

Issue No. 12 – Sept. 2026

AFRI- CAN MAGAZINE



It is easier to hand a child a tablet than to have a conversation about the future.

EXCLUSIVE **BEDROOM TALK**

Before moving to erogenous zones, spend at least three minutes on non-sexual touch.....



POLITICS. ENTERTAINMENT. BUSINESS. FASHION. SPORTS

HAPPY



TO US

@

AFRI-CAN MAGAZINE

It's been a year and we are still rockin'we have remained consistent, committed, and steadfast in our conduct maintaining professionalism all the way.



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I'm also into post-harvest, handling, and processing.





HEY, WE MADE IT *1 year*

From the Editor's Desk: A Toast to One Year of Unwavering Service

Dear cherished readers and believers in the Afri-CAN vision,

N Exactly 365 days ago, we took a leap of faith. We set out not just to publish a magazine, but to build a movement, one that would amplify African voices, celebrate our resilience, and tell our stories with the dignity and depth they deserve. Today, as I pen this note, my heart is heavier than usual; not with fatigue, but with overwhelming gratitude.

We made it. Twelve months. Fifty-two weeks of relentless deadlines. Countless cups of coffee and Pepsi. And one unshakable commitment: CONSISTENCY.

But let me be crystal clear, this milestone is not ours alone. It is yours. Every time you turned a page, shared an article, left a comment, or simply told a friend about us, you breathed life into our mission. You transformed our dream from a fragile seedling into a sturdy Baobab. In an era of fleeting attention



spans, you chose to invest your time in us and for that, we cannot thank you enough.

Let me pull back the curtain for a moment. This past year was not a smooth sail. There were weeks when resources ran thin, when technical glitches threatened to derail us, and when the pressure to deliver "perfect" news felt suffocating. But every single time we stumbled, we remembered you. We remembered why we started: to serve a people hungry for truth, nuance, and hope.

Your messages of encouragement pulled us through. Your constructive criticisms sharpened us. Your loyalty held us accountable. You deman-

-ded excellence, and we rose to meet that bar, not because we had to, but because you deserve nothing less.

A New Chapter: Introducing "The Unrevealed Truth Podcast"

Growth is not just a buzzword for us; it is our operating system. We believe that to truly serve, we must constantly evolve. So, while we celebrate our first lap around the sun, we are also sprinting into the future with a brand-new offering.

We are thrilled beyond words to announce the launch of our very own podcast: The Unrevealed Truth. This is not just an audio extension of our magazine. It is a deeper dive. A raw, unfiltered space where we go beyond the headlines and sit down with the changemakers,

the unsung heroes, and the everyday people whose stories never make the front page. We will unpack the complexities, challenge the narratives, and sit with the uncomfortable questions that demand honest answers.

The podcast is our gift to you; a testament that our commitment to storytelling knows no medium. You can find it on all major streaming platforms starting this week. We cannot wait to accompany you during your commutes, your morning jogs, or your quiet evenings at home.

Furthermore, let me make this unequivocally clear: We are here to stay.

This is not a one-year sprint. This is a lifetime marathon. We will not waiver. We will not dilute our standards. And we will never forget that our primary duty is to you the multitudes who trust us to deliver news. News that is factual, fair, and fear-

-less. News that empowers, educates, and elevates.

The next year will bring new challenges, but also new victories. We will expand our reach, deepen our investigative roots, and continue to shine the spotlight on the newsmakers.

To our writers, designers, fact-checkers, and everyone behind the scenes; thank you for bleeding ink and sweat for this vision. To our advertisers and partners, thank you for believing

in our commercial and editorial integrity. And to you, our beloved reader, thank you for making Afri-CAN Magazine a household name.

This is just the beginning. The ink is still wet, the microphone is still hot, and our passion is still blazing.

Keep reading. Keep listening. Keep believing.

The Editorial Team
Afri-CAN Magazine



CONSISTENCY

FROM THE FIRST EDITION



"In the end, hard work is really the accumulation of easy things you didn't do when you should have. It's like diet and exercise. Everyone wants to be thin, but no one wants to make the right choices to get there. It's hard work when you've neither eaten right now nor exercised day after day. However, if you make small right choices each day, day after day, you see results." — **John C. Maxwell from his book, "The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth"**

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6 SEPTEMBRE 2026

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BOLLYWOOD 101

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FT. VALEDORA

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NOIR, OTTAWA

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2026
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Factor Canada

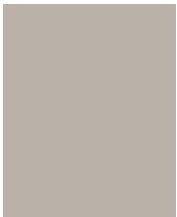
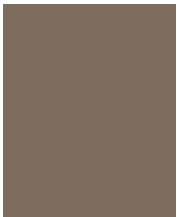
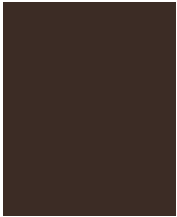
HOME

INTERIOR DESIGN



CONCEPT
FURNITURE
DETAILS





Mood Board

The Art of Modern Home Interior Design

Cathrine Williams - Interior Designer

In today's fast-paced world, our homes have become sanctuaries, places where we recharge, connect, and find clarity. Modern interior design, at its core, champions this very idea: it strips away the unnecessary and celebrates the essentials. But far from being cold or sterile, today's modern aesthetic is warm, inviting, and deeply personal.



Neutral tones, creamy whites, warm beiges, soft greys, and earthy taupes; form the backbone of modern interiors. These hues provide a serene backdrop, allowing textures and materials to shine.

The hallmark of modern design is its commitment to clean, uncluttered lines. Think of floor-to-ceiling windows that flood rooms with natural light, open-plan layouts that encourage fluid movement, and furniture with sleek, tapered legs that create a sense of airiness. Gone are the days of heavy drapery and ornate carvings; instead, the mantra is "less is more," but with a soulful twist.

However, contemporary design isn't afraid of a dramatic pop. A charcoal accent wall, a bold piece of abstract art, or a single vibrant armchair can inject personality without overwhelming the senses.

Where minimalism can sometimes feel flat, modern design thrives on tactile richness. Imagine running your

—hand over a linen-upholstered sofa, a chunky wool rug underfoot, or the cool, polished surface of a marble coffee table. Designers are masterfully blending natural materials; wood, stone, rattan, and leather with industrial elements like metal and glass. This contrast creates visual interest and a welcoming, layered feel.

Every piece in a modern home serves a purpose, yet it must also be beautiful. Multi-functional furniture is a star player: storage cabinets, extendable dining tables, and shelving that doubles as room dividers. The goal is a space that works for you, not against you. Smart-home technology, from automated lighting to hidden charging stations, is seamlessly integrated so it enhances life without cluttering the eye.



Biophilic design: the practice of connecting interior spaces with nature tends to be a defining trend. Large windows frame garden views, indoor plants purify the air and add life, and organic shapes (curved sofas, oval mirrors) soften the geometry of the room. This connection to nature reduces stress and makes a house feel like a true home.

Ultimately, modern interior design is not a rigid rulebook; it's a flexible philosophy. It's about curating spaces that reflect your lifestyle, highlight your favorite possessions, and give you room to breathe. Start by editing out what doesn't serve you, invest in quality over quantity, and don't forget to add a touch of your own story, whether through family photos, travel souvenirs, or a beloved collection.

In a world that never stops, your home should be your pause. Modern design offers the blueprint, now go ahead and make it yours.

Bedroom TALK

Staff Writer

Why Romance Must Come Before the Act

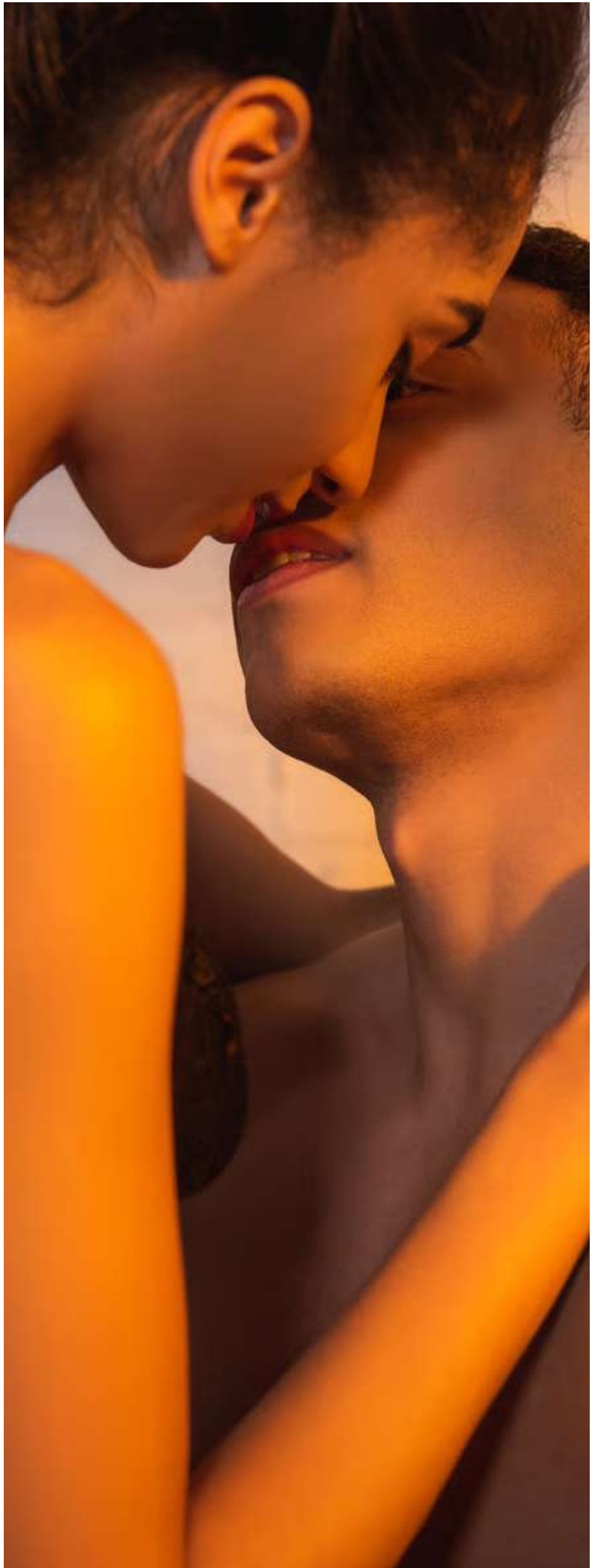
In a world of swipe-right culture, 10-second reels, and instant gratification, even marital intimacy has fallen victim to the "rush." Many couples, especially those juggling careers, kids, and endless to-do lists, treat physical intimacy like a scheduled appointment: efficient, functional, and over before the credits roll.

But here is the quiet tragedy of that approach: when you rush the body, you starve the soul.

For married couples, sex was never meant to be just a biological release. It was designed as the ultimate language of "you are safe with me." And that language loses all its vocabulary when romance is treated as an optional prelude rather than the very foundation.

Bottom line, You Need Sex but the ultimate truth is, Romance Is Not a Warm-Up; It Is the Main Event. We have been sold a cultural lie that **romance is the "foreplay" and sex is the "main act."** In truth, romance is the main act, sex is simply its crescendo.

Romance begins long before the bedroom door closes. It begins with the morning text that says, "I'm thinking of you." It lives in the hand that rests on a lower back while washing



-dishes. It breathes in the eye contact that lingers two seconds too long during a mundane conversation.

When couples rush straight to the physical without this emotional architecture, they are not making love, they are using each other's bodies to scratch an itch. And an itch, no matter how satisfyingly scratched, never deepens a marriage.

Science backs this up. When a couple engages in extended romantic connection; talking, touching, gazing, whispering, the brain releases a cocktail of oxytocin, dopamine, and vasopressin. These are the "bonding chemicals" that literally rewire your neural pathways to associate your spouse with safety, pleasure, and home.

But oxytocin only spikes when there is trust and presence. If you rush, your brain stays in a sympathetic (fight-or-flight) state. You may climax, but you won't connect. The difference is the same as eating a gourmet meal in five seconds versus savouring it by candlelight...both fill your stomach, but only one feeds your soul.



.....What Rushing Really Says

When one partner consistently rushes intimacy, the other hears an unspoken message: "I don't have time for your heart. I only want your body."

Over months and years, that message calcifies into resentment. The slower partner begins to feel like a prop, not a person. They may comply out of duty, but inside, they are withdrawing. And withdrawal in the bedroom is the first thing that leads to emotional divorce, long before legal papers are ever filed.

How to Prioritize Romance Over Rush

Start outside the bedroom: Flirt without expectation. Compliment her/his character, not just their appearance. Thank him for his provision, not just his physique. Build a week of micro-connections, and the weekend will take care of itself.

Use the "Three-Touch Rule": Before moving to erogenous zones, spend at least three minutes on non-sexual touch, holding hands, stroking hair, rubbing shoulders. This resets the nervous system and signals safety.

Breathe together: Before anything escalates, take few deep, synchronized breaths. This simple act aligns your heart rates and pulls you both into the present moment, the only place where true intimacy lives.

af Alliance Française de Delhi

TCF CANADA

SEPTEMBER 2026

EXAM NOTICE

EXAM DATES

1. **23TH SEPTEMBER 2026**
2. **30TH SEPTEMBER 2026**

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Speak aloud what you feel: Example....Say, "I love your soul," before you say, "I want your body." Words of adoration are the kindling that makes the fire burn longer and warmer.

Couples who make romance their priority report not just better sex, but more of it because desire is no longer a chore; it becomes a natural overflow of daily affection. They fight less, forgive faster, and parent more patiently. Their children grow up witnessing what love looks like not as a performance, but as a gentle, patient rhythm.

Most beautifully, when romance comes first, sex becomes what it was always meant to be: a renewal of vows, spoken not with words, but with skin.

.....A Gentle Challenge

To every married couple reading this: this week, refuse the rush. Resist the urge to treat intimacy like a box to check. Instead, court your spouse like you did when you were dating, when every text, every glance, every accidental brush of hands felt electric.

That electricity never died. It just got buried under efficiency. Dig it back up. Not because you need better sex, but because your marriage deserves better love. And love, real love, has never once been in a hurry.

The TRIBE SYMPOSIUM

Change-Makers in Action

Speakers:

- Rosemary Sadleir, Former President, Ontario Black History Society (OBHS)
- Mayowa Ajibodu, Founder and President, Young Canadian Change-Maker Association
- Hilary Kemajou, Executive Director, Union Des Jeunes Leaders Francophones
- Lauren Mantha, Online Fitness Coach & Founder, A Running Life
- Julian Compton, Founder, Move For Change and Real Estate Entrepreneur
- Shanice Harris, Women's Health Coordinator

Panelists:

- Kwasi Adu-Poku, Rosemary Sadleir
- Emily Morgan, Regional Vice-president, Women's Liberal Commission
- West Estienne, Founder, Black Work an Excellence
- Maryam Danagege, Founder, Hustle House PR & Heritage Magazine

26TH OF SEPTEMBER 2026

Morning Session: 10:00am - 3:00pm
Award/Gala: 5:00pm - 9:00pm

Emerald Banquet Hall
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Powered by: **TheVoices** Young Canadian Change-Maker Association

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VISIT CANADA

WHERE NATURE PAINTS MASTERPIECES

From the rugged Atlantic coast to the misty Pacific shores, Canada is a land of jaw-dropping diversity. Whether you crave mountain vistas, urban energy, or serene lakes, this country has a corner that will steal your heart.

Banff National Park, Alberta: Turquoise glacial lakes, towering peaks, and wildlife roaming freely. Lake Louise and Moraine Lake are postcard-perfect year-round.



Niagara Falls, Ontario: The thundering roar of millions of gallons of water is an experience you'll never forget. Take a boat tour to feel the mist on your face.



Old Quebec, Quebec: Wander cobblestone streets lined with European-style architecture, horse-drawn carriages, and charming cafés. It feels like stepping into a fairy tale.

Vancouver, British Columbia: Nestled between the ocean and mountains, this city offers seaside strolls in Stanley Park, vibrant Granville Island markets, and breathtaking views from Grouse Mountain.



Prince Edward Island: Rolling green hills, red sandstone cliffs, and lighthouses dotting the coastline. It's the gentle, pastoral beauty that inspired Anne of Green Gables.

The Northern Lights, Yukon: For the ultimate bucket-list moment, head north in winter to watch the aurora borealis dance across the starry sky.

Canada isn't just a destination, it's a feeling. Vast, welcoming, and endlessly beautiful. Pack your bags and come see it for yourself.



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BOOK & PODCAST LAUNCH

Get ready for an unforgettable evening as Afri-CAN Magazine presents a spectacular, never-seen-before, Book & Podcast Launch coupled with Birthday Celebrations on Saturday, September 26, 2026.

The highly anticipated event kicks off at 1600HRS (4:00 PM) and continues till late, promising a vibrant celebration of creativity, community, and culture.

This event is more than just a launch; it's a testament to the power of sharing African, Canadian, and diaspora stories. The founder and vision bearer of this whole project, Zvakwana Nomore Sweto shared his heartfelt motivation behind this initiative:

"Afri-CAN Magazine was born from a deep desire to tell the untold stories of our community. We wanted to create a platform that celebrates our successes, amplifies our voices, and connects us through the power of narrative. This launch is a dream come true, and we invite everyone to be part of this beautiful journey with us."

This is a FREE EVENT, making it the perfect opportunity to connect with creators, thought leaders, and the community. While entry is free, delicious Food and Beverages will be available for purchase to keep your energy up throughout the night.

The organizers have curated a fantastic entertainment lineup to make this launch truly memorable. Get ready to move to the beats with DJ Vinny One, who will be spinning the hottest tracks to keep the dance floor alive. Edmonton Afro Dance Group will also deliver a high-energy performance, showcasing their incredible talent. But that's not all, a Surprise Guest Artist is also on the bill, with more entertainment acts to be announced, ensuring there's never a dull moment.



The poster features a photo of two hosts, a man and a woman, wearing headphones and speaking into microphones. A purple speech bubble with the word 'truth' is next to them. Below the photo, the text 'The Unrevealed Podcast' is written in a stylized font. The main title 'BOOK & PODCAST LAUNCH' is in large, bold, orange letters. To the right, there is an image of an open book. Below the title, there is a section titled 'Event Details' with a list of activities: 'Business Features', 'Guests Speech', 'Podcast Recording', and 'Raffle Competition (Buy Tickets Now...)'. To the right of this list are icons for a calendar, a clock, and a location pin, with corresponding text: '26 Sept 2026', '1600 Hrs - Till late', and '17738 81st Ave NW, Edmonton, Alberta - CA'. At the bottom, there is an orange banner with the text 'To Showcase / Present Your Business Please Call: Carol: 780-297-8431 Zee: 825-977-9441'. A small text at the bottom reads: 'Unleash what you've got and steal the spotlight; this is your moment to shine! Join us for an electrifying day of passion, prowess, and pure talent; your skills deserve this stage.'

WIN BIG WITH OUR RAFFLE!

What's a celebration without the chance to win amazing prizes? There will be a lot of prizes to be won, and your ticket to victory is our exciting raffle draw. Raffle tickets are available now for just \$10. This is your chance to walk away with fantastic prizes while supporting a great cause. Don't miss out, secure your tickets today and increase your chances of winning big!

Mark your calendars for September 26, 2026, and head down to the venue from 4 PM onwards. Bring your friends and family for a night of inspiration, entertainment, and community spirit. And remember to buy your raffle tickets now for just \$10....your next big win could be just a ticket away!



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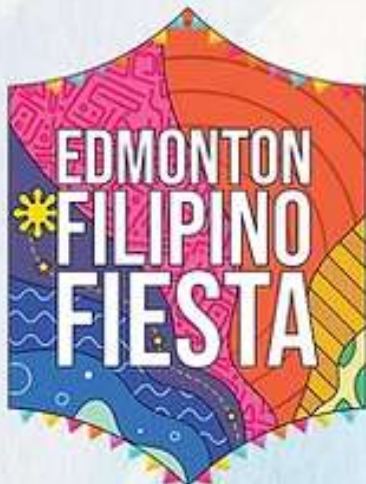
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F I E S T A

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WHY TIMING, NOT TIME, DECIDES MARRIAGE

By Zvakwana Nomore Sweto

There's a particular kind of heartbreak that doesn't just sting; it confuses. A woman invests five, six, maybe eight years into a relationship, certain that the sheer accumulation of time must mean something.

Then she watches the man who "wasn't ready" or "needed more time" meet someone new, date for a matter of months, and propose before the year is out. The math feels insulting. The timeline feels like a lie. And the question becomes unavoidable: What did she do wrong?

The honest, uncomfortable answer is usually: nothing. The reason a man (or anyone) marries a new partner quickly after leaving a long-term relationship rarely has much to do with the women involved, and almost everything to do with where the man is in his own life when he meets each of them.

We tend to treat commitment like a skill you level up through practice. Date long enough, and marriage becomes the natural next boss fight. But commitment isn't a reward for endurance. It's a decision made from a specific internal state. A man can love someone deeply for years while remaining fundamentally unready for the legal, financial, and emotional architecture of marriage. He may not even know he's unready. He just knows something feels off, or heavy, or "not yet."

-weight of that unspoken "not yet." And in the aftermath, something shifts. The breakup forces a kind of psychological accounting: What do I actually want? What am I actually afraid of? Often, the clarity arrives only after the long-term relationship is over because the relationship itself had become a comfortable buffer against ever having to answer those questions.

Enter the new partner. She doesn't benefit from better qualities or superior compatibility. She benefits from timing. She meets a man who has already done the hard internal work, however unconsciously, and is now actively looking for a reason to say yes instead of a reason to wait.

In many long-term relationships that don't lead to marriage, a subtle dynamic sets in: the woman becomes a "girlfriend" in the permanent sense, not the transitional one. The relationship works. It's warm, familiar, functional. But it never builds the momentum



of a shared future. Conversations about marriage become tense. Compromises pile up. The relationship starts to feel like a negotiation rather than a collaboration.

Then the relationship ends. Maybe he ends it. Maybe she does. Maybe it collapses under the -

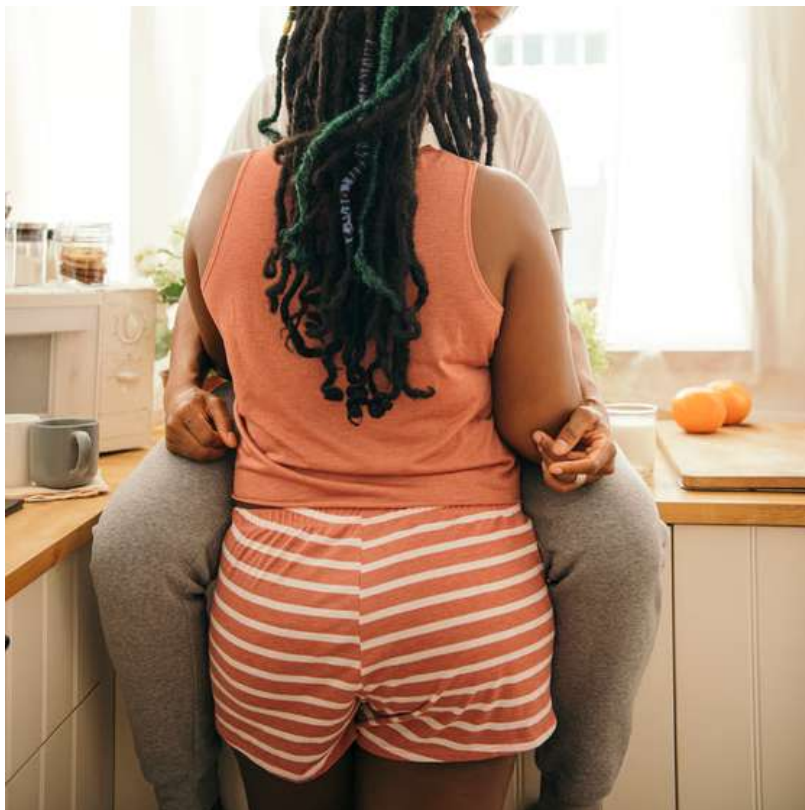
This isn't necessarily anyone's fault. Two good people can create a relationship that is genuinely loving but fundamentally stationary. He may stay for years not because he's plotting to leave, but because leaving feels like destroying something good for an abstract ideal. The inertia is emotional, not malicious.

But marriage, for most people, requires a sense of forward motion. A feeling that the relationship is going somewhere specific, not just circling a comfortable orbit. When a man meets someone new after finally accepting that his previous relationship -

-had plateaued, he often approaches the new connection with a different intentionality. He knows what stagnation feels like. He recognizes the alternative. And he moves fast because he finally knows what he wants.

There's another, less flattering truth: some men stay in long-term relationships because they're afraid of being alone, not because they're committed to the relationship. The years pass not as investment, but as avoidance. He doesn't leave because the prospect of starting over feels exhausting. He doesn't propose because he knows, on some level, that he doesn't want to promise forever.

When that relationship finally ends, often dragged out far longer than it should be the fear of being alone may still exist, but now it's competing with a newer, sharper fear: the fear of wasting his life. He's older. His friends are married. The dating pool looks different. The abstract



anxiety of "ending up alone" becomes concrete. And suddenly, the calculus changes. The new relationship doesn't need to be perfect. It just needs to be clear. Decisive. A way to stop the bleeding and prove he can still build something.

This is not romantic. But it is common. The five-year girlfriend often served as a holding pattern. The three-month wife serves as a correction.

What This Means for the Woman Left Behind

If you're the one watching this happen, the worst thing you can do is compare yourself to the new wife. She didn't win. You didn't lose. You were, in many cases, dating a different person than the one she married, not because he changed, but because his circumstances and self-knowledge changed around him.

The years you spent together were not wasted. They were real. They mattered. But they also taught you something invaluable: time alone does not secure commitment. A relationship that isn't moving toward marriage after a reasonable period isn't necessarily waiting for the right moment. Sometimes it's just waiting to end.

The healthiest response is not bitterness, but clarity. Recognize that his decision to marry quickly says less about your inadequacy and more about his own delayed reckoning with what he wants. You were not a trial run. You were a chapter. And chapters end so that stories can continue.

The Real Lesson

The real lesson isn't that men are unreliable or that short courtships are somehow superior. It's that marriage is not the graduation ceremony of a long relationship. It's the beginning of a specific kind of partnership, entered into by two people who are simultaneously ready to build the same thing.

If you're with someone who is ready, you usually know within a year or two. Not because love happens on a schedule, but because readiness creates momentum. If that momentum is abs-

-ent, if the years keep passing while the future stays vague, the relationship may be functioning as a placeholder without either of you admitting it.

The woman who is left after five years didn't fail. She stayed honest in a relationship where honesty eventually meant acknowledging a mismatch. The man who marries after three months didn't necessarily find someone better. He found someone at a better time for him.

And timing, cruel as it is, often matters more than time.



No-Churn ICE CREAM

This month as we celebrate our first anniversary, we are presenting to you the easiest, creamiest no-churn ice cream recipe and the good thing about this is, no ice cream maker required! It uses just 2 base ingredients and takes 5 minutes to prepare.

Yields: 1.5 quarts | Freeze time: 6+ hours

Ingredients (Base):

- **2 cups (480ml)** heavy whipping cream (very cold)
- **1 can (14 oz / 395g)** sweetened condensed milk
- **1 tea spoon vanilla extract** (optional, but recommended)
- **Pinch of salt** (balances the sweetness)

Instructions:

1. Whip the cream: In a large, chilled bowl, beat the heavy cream with an electric mixer on medium-high until stiff peaks form (it should look like fluffy whipped cream).

2. Mix the base: In a separate bowl, whisk together the condensed milk, vanilla, and salt.

3. Fold: Gently fold the whipped cream into the condensed milk mixture using a rubber spatula. Mix until just combined—no white streaks remain, but don't overmix or it'll deflate.

4. Freeze: Pour into a loaf pan or airtight container. Press a piece of parchment paper directly onto the surface (prevents ice crystals). Cover and freeze for at least 6 hours, or until firm.

5. Serve: Let it sit at room temperature for 5–10 minutes before scooping for the best texture.

3 Easy Flavor Twists (add these to the condensed milk mixture before folding in the cream):

- **Chocolate:** Whisk in ½ cup unsweetened cocoa powder.
- **Strawberry:** Purée 1 cup fresh strawberries + 2 tbsp sugar, and swirl it in.
- **Cookie Dough:** Fold in 1 cup of crushed Oreos or chocolate chip cookie pieces at the very end.

Pro Tip: For extra creaminess, use full-fat ingredients and don't skip the pinch of salt, it makes the sweetness pop!



BUSINESS NEWS

HOW TECHNOLOGY IS CREATING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH ACROSS MULTIPLE INDUSTRIES

The Practical Guide to Choosing a Construction ERP in the UAE



Business Trends Shaping the Future

Digital Innovation Drives Business Growth

By Atif Rehman in Dubai, UAE

Most ERP pain in UAE construction does not come from software alone. It comes from the gap between how the system is designed and how projects actually make money.

A generic ERP can usually handle accounting, purchase orders, invoices and general reporting. That is useful. But construction needs more than that.

Contractors need to manage job costing, progress billing, variations, subcontractor claims, retention, WIP, approvals, document control, payroll, compliance and cash flow by project. If the ERP cannot support that reality, teams will create workarounds. And once the workarounds begin, control starts to weaken.

In the UAE, this matters even more. The construction market remains large, complex and active, with the UAE construction market estimated at USD 127.13 billion in 2026 and forecast to reach USD 167.27 billion by 2031. Growth is expected across residential, commercial, infrastructure, energy, and utility projects, but cost pressure and

execution complexity remain real concerns. Modor Intelligence

So the question is not simply, "Which ERP should we buy?"

The better question is, "Can this system reflect the way our projects are delivered, costed, billed, changed, and controlled?"



Start with how your projects make money

ERP selection often starts in the finance department. That makes sense, but it is not enough.

In construction, finance is connected to everything happening on the project. A cost code entered late affects job costing. A variation approved outside the system affects margin. A subcontractor claim certified without proper backup affects cash flow. A delayed billing application affects collections.

Before choosing a construction ERP, contractors should map the commercial flow of the business.

How do projects generate revenue? How is progress measured? How are interim payments certified? How are variations approved? How is retention tracked? How are subcontractor claims controlled? How does leadership know whether a job is gaining or losing margin?

If the ERP cannot answer these questions clearly, it may work as accounting software, but it will struggle as a construction control system.

This is where construction-specific ERP becomes important. It should not force project teams to translate construction activity into generic finance language. It should already understand the way projects work.

Job costing should be live, not monthly

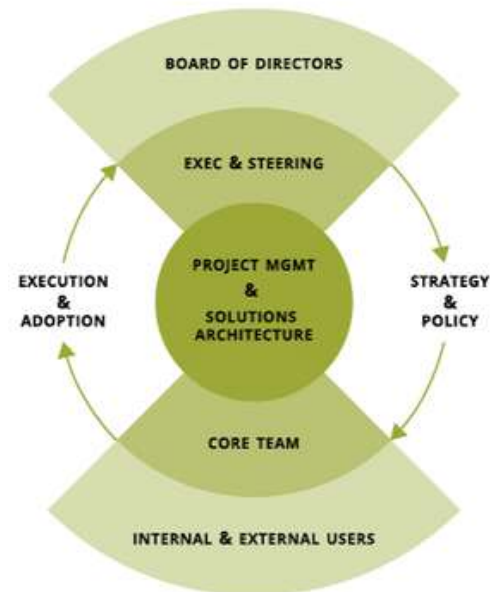
Job costing is one of the biggest areas where generic systems fall short.

Many contractors only get a clear view of project cost after the finance department closes the month. By then, the project has moved on. Labor has been posted. Materials have arrived. Subcontractors have claimed. Variations have shifted the scope. The report may be accurate, but it is late.

In construction, late accuracy is still a risk.

A strong ERP should allow costs to be captured against the job as they happen. Labor, materials, equipment, subcontractor costs, purchase orders, commitments, and expenses should all flow into the project cost structure.

This gives project managers a live view of where they stand. It also gives finance fewer surprises at the end of the month.



job costing is not treated as a separate report. It connects to commitments, AP, AR, project billing, change orders, payroll, dashboards, and financial reporting. That means the project cost position is built continuously, not reconstructed later.



Billing must be tied to progress

In the UAE, billing is rarely simple. Contractors deal with payment applications, consultant certification, retention, advances, variations, back charges, and supporting documents. Clients and consultants expect traceability. They want to see what was completed, what was approved, what is billable, and what has already been claimed.

If billing is managed separately from project progress, problems start quickly.

The site team says work is complete. Finance does not have the backup. The consultant asks for clarification. The client delays certification. Cash flow slows.

This is not only a billing issue. It is a project control issue. A construction ERP should connect billing to progress, cost codes, approvals, and documentation. The billing application should not be assembled from emails, spreadsheets, and folder searches. It should come from the same system where the project is being managed.

In construction, cash does not slow down only because work is delayed. It often slows down because the work is not shown clearly enough.

Variations should not live in Excel

Variations can decide whether a project protects margin or loses it. This is especially true in the UAE, where design changes, client instructions, authority requirements, scope clarifications, and fast track delivery are common. If variations are tracked outside the ERP, leadership gets a distorted view of the job.

The problem is not only whether the variation is approved. The real issue is how it affects cost, revenue, billing, forecast, and subcontractor exposure. A proper ERP should track the full variation lifecycle. Initial event, Cost impact, Revenue impact, Approval status, Linked documents, Budget update, Billing impact, Subcontractor impact and Forecast update.

AP and AR should feed job costing

AP and AR are often seen as back office processes. In construction, they shape project visibility. If AP invoices are posted late, job costing is late. If payments are not tied properly to project billing, cash flow visibility is weak. If supplier and subcontractor costs are not linked to the right jobs and cost codes, project managers are working with incomplete data.

This is why AP and AR should not sit apart from job costing. A construction ERP should connect supplier invoices, subcontractor claims, client billing, payments, retention, and cost codes. This gives finance and project teams a shared view of what has been committed, billed, paid, and collected.

This will also become more important as the UAE moves through its electronic invoicing rollout. The Ministry of Finance guidelines make it clear that businesses need to assess changes required in their ERP, accounting, and invoicing systems, integrate with accredited service providers where required, and ensure their systems can generate the necessary invoice data points.



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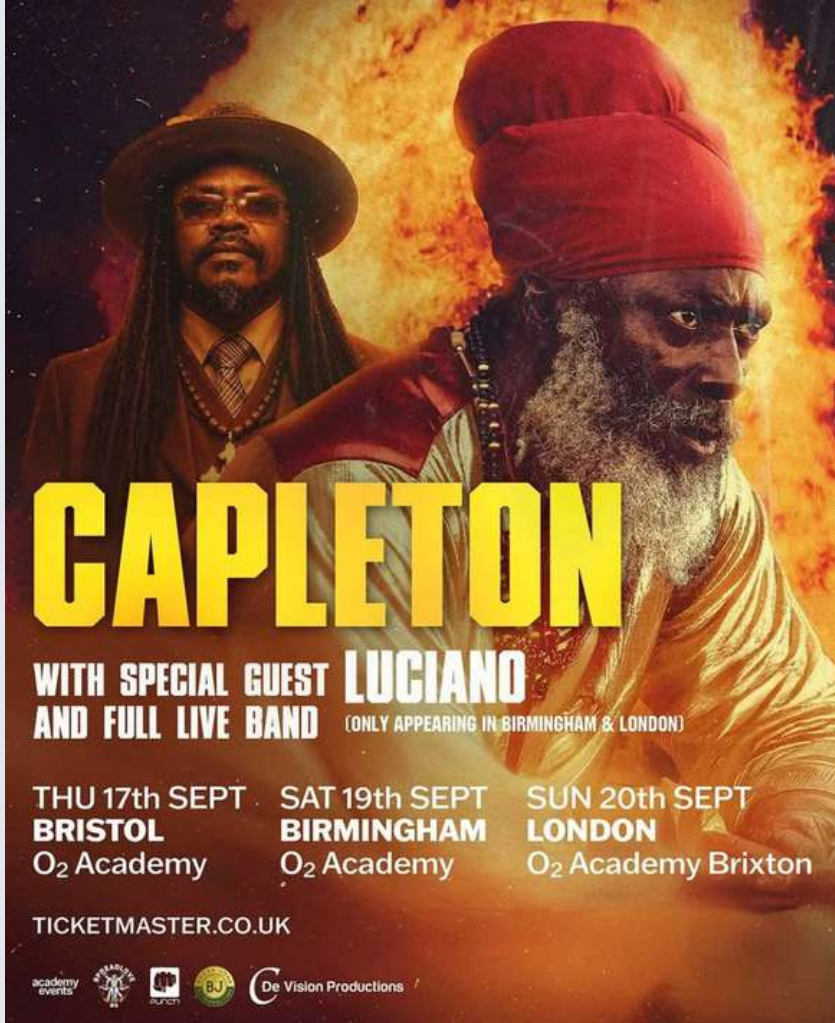


ATIF REHMAN

Atif Rehman is currently the Director of Business Development (Middle East & Africa) at Premier Construction Software. Atif has helped organizations across the Middle East and Africa to rethink how they

manage capital projects, from design through to handover to asset management.

As part of his career he has worked from digitizing document control to digital twins and rolling out full lifecycle project platforms. The goal has always been the same: connect the right people to the right data at the right time.



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BLACK MONTH

August 2026

- **Himalayan Flash Flood (Nepal/China):** A catastrophic flash flood triggered by a glacier collapse struck the Bhote Koshi river basin on August 26. The death toll rose to at least 750 by August 30, with nearly 3,000 people reported missing.
- **United Kingdom:** Two police officers and five young men died on 22 August when a car going the wrong way down a dual carriageway crashed into an oncoming police vehicle.
- **Kariba Disaster:** An overloaded ferry carrying more than 150 people capsized in Lake Kariba, Zimbabwe. 97 people have so far been reported dead with several others still missing.
- **Indonesia Earthquake:** A magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck East Nusa Tenggara on August 15.
- **North American Wildfires:** Severe drought and extreme heat led to widespread wildfires. On August 1, there were 84 large active fires in the US, mostly in the West.
- **Alaska Plane Crash:** On August 20, a charter plane crashed near Cape Newenham in western Alaska, killing all 8 people on board.
- **Kanpur Plane Crash:** A Tecnam P2006T aircraft crashed near the Ganga in Kanpur, India, on August 27.
- **Dolly Parton:** Iconic singer-songwriter passed away on August 25 at the age of 80.
- **Chivhu Head-On Collision (August 28, 2026):** Haulage truck trying to overtake another vehicle crashed head-on into an overloaded commuter minibus carrying African Christian church members on the Harare-Masvingo highway near Chivhu. The minibus burst into flames, killing 27 people.
- **Hayden Panettiere:** Actress, known for Nashville and Heroes, died on August 16 at age 36.
- **Michael Wright:** Actor, known for The Five Heartbeats, died at age 70 from heart failure.
- **Masvingo-Mbalabala Road Pileup (August 23, 2026):** A three-vehicle pileup in southern Zimbabwe killed 6 football fans on the spot when their vehicle crashed into a stationary, broken-down truck and was subsequently struck by a trailing car.
- **Two pilots of Air Canada Express Flight 8646** were killed when the jet collided with an airport fire truck just after landing. The plane had 72 passengers and four crew members on board.



MTDSRIP

Canada Strikes Back:

Dollar-for-Dollar Tariffs on \$27.6B in U.S. Goods



Business Correspondent

In a decisive escalation of the North American trade war, the Canadian government announced Tuesday 25th of August, it will impose retaliatory tariffs of 15, 25, and 50 per cent on approximately \$27.6 billion worth of U.S. imports, effective September 8, 2026.

The move comes in direct response to U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to impose 50 per cent tariffs on \$27.6 billion in Canadian goods under Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930, which took effect August 22 following the collapse of bilateral trade negotiations.



Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne

"Today, I'm announcing that Canada will match the US tariffs dollar for dollar, rate for rate," Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne told reporters in Ottawa.

The counter-tariffs will apply to roughly 700 product categories originally targeted by U.S. Section 338 and Section 232 tariffs, with the Canadian rate on each product matching the -

-corresponding U.S. levy. This "dollar-for-dollar, rate-for-rate" approach ensures the financial impact on U.S. exporters equals the burden placed on Canadian industries.

The tariffs are structured in three tiers:

- **50%:** U.S. steel and aluminum products (previously subject to 25 per cent duties), plus furniture, clothing, smartphones, cosmetics, perfume, honey, milk, plywood, paper products, doors, and window frames
- **25%:** Appliances, dairy products (including cheese and curd), fish and seafood, carpets, textiles, and certain steel and aluminum derivatives
- **15%:** Electric equipment, tools, and a smaller category of goods

Sectors most affected include steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper, and electronics. Notably, the package does not include energy-related countermeasures, and Canada's existing tariffs on U.S. automobiles will remain in place.

The tariffs follow the abrupt suspension of Canada-U.S. trade negotiations last Friday. Prime Minister Mark Carney withdrew Canadian negotiators from Washington, citing last-minute U.S. demands that he called unacceptable and an infringement on Canadian sovereignty.

Carney said the demands included allowing the U.S. a say in trade agreements Canada could sign with other countries and objections involving the use of the French language in bilingual Canada claims the White House has denied.



Canada Prime Minister Mark Carney

Alongside the counter-tariffs, Ottawa announced a \$7.5 billion aid package to support Canadian workers and businesses impacted by the trade dispute, building on nearly \$25 billion in assistance already provided since U.S. tariffs were first introduced.

The package includes:

- **\$1.5 billion** for the Regional Tariff Response Initiative to help small and medium-sized enterprises
- **\$500 million** in new liquidity support through the Business Development Bank of Canada
- **\$2 billion** through the Canada Strong Diversification Fund for tariff-affected businesses with investment projects
- **\$3.5 billion** for worker support, including enhanced employment insurance, workplace training, and a new Worker Retention and Retraining program



U.S. President Donald Trump

"We are going to stand up for you, for Canada," Champagne said, adding that the counter-tariffs are designed "primarily to provide protection for Canadian industry impacted by U.S. tariffs and allow them to compete against US products in the Canadian market".

Analysts warn of further tit-for-tat escalation. Trump has already pledged to double tariffs on Canadian autos to 50% starting in 2027. Meanwhile, Ontario Premier Doug Ford has threatened an electricity export surcharge in response.

The new U.S. tariffs do not exempt products under the USMCA free trade agreement and raise the U.S. effective tariff rate on Canadian exports to 6.9% from 5.1%, according to Oxford Economics estimates.

Despite the heated rhetoric, Canada-U.S. Trade Minister Dominic LeBlanc indicated the door remains open.

"Our preference was to find a deal that benefits both countries, we still believe that's possible, but in the meantime, we're not waiting by the phone. We're going to do the work that's necessary to protect our own economy," he said.

The counter-tariffs take effect at 12:01 a.m. on September 8, 2026, and do not apply to U.S. goods already in transit to Canada on that date.

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By Zvakwana Nomore Sweto

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rom the studios making professional Mbira music to the fields making sure the world is fed with pure organic food, and enough research is done to make sure adequate produce is harvested in the area of scope. This is the story of Ronald Nyandoro.

I recently visited him on his small scale garden where he is doing some experiments, research, and greenhouse farming with crops all the way from Zimbabwe. His idea is to have 100% organic food that Zimbabweans and Africans can consume without the worry of taking genetically modified foods.

INTENTIONALTY

He intends to introduce vegetables mainly consumed in Zimbabwe to the local community here in Canada.

"My cropping in my garden is heavily influenced by the desire to get clean food ingredients in my kitchen as I desire to make my meals from scratch. I focus on growing those plants that have traditionally provided food and medicine to my people going back to my ancestry.



"Being in this part of the world (Canada) apart from where I grew up I have committed myself to trying various crops that I grew up eating and see what grows in this environment and I can safely say we are moving in the right direction," he said.



Nyandoro showing off part of his crops around his small garden in Edmonton Canada. Some images show crops in the greenhouse.



CPASSIONATE RESEARCHER



Part of Cleome Gynandra (Nyevehe) growing so well in the greenhouse



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A DAY WITH RONALD NYANDORO



SMART AGRICULTURE FOR A CHANGING WORLD



Growing most of the tropical crops to fruition in this region requires one to develop protocols for growing these crops, germinating the seeds, care of seedlings as well as growing the crops in the greenhouse as well as outside.

Nyandoro further laments how he believes in a hands on the deck approach to clean food production and of course consumption. "I also value authenticity in my food just like I do with my music and I go beyond just talk and rhetoric and rather use my rural background as well as scientific knowledge in my self-food and nutritional security."

As of now, Nyandoro has tried the following crops with tangible results:

- Maize
- Covo
- Rape
- Cleome Gynandra (Nyevehe)
- Vigna Unguiculata (Nyemba)
- Miwa
- Tomatoes
- Onions
- Muboora
- Chili Pepper (Mhiripiri)
- Beans
- Cucumber (Magaka)
- Groundnuts (Nzungu)
- Finger Millet - Rapoko (Zviyo)
- Sweet Reed (Ipwa)
- Okra (Derere)
- Lippia Javanica (Zumbani)
- Calabash Cucumber (Mapudzi)



As a passionate agronomist, Nyandoro's work doesn't stop at just growing the food but I'm also into post-harvest, handling, and processing. He picks fresh produce, cleans it, dries, and freezes in order to have these available during the off season.

"I do personal research into the ancient technologies in food production and fuse that with my scientific knowledge as an agricultural scientist," concluded Nyandoro.

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IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL

WHY PARENTS MUST CHOOSE INTENTIONALITY OVER SCREENS

The back-to-school season is a symphony of sharpened pencils and fresh notebooks. It represents a fresh start; a chance to build better habits and set higher goals.

Yet, for millions of families, this "fresh start" is being sabotaged before the first bell even rings, not by academic struggles, but by the glowing rectangle in a child's pocket....THE PHONE.

As children head back to the classroom, we are facing an epidemic of distraction. But the solution isn't just about limiting screen time; it is about a fundamental shift in parenting philosophy. To raise capable, responsible adults, parents must enforce two non-negotiable pillars this year: a strict **No Social Media rule for children under 16**, and a **proactive, hands-on approach to career development**.

We have reached a point where the data is undeniable. The American Psychological Association and countless neuroscientists have warned that the adolescent brain; specifically the prefrontal cortex, which governs impulse control and long-term planning is not equipped to handle the reward-dopamine loops of social media.

For children under 16, social media isn't a tool; it is an identity minefield. During these crucial middle and high school years, children are figuring out who they are. When you introduce Instagram or TikTok into that equation, you are asking a child to define themselves based on likes, followers, and the curated perfection of strangers.

Children will not enforce this rule on themselves. The algorithms are designed by Silicon Valley's brightest minds to beat their willpower. If you hand a 14-year-old a phone with unrestricted access, you are asking them to fight a battle they are biologically incapable of winning.

During these formative years, children need to learn to be bored. They need to stare out the window and daydream. They need to have awkward face-to-face conversations without the safety net of a screen. This is how resilience is built. By removing social media, you are not punishing them; you are protecting the raw clay of their personality so they can sculpt it themselves, rather than letting an algorithm mold it for them.



Remove Screen Time & Introduce Career Development

Now, if you take away the digital pacifier, what fills the void? This is where the second, often neglected, pillar comes in: Career Development.



Many parents in this generation do not know the importance of this aspect in their children's life. Too often, parents treat career planning as a senior-year crisis-frantic scramble to fill out college applications or find a trade. This is a catastrophic error. Career development is not a one-time event; it is a conversation that should have started in middle school.



You know your child better than any career counselor. You see their quirks, their strengths, and their blind spots. Your job this school year is to become the bridge between their academic subjects and the real world.



HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- Use the time saved from the social media ban to take them to workplaces. Shadow a friend in engineering, visit a courthouse, or even just watch a documentary about supply chain logistics. Let them see the vastness of the job market.
- Reverse the "Dream Job" Question: Instead of asking, "What do you want to be?" ask, "What problem do you want to solve?" and "What lifestyle do you want to have?" This shifts the focus from a title (which is stressful) to a purpose (which is motivating).

The connection between the social media ban and career development is symbiotic.

- Without social media, your child has the mental bandwidth to think about the future.
- With career guidance, your child has the motivation to endure the rigors of school, because they see the light at the end of the tunnel.

By enforcing the "No Under 16" rule, you are saying, "I value your mind more than your popularity." By stepping in as a career guide, you are saying, "I believe in your ability to be independent."

This is hard work. It is easier to hand a child a tablet than to have a conversation about the future. It is easier to let them scroll than to arrange a job shadow. But parenting was never meant to be easy. It was meant to be intentional.



As you pack the backpacks and buy the new shoes for this school year, remember that your ultimate goal isn't just to get them through the 10th grade. It is to launch a responsible, self-sufficient adult into the world by the 12th grade.

The Rule: No social media until 16. Stand firm. Ignore the "but everyone else has it" protests.

The Action: Talk about careers. Explore industries. Show them how they fit into the economy.

The Result: A child who isn't just surviving school but building a future. A child who knows they don't need a filter, make-up, or body enhancer, to be valuable, because they know exactly what they are worth in the real world.

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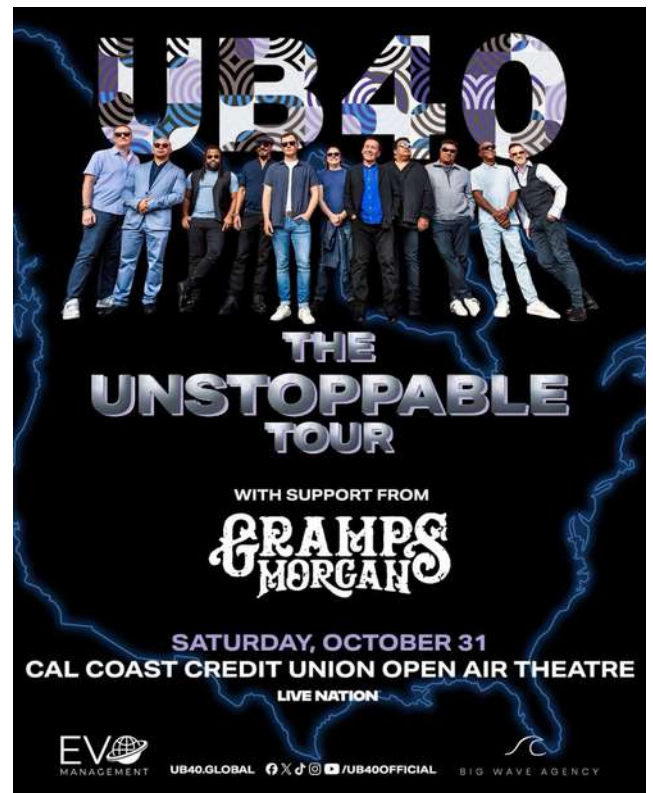
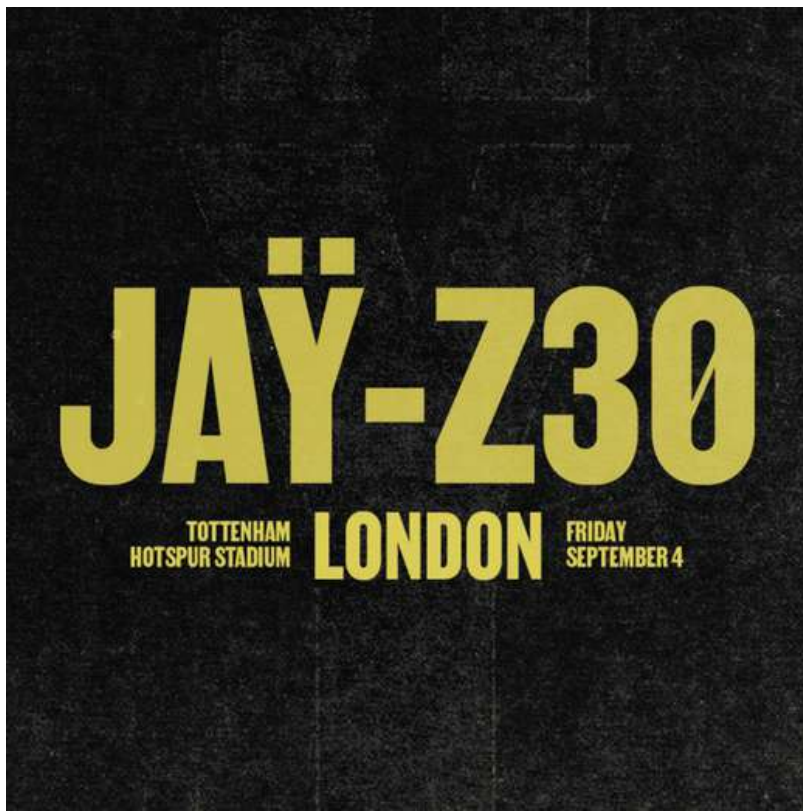
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NASHIE ZIM

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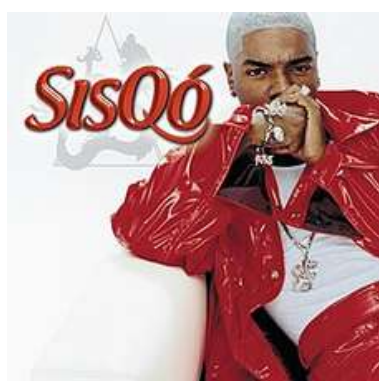
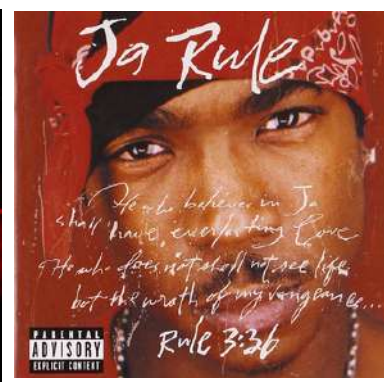
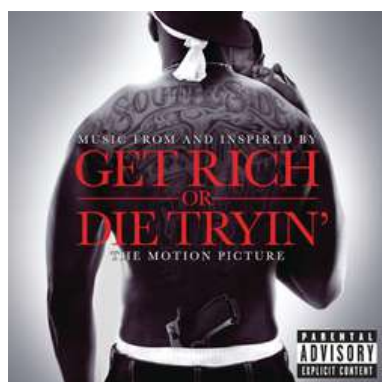
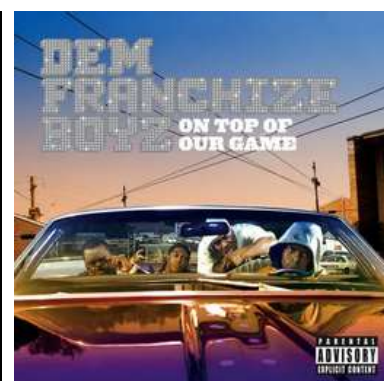
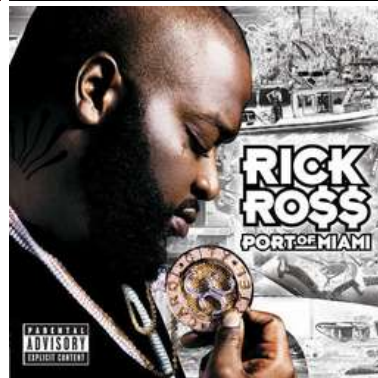
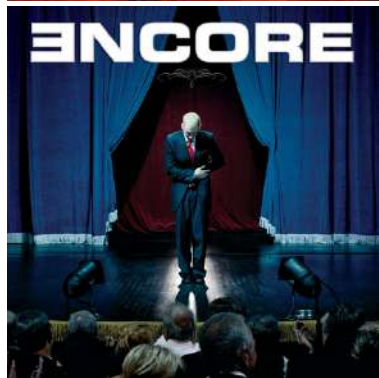
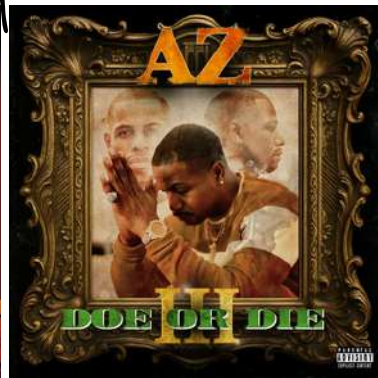
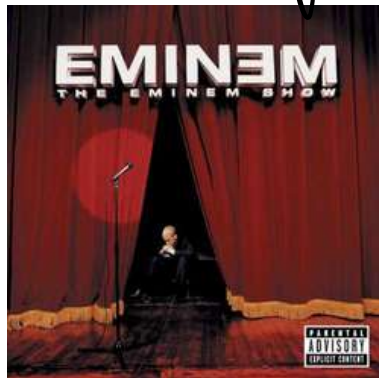
THE ALBUM

NASHIE ZIM

PAR

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.

Essential Rap/ Hip-Hop Music Albums



SOCCER SEASON

2026 / 27



STARTS



The 2026-27 Soccer Season Kicks Off:

- **Premier League Returns with a Bang as European Leagues Get Underway**
- **Clubs ready and daring to fight for the championship**

Zvakwana Nomore Sweto

The long wait is finally over as the 2026-27 Premier League season officially commenced over the weekend, delivering a dramatic opening round filled with surprise results, record-breaking stats, and last-minute drama. It wasn't just England where the action started, as top divisions across Europe have also begun their campaigns.



Manchester City Squad

This year's Premier League kickoff delivered the unpredictability the competition is famous for, highlighted by some seismic results. Hull City stunned Manchester United with a dominant 2-0 victory. This marked Hull's first league win over United in an astonishing 52 years, with their previous victory coming way back in 1974.

Another historic result saw Brentford thrash Tottenham Hotspur 3-0, securing their first home league victory over Spurs in 78 years. The Bees were hugely superior, registering 3.96 expected goals compared to Spurs' 0.47, underscoring their dominance in front of goal.

The start of the Premier League coincides with several other major European leagues getting underway, setting the stage for an exciting footballing calendar.

Italy's Serie A kicked off on August 22, with defending champions Inter Milan hosting Monza in the opener. The opening weekend featured a full slate of matches, including high-profile fixtures like Torino versus AC Milan. This season marks the league's 125th edition.

Spanish football is already in action, having started on August 14-15. The season began with Barcelona playing away at Elche. The much-anticipated El Clásico fixtures between Real Madrid and Barcelona are also set, with dates scheduled later in the campaign. The season will conclude on May 30, 2027.

Germany's Bundesliga is also preparing for its new season. While all teams currently show zero games played, the league is gearing up for what promises to be a competitive campaign to unseat Bayer Leverkusen at the top, with heavyweights Bayern Munich also looking to reclaim the title.

In France, Ligue 1 has seen its first matches take place. Olympique de Marseille lead the standings after the opening weekend, having recorded a notable victory. Reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) were held to a 2-2 draw away at Rennes, with new signing Ferran Torres scoring the equalizer to salvage a point for the French champions.

With all the top European leagues now in full swing, the 2026-27 season is shaping up to be a thrilling one, filled with new narratives, record chases, and the usual blend of brilliance and unpredictability.

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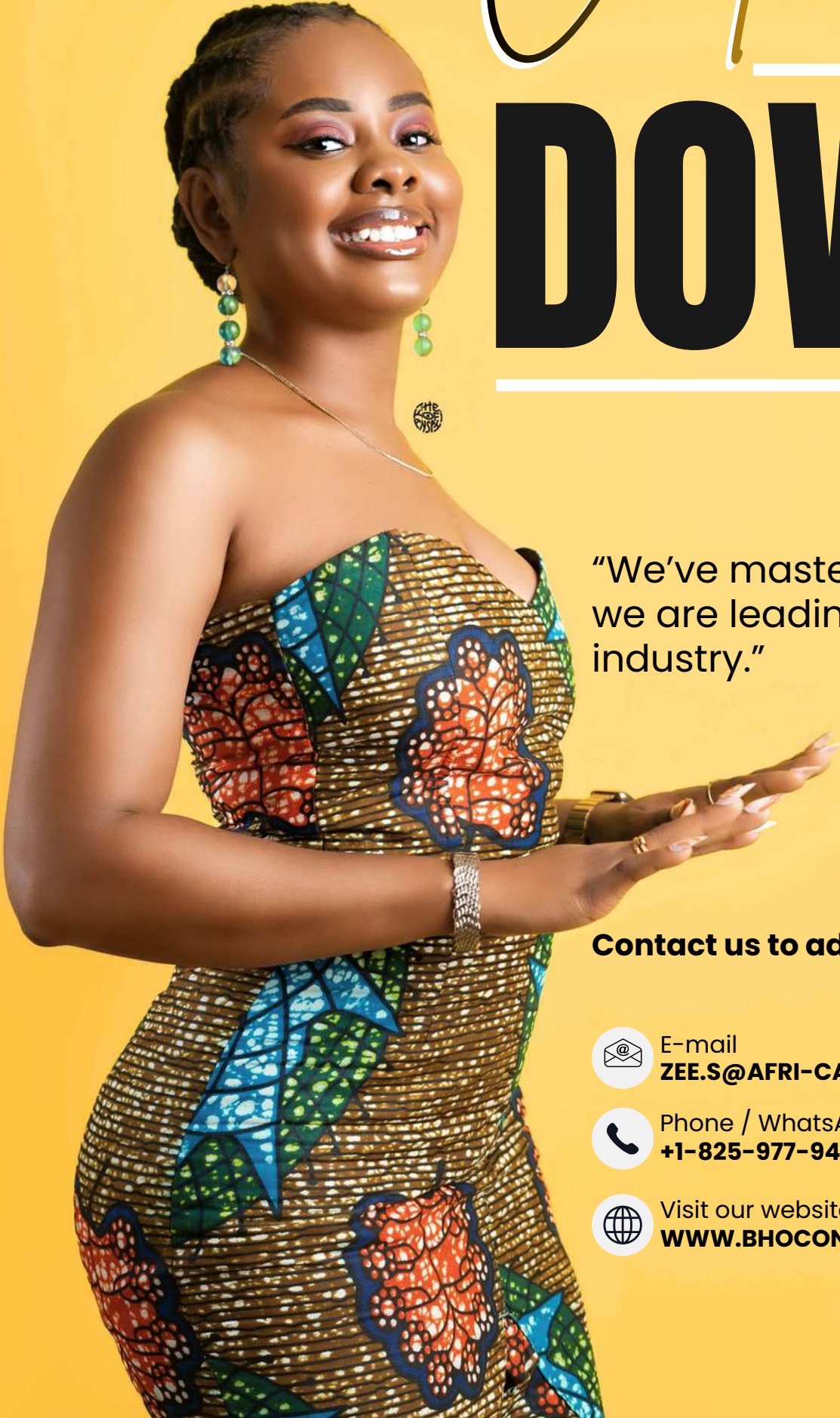
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