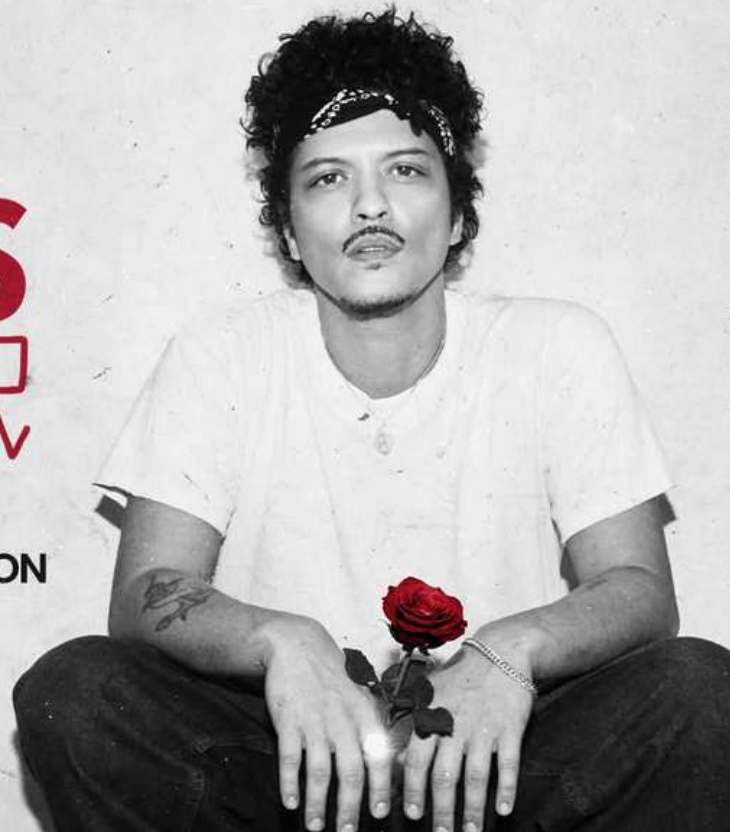
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Nashie Zim has set October as the month for the release of his long awaited album. The 'man-of-the-moment' broke the news through his official social media handles. the artist is known for his captivating lyrics with deep meaning for those in love and his music has no age gap. He tries to balance the youthful at heart and adults who have survived the test of time, with lyrics that conjure those romantic moments.

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FAMBOCIDE ENTERTAINMENT'S *EEMOH* TOUR HITS CANADA

By Zvakwana Nomore Sweto

Fambocide Entertainment is making a serious statement with the launch of Eemoh tour in North America, bringing a fresh surge of energy and talent.

This is a showcase of the next big names in music, and it promises to be an unforgettable experience for fans of high-energy beats and groundbreaking performances.

Speaking on behalf of Fambocide Entertainment, Washington (Dj Fambo) Ruzvidzo said, "We had to move the tour to these new dates because of some logistic challenges which were beyond our control."

"We assure our fans that this is going to be a day to remember, to celebrate. So come in large numbers, bring your families and friends."

The tour is set to hit four major Canadian cities, kicking off in July: Edmonton: July 17, Toronto: July 18, Vancouver: July 24, and Montreal: July 25.

This schedule marks a significant moment for Fambocide Entertainment, which has been steadily building its reputation with major events across the globe.

In a move that demonstrates their commitment to quality and adaptability, the organizers have made a crucial change to the tour's itinerary. To ensure the show could go on without a hitch, the Edmonton date was moved to Friday, July 17, to avoid conflicts with other events scheduled for the initial dates of the show.

This decision highlights Fambocide Entertainment's dedication to providing an unparalleled experience, free from logistical distractions.

Another representative from Fambocide Entertainment explained that the change was essential to keeping the focus on the music: "We



wanted to make sure that when we bring the Eemoh show to Edmonton, nothing gets in the way of the vibe. Moving the date means our fans get the full experience we've been planning, without any of the chaos."

This impressive line-up as shown on the poster reflects the artist roster that Fambocide Entertainment and their partners have frequently championed.

SONIC ARCHAEOLOGIST



Preserving a Story for Generations

ONE MAN'S QUEST TO PRESERVE

the World's Soundtrack

CANADA:

FEATURES

By Zvakwana Nomore Sweto

They say when a journalist walks, he/she smells news, eats news, breathes news, and most importantly, sees news. Such was the case of yours truly. Driving around the city, I spotted this guy holding a beautiful vintage vinyl player.

I didn't hesitate but had to call my shot. "Hi bro, what's up with the vinyl player?" I asked.

He replied, "I need to get it fixed. I use it to sample my music collection when I'm relaxed at home." We chatted as men until I got the special invite to tour his Media collection space. Booked my appointment and on Saturday at noon I arrived at the archivist's haven. Even the heavy rain could not stop me.

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In a climate-controlled basement, the air smells sweet, ready to welcome the guest. Thousands of spines; some jewel-cased, some sleeved cardboard, line floor-to-ceiling shelves. This is not a library. It is the sanctuary of Sean Osborne, a sonic archaeologist.

To call Sean a "collector" is like calling the ocean a "puddle." He is an archivist of human emotion, a curator of cultural crossfire, and possibly the only person in Alberta, Canada who owns a pristine pressing of a 1974 Zimbabwean chimurenga mbira record and a whole lot of African music that dates back to the 70s.

Sean has traditional music from across most countries in the world, even the unexpected UNESCO Vinyl recordings that unifies major African countries through culture, music, and tradition.

His collection is a geographical fever dream: US blues, Australian pub rock, Afrobeat from Lagos, K-pop from Seoul, signed copies from the world's musicians, and Italian film scores from the 1960s. The shelves are organized by genre or artist, by decade and continent, a cartography of sound that spans over 10,000 physical pieces.

What excites me most was his knowledge of the records and music he holds. He knows the artist's bio, their hits, background and more.

The collection isn't just digital files on a hard drive. It is tangible history.



Sean Osborne: The man behind all this collection that costs a fortune

ABOUT SEAN

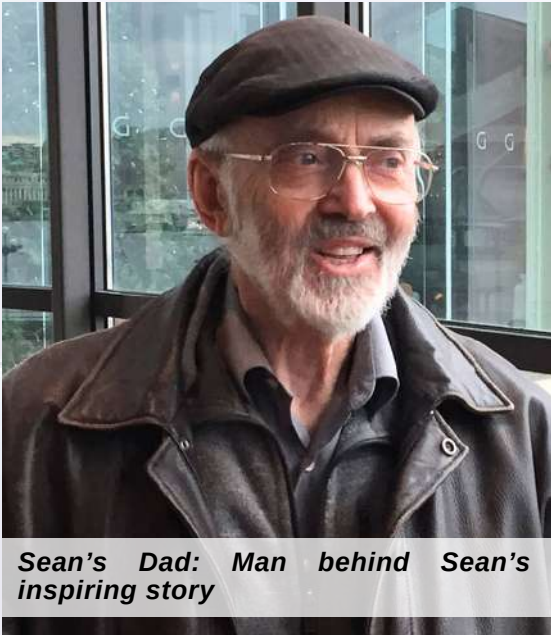
Sean grew up in Edmonton, did his junior and high school in the same city. He went to University of Alberta, where he studied French and Theatre and received a teaching degree and later pursued his studies and did a Masters Degree in Educational Psychology.

"I kicked off my career at CBC radio in the early nineties and then ended up moving to Los Angeles where I worked in radio and did some acting for about 15 years. Because of my passion for music, I ended up working in broadcasting for most of my career, mainly radio and some music licensing. To show that music flows in his veins, Sean has also worked as a music consultant with several radio stations in Canada and the United States.

They say, 'home is best', Sean returned to Edmonton after several years to be closer to his family, and to restart a life in Canada.

"Since childhood, I've always been enormously passionate about music, and it's been fun to use and share that passion throughout my career," Sean said, handing me a copy of an Original Mbira music from Zimbabwe then Rhodesia, recorded in 1976.





Sean's Dad: Man behind Sean's inspiring story

Sean is aware that his collection is a fire hazard, a fortune, and a folly all at once. He jokes that if the house burns down, the insurance adjuster will quit on the spot.

"People ask why I keep tapes," Sean says, carefully sliding a Burundi traditional music vinyl out of its case. "They degrade. They warp. But so do we. That hiss? That's the sound of imperfection. That's the sound of real."

The seed for this obsession was planted way back when he was just six years old. He drew his inspiration from his dad. His dad would bring home a cardboard box filled with cassettes from all corners of the world: Congolese rumba from Antwerp, reggae from Kingston, and a bootleg live recording of a Sydney punk band.



"He'd put on that tape, and the room would transform," Sean recalls, his voice softening. "He'd say, 'Close your eyes, son. Tell me where you are.' I'd hear the steel drums and say 'Kingston.' He'd smile and say, 'No, that's from a street fair in Liverpool, but the feeling is Trinidadian."

That game became Sean's lifelong compass and his mission continues: to trace the DNA of global music as it mutates, migrates, and merges.

THE UNKNOWN ARCHIVIST:

SEAN IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT I WOULD CALL THE TRANSITION DETECTIVE

Sean isn't just hoarding plastic; he's mapping evolution. He can show you how the funk of 1970s Lagos directly influenced the disco that hit New York in 1979. He'll play you an Australian didgeridoo track from '72, then skip to a 1994 trip-hop album from Bristol to show you the shared rhythmic DNA.

"Listen to the space," he says, cueing up a 1973 Ghanaian highlife track on his vintage automatic turntable. "Now listen to a 1983 American pop record. The production got tighter, the reverb dried up, the bass went synthetic. That's not just tech, that's the world getting faster. Music tells you how humans were feeling in that moment."



DRUMS FROM AFRICA

MUSIC COLLECTION

MOVIES/GAMES

Do you keep all this stuff for streaming? I asked.

"Streaming gives you everything, but it gives you nothing," he argues. "You don't own it. You can't hold it. You can't smell the cigarette smoke from the 1978 studio where that jazz record was cut. I want people to know that music isn't content. It's a vessel."

SEAN'S COLLECTION

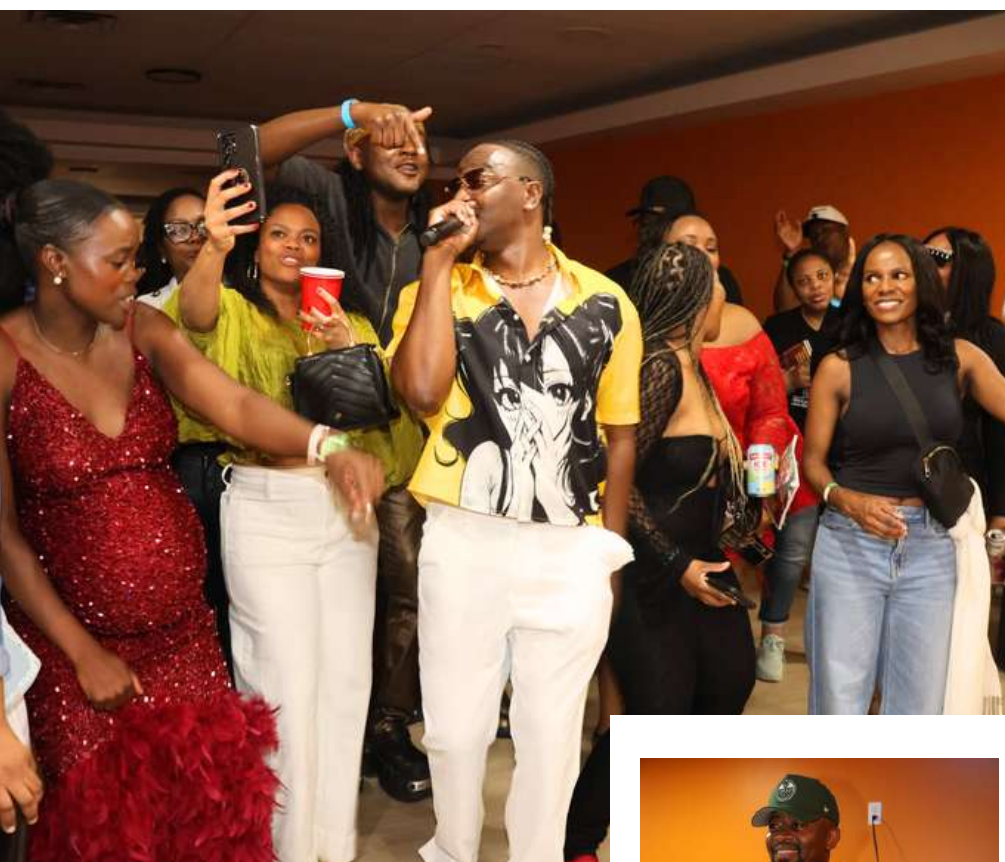
- Vinyls
- Compact Discs: The 1980s and 90s gems, many of which are out-of-print but his copies still intact.
- DVDs: Concert films and obscure music documentaries
- Tapes
- Games
- Video Tapes
- Blue Ray Discs

Zim Connect Inaugural Show Exceeds Expectations

By Zvakwana Nomore Sweto

Edmonton, Canada - The wait was worth every second. On the sweltering evening of June 27th, the city of Edmonton became the unlikely epicenter of Zimbabwean musical excellence as Zim Connect launched its very first Canadian showcase.

For months, hype had been building across social media, but when the lights dimmed at the venue, it became clear that this wasn't just another diaspora party, it was a historic cultural milestone that lived up to every ounce of its billing.



Julian King performing with the sing-along crowd

Expressing their heartfelt gratitude, Fantan Canada and Mogul Boss stated: "We are overwhelmed by the love and support from the people of Edmonton. For our inaugural show to be this well attended and received is beyond our wildest expectations. Thank you to every single person who came out to support us. This is just the beginning, Zim Connect series is here to stay!"

The night belonged to a triumvirate of talent that left the crowd breathless. Ngwali kicked off the main performances with a set that was both electrifying and deeply soulful. Taking the stage with an aura of quiet confidence, Ngwali delivered a set that blurred the lines between poetry and music.



Mogul Boss



Fantan Canada enjoying the show with his wife.

Her lyrical dexterity and hypnotic stage presence created an atmosphere of pure euphoria. It was a performance that reminded everyone in attendance why Zimbabwean music remains a unique and powerful force on the global stage.



Ngwali performing on stage

Next up was Nashie Zim who provided the evening's most transcendent moment. His vocal agility navigated the complex rhythms of Afro-fusion with ease, transforming the hall into a sing-along sanctuary. He wasn't just performing; he was communing, and the audience responded.

Speaking to Carol Tembo (our Podcast hostess), Nashie Zim said, "They showed me love all the way but I have some good news. I am working on something special with Julian King and I promise our fans that this project is coming to you soon and will keep you posted on our socials."



Julian King showing some dance moves

However, it was Julian King, the Zimbabwean-born, USA-based powerhouse. The 'Ndiri MuZimba' hitmaker proved exactly why he has become a transcontinental sensation. Bridging the gap between the old school and the new wave, his performance was a masterclass in showmanship.

"The love and support I got from the people of Canada is out of this world. It's pure love from passionate fans. As Nashie said, we are here to preach unity and that unity can only be shown through a collaboration. It's coming soon." – Julian King.

From high-energy dance tracks that had the crowd jumping, he demonstrated that his Stateside success has only sharpened his edge. He brought a piece of home to Canada, and Edmonton embraced him with open arms.

While the music was the main course, the comedy was the perfect seasoning. The dynamic MC duo of Zuva Urban Tete and MC Bonde, were the undisputed kings of the intermissions. Their chemistry was palpable as they kept the energy from dipping, weaving juicy jokes and sharp-witted banter that had the audience in stitches. They didn't just introduce the artists; they curated the vibe, ensuring the crowd was primed and ready for every act.

The evening was also a star-studded affair. Among the VIPs soaking in the atmosphere.



Nashie Zim performing

were notable personalities like Zeb Tsikira and Munya Vialy, whose presence added an extra layer of glamour and industry credibility to the proceedings. Their visible enjoyment of the show underscored the high caliber of the production.



Zuva Urban Tete alongside MC Bonde



Munya Vialy



MC Bonde & DJ Vinny One

The night proved that Zimbabwean culture, talent, and community are thriving in the Canadian West. If the 27th of June was the opening chapter, then Edmonton is set to become a regular pilgrimage site for the best sounds the diaspora has to offer.

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- First to score in 6 World Cups
- Portugal's all-time World Cup top scorer
- Oldest to score multiple goals
- Oldest outfield starter

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HISTORY MADE IN 25 MINUTES!: Ousmane Dembélé has just scored the second-fastest hat-trick in World Cup history:

- 24' – Probst (1954)
- 25' – Dembélé (2026)
- 35' – Lineker (1986)

MESSI

At 39, he is not just breaking records, he is the engine of his Argentina team.

- Most World Cup appearances (28 appearance)
- Most minutes played: 2,489 minutes played so far
- Oldest hat-trick scorer



PLAYERS TO LOOK *out for this World Cup*



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JOSH SKRNTS | JP (WORLD DANCER) | JUNGLE Cakes TAKEOVER FEAT. CO. SOUL | KICKLINE | MONY PAGE | NAVIGATOR | N
KALA FOM | KING TUBBY'S SOUND SYSTEM | LEADIN' BY REDDZ | LUAM HENALPHAN | LIMPALISA | LITTLE LION SOUND | M
MARK RYTER | MC CHAMBE | MASTER BOUNCE | MINDS IN FI FEAT. CHARLIE P. | NADINE SUTHERLAND | ONDA HE
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RUBEN KANA | SALON SOUND | SCIENTIST | SEAM & | SHABBA PARTY PRESENTS | JANELLE WYNT
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EDMONTON'S SUMMER OF SOCCER

JUNE 11 - JULY 19
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JULY 1
CANADA CELEBRATES

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GMC HUMMER EV



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GMC SIERRA EV



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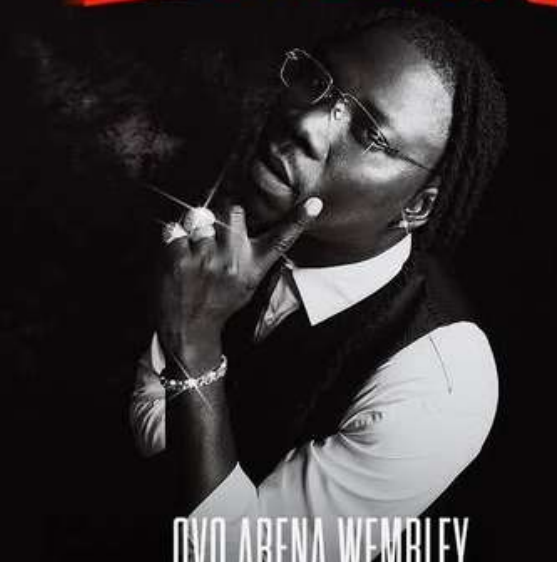
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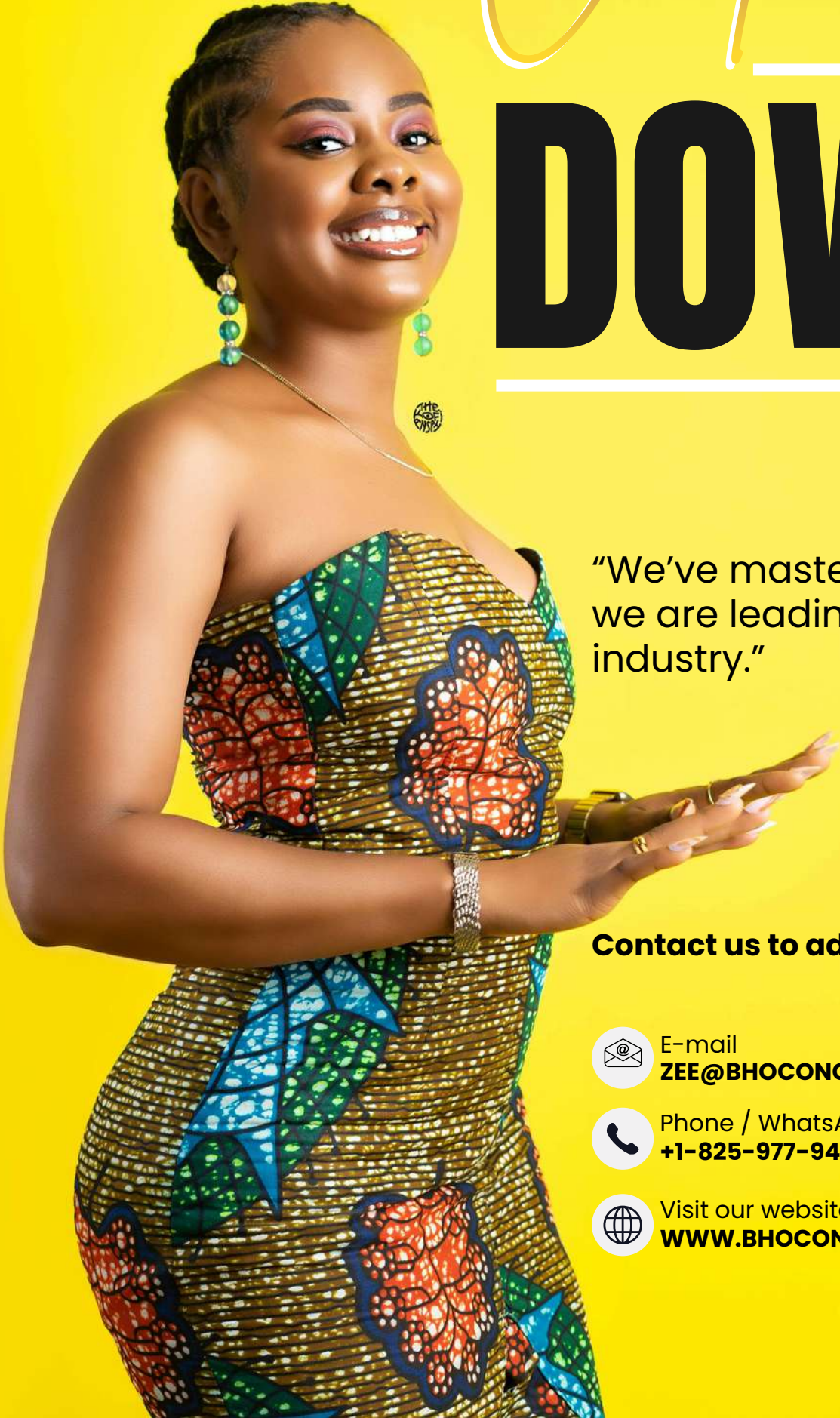


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