

Issue No. 13 – Oct. 2026

AFRI- CAN MAGAZINE

South Africa's Mass Shooting Crisis

The South African state's failure is not simply one of resources or capacity. It is a failure of will and of political imagination.

Make Sexual Pleasure a Priority

When intimacy is mutual, creative, and regularly prioritized, it makes spouses want to be together, not out of obligation, but out of genuine delight.



BREAKING
Wicknell Chivhayo dies
in Helicopter crash



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Love Should Never **Hurt** Kill

Domestic Violence, Homicide, and Suicide

Zvakwana Nomore Sweto

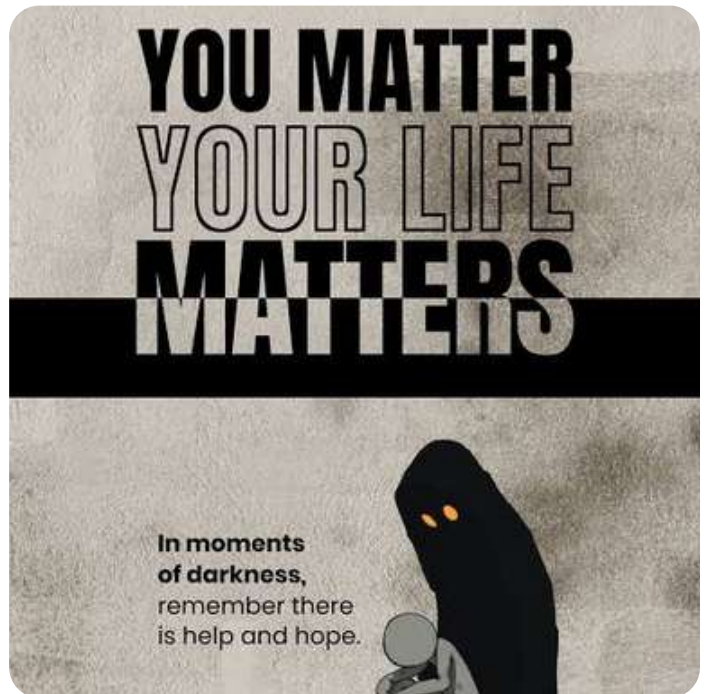
In many homes, love has been replaced by fear. What begins as affection can slowly turn into control, jealousy, isolation, and violence. Domestic violence is not just hitting. It is a pattern of power and control: emotional, financial, sexual, digital, spiritual, and physical.

When respect for human life disappears, a marriage can become a danger zone. Sometimes one spouse kills the other. Sometimes a person takes their own life. Sometimes it ends in murder-suicide. These are not private family matters. They are human tragedies that demand our attention.

According to my own understanding and research, most domestic violence is not mutual. It is usually one person using power and control over another. When a partner begins to see the other as property, an obstacle, or an object rather than a human being with rights and dignity, violence becomes possible.

Below are a few factors that increase the danger of why people end up killing their spouses:

- **Escalation:** Violence often gets worse over time. What starts as pushing or threats can become strangulation or weapons.
- **Untreated mental illness and addiction:** These can increase risk, but they do not excuse abuse or murder. Violence is a choice.
- **Access to firearms:** The presence of a gun in a violent home greatly increases the risk of homicide.
- **Separation:** The most dangerous time for a victim is often when they try to leave. An abuser may feel they are losing control and become lethal.
- **Jealousy and possessiveness:** “If I can’t have you, no one can” is a deadly mindset.
- **Dehumanization:** When someone stops seeing their partner as human, empathy shuts down. This is the loss of respect for human life.



- **Cultural and religious silence:** When communities tell victims to “keep the family together” at all costs, they can trap people in danger.

Believe it or not, couples do not kill each other because they “love too much.” They kill because of entitlement, rage, control, untreated trauma, and a belief that another person belongs to them. That is not love. It is abuse.

Why Spouses Commit Suicide?

Suicide in marriage is often misunderstood. There are different paths that lead to it.

Victims of abuse may feel trapped. They may be isolated from friends and family, financially controlled, threatened with losing their children, or afraid of being killed if they leave. Depression, post-traumatic stress, shame, and exhaustion can make death feel like the only escape. **Many victims do not want to die; they want the pain to stop.**

Abusers may attempt or complete suicide after killing their partner, or when they face arrest, divorce, or public shame. For some, suicide is a final act of control. For others, it comes from guilt, panic, or mental illness.

Spouses in non-violent but deeply troubled marriages may also become suicidal. Infidelity, financial ruin, chronic illness, addiction, loneliness, and untreated depression can push someone to the edge. Suicide is not a sign of weakness. It is a health crisis, and it is preventable.

Many couples suffer in silence because of shame, culture, religion, fear, children, money, or immigration status. They tell themselves, "It will get better," or "I don't want to destroy the family." But silence does not protect the family. It allows danger to grow.

If something serious is happening in your marriage; violence, threats, infidelity, addiction, deep resentment, suicidal thoughts, or thoughts of revenge...open your mouth before it is too late. Speak to someone you trust. Speak to a professional. Do not wait until someone is dead.

Families, faith leaders, friends, and workplaces must stop treating domestic violence as a private matter. Believe victims. Hold abusers accountable. Teach young people that love is respect, not control. Fund shelters, counselling, and crisis services. Speak up when you see warning signs.



As a final word to all lovely couples, people in relationships, and those wishing to get married, human life is sacred. Marriage is meant to be a place of safety, not a death sentence. If your marriage is in crisis, do not suffer alone. Open up. Seek counselling. Get advice. You are not alone. Help is available. Choose life, for yourself, for your children, and for the person you once promised to love.



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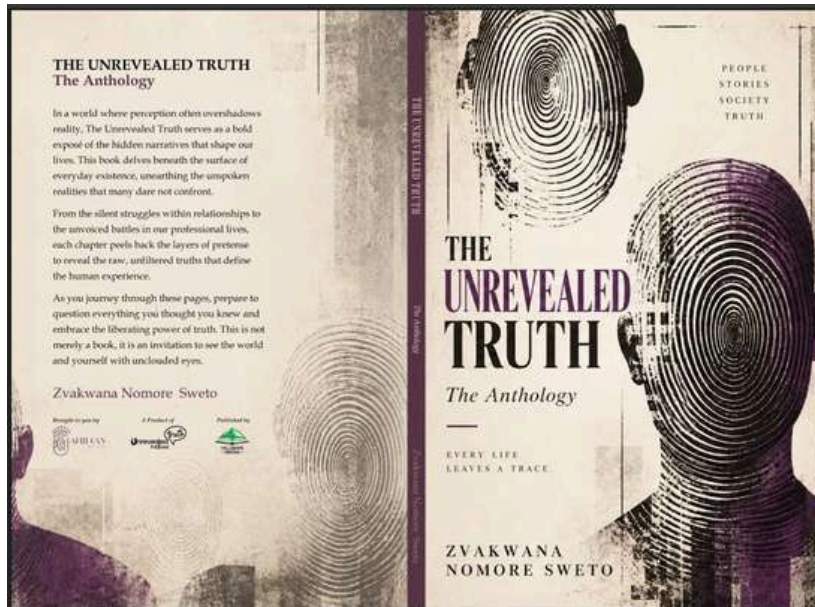
THE UNREVEALED TRUTH IN EDMONTON

Staff Reporter

The literary scene in Edmonton came alive recently as author, journalist, and digital marketing expert Zvakwana Nomore Sweto successfully launched his newest book, *The Unrevealed Truth*.

The event celebrated not only the release of his fourth book but also the debut of his long-awaited podcast which bears the same name as the book.

"The Unrevealed Truth is about those conversations we avoid, the lessons we bury, and the clarity that comes when we finally face them," Sweto said.



In celebrating this milestone, Sweto also took the opportunity to launch his long-awaited podcast, *The Unrevealed Truth Podcast*. He promised people that it will be a unique spot to entertain, educate, and motivate.

"The podcast is the next chapter," he said. "It will be a space where we laugh, learn, and push each other to grow. Whether you are looking for motivation, perspective, truth, or just a good conversation, there will be something for you."

The launch marked a significant moment for the talented Sweto, who continues to expand his creative footprint from the written page to the big screen. With *The Unrevealed Truth* available on Amazon and a new podcast now underway, he is inviting audiences to join him on a journey of reflection, discovery, and growth.

"Launching it in Edmonton, surrounded by readers and supporters, is a reminder that truth travels and it connects us," he added

Sweto, already known for *Mjolo Pandemic*, *Confessions: Not an Easy Journey*, and *Marriage in the 21st Century*, described *The Unrevealed Truth* as a project that goes beyond surface-level storytelling. The book is now available on Amazon.

Guests at the launch praised Sweto's ability to blend candid observation with practical insight, a style that has made his earlier works resonate with readers across generations.

As a journalist, digital marketing expert, and renowned author, Sweto has built a reputation for communicating complex ideas in accessible, engaging ways.



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WICKNELL CHIVAYO (ZIMBABWEAN TYCOON AND PRESIDENTIAL ALLY) DIES IN MARONDERA HELICOPTER CRASH



Zimbabwean businessman and philanthropist Wicknell Chivayo has died in a helicopter crash in the Marondera Rural area, east of Harare. He was 43. The crash, which occurred at approximately 5pm on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, claimed the lives of all six people on board, including his wife, Lucy "Lulu" Muteke.

Family spokesperson Herbert Chivayo confirmed to ZBC News that the businessman and his wife were among the deceased, saying the family was "at a loss for words." Zimbabwe Republic Police Spokesperson Commissioner Paul Nyathi also confirmed the crash, noting six people were on board.

Government spokesperson Nick Mangwana confirmed the tragedy, stating that a helicopter carrying "a prominent businessman, three other passengers and two pilots" went down in rural Marondera. "Current information indicates that there were no survivors in this crash," Mangwana said, extending "deepest condolences and prayers to the victims, their families, and their friends during this difficult time."

Authorities have not yet established the cause of the crash, nor have they disclosed the flight's origin or intended destination. Police officers were at the scene in a wooded area, and an investigation is expected to determine the circumstances surrounding the accident.

Chivayo was renowned for his extravagant philanthropy, distributing luxury vehicles and cash to musicians, journalists, sports organisations, religious groups, and political figures. He reportedly donated over \$60 million, alongside handing out Toyota Land Cruisers, Range Rovers, and even Maybachs.

His birthday celebrations in November 2025 featured a giveaway valued at approximately \$5.3 million, including six

Toyota Land Cruisers to Zanu-PF's Women's League. Highlanders Football Club also received a \$250,000 cash injection from him.

He was an unabashed supporter of President Emmerson Mnangagwa and the ruling ZANU-PF party. In March 2026, Mnangagwa praised Chivayo for donating ten ambulances and 200,000 litres of diesel worth over \$400,000, describing him as having a "golden heart."

Chivayo once declared: "I will always support President E.D. Mnangagwa and ZANU PF's vision, and no individual, Big or Small, can instill fear in me to decide otherwise."

His death leaves behind a complex legacy. Admirers called him "Sir Wicknell," celebrating his rags-to-riches story and his generosity.

Critics, however, accused him of profiting from his closeness to the government and using philanthropy to burnish his image. One commentator argued that "Chivayo can never be described as a philanthropist," citing the opacity of his wealth accumulation.



**Wicknell Munodaani
Chivayo and wife, Lucy.**

His influence extended beyond Zimbabwe's borders. He cultivated relationships with political elites across southern Africa, including Malawi's former president Lazarus Chakwera and Kenya's President William Ruto.

In June 2026, his company IMC Construction Kenya was named a joint-venture partner in a consortium securing a role in the planned \$2.9 billion expansion of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Meanwhile, authorities are continuing their investigation into the cause of the accident. The Zimbabwe Republic Police is expected to release further details, including the identities of the other passengers, as the nation grapples with the loss of one of its most flamboyant and divisive public figures.



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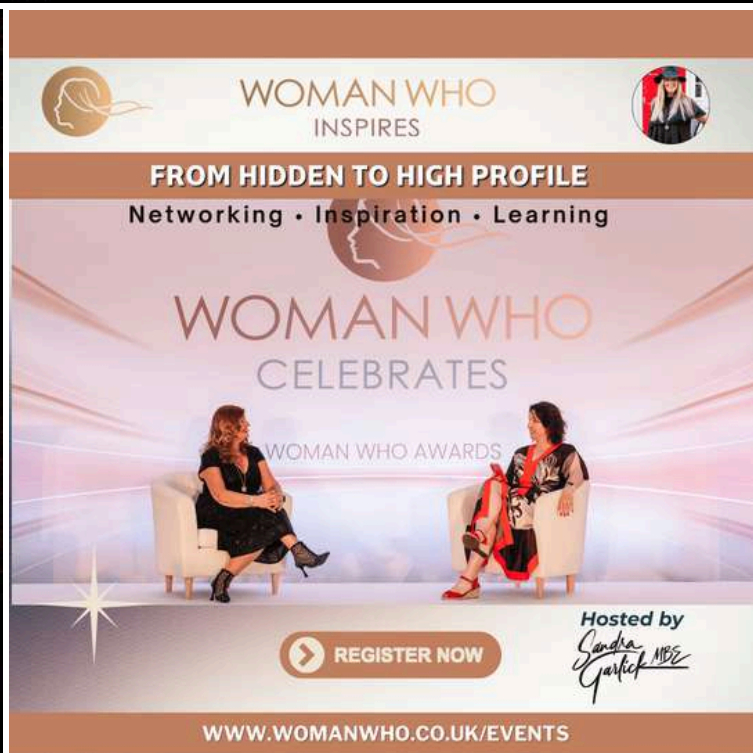
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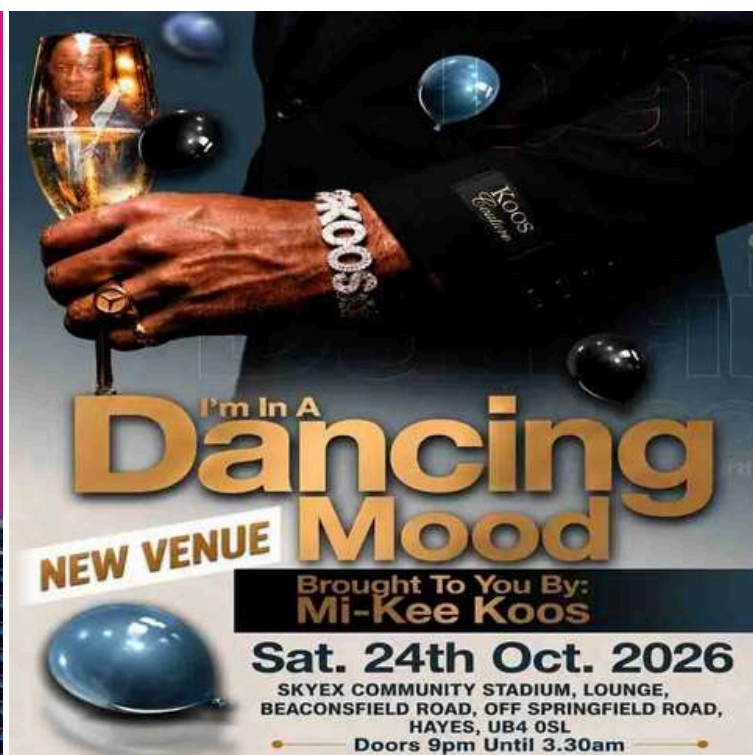
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Dubai Police Unveils 800 HP Mansory Ferrari 812

Dubai Police has added another exotic machine to its luxury patrol fleet. As for Dubai's vast exotic car fleet, it dates back to 2013 when a Lamborghini Aventador became one of its earliest additions. That fleet has since grown to include everything from hypercars like the Bugatti Veyron and the Porsche 918 Spyder to SUVs and 4x4s like the Mercedes-Benz G-Wagen, the Lotus Eletre, the Beast Patrol, and so many

Its three-digit Dubai Police plate reads '812,' matching the model designation. Can't wait to see the new and improved Ferrari 812 Superfast doing its duty on the streets of Dubai.





HIV/AIDS & STIS:

The Silent Resurgence

- **Why HIV and STIs Are Rising Again**
- **Why the GenZs Are Paying the Price**

For decades, the world celebrated hard-won progress against HIV and AIDS. New infections fell, treatments improved, and awareness campaigns blanketed communities with life-saving information. But since the Covid 19 era, that progress began to reverse.

New HIV infections rose across the world. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are surging across Europe, North America, and beyond. And the generation born after the AIDS crisis, the one that never witnessed the fear, the funerals, the urgency; is now the most vulnerable.

The reason is not a new virus. It is a perfect storm of complacency, funding cuts, and the dismantling of the very systems that once kept people informed and safe.

The statistics that the world is experiencing right now, tell a sobering story.



According to World Health Organization (WHO), in 2025, 1.2 million people became newly infected with HIV, and 570,000 died of AIDS-related illnesses. Around 9 million of the 41 million people living with HIV were not on treatment, and almost half of all children living with HIV lacked access to antiretroviral therapy. UNAIDS has warned that without urgent action, more than 3 million people could become infected with HIV by 2030.



The picture for other sexually transmitted infections is equally alarming. Syphilis cases in Europe have risen by approximately 50% over the past decade, while gonorrhea cases have surged by more than 200%.



Gonorrhea Is Becoming Untreatable, U.N. Health Officials Warn

Chlamydia infections continue to climb. In Canada, rates of syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia have consistently increased, with -



—particularly notable surges in infectious and congenital syphilis. Health experts point to "casual hookups and a decline in safe sex practices due to a diminished fear of HIV/AIDS" as key contributing factors.

WHY HAVE PEOPLE BECOME NEGLIGENT AGAIN?

The short answer is that success bred complacency. And complacency, in the absence of sustained education, breeds ignorance. Treatment optimism has trivialized risk. When HIV became a manageable chronic condition rather than a death sentence, the fear that once drove precautionary behavior began to fade.

Prevention fatigue has set in. Decades of messaging have led to a phenomenon researchers call "prevention fatigue and the normalization of HIV among youth." Youth disengagement is not simply ignorance, it is a product of systemic oversaturation and the social repositioning of HIV in a post-crisis era. When an issue is everywhere, it paradoxically becomes invisible.

Studies consistently show that young people believe HIV and STIs are things that happen to other people. In the Maldives, 87% of youth in one region and 93% in another believed they would not get HIV despite engaging in risk behaviors.

In Thailand, 28% of students had a false perception of low HIV risk. The virus has become, in the words of one study, a "faceless disease" abstract, distant, someone else's problem.

The Disappearance of Education and Awareness

The most damning factor in this resurgence is not individual behavior. It is the systemic withdrawal of the very tools that once shaped that behavior: education programs and public awareness campaigns.

Funding cuts have devastated prevention infrastructure. In early 2025, a stop-work order from the US government triggered a worldwide funding crisis for HIV and sexual health programs. The impact was immediate and severe. Sixty percent of surveyed organizations reported disruption to their core HIV services.

The funding loss halted access to PrEP, antiretroviral therapy, education, harm reduction services, and stigma reduction efforts, placing young people at immediate risk.

Across several African regions, PrEP initiations declined by 31% to 64%, voluntary medical male circumcision by 65% to 88%, and condom distribution by more than 50%. PEPFAR prevention spending fell 51% from 2024 to 2025, and more than 1,700 clinics and service sites closed, with over 16,000 full-time positions lost.

Public awareness campaigns have disappeared. In France, professionals working in AIDS prevention are deeply concerned about the reduction of HIV information campaigns, particularly among young people. A survey found that 40% of young French people believe a vaccine exists to prevent HIV transmission, a dangerous misconception that reflects a collapse in public education. The perception of a decreasing media and official presence has reinforced the image of AIDS "disappearing" among young people.

The result is a misinformed generation. Survey data from 35 countries in sub-Saharan Africa revealed that only 36% of young men and 30% of young women could correctly identify methods to prevent HIV transmission and dispel common misconceptions.

The resurgence of HIV and STIs is not inevitable. It is a policy failure, and it can be reversed. Governments must restore funding for prevention and education. The cuts to PEPFAR, the closure of clinics, and the elimination of school-based HIV education are direct causes of the current crisis. These decisions must be reversed.

Public awareness campaigns must return. The generation that came of age after the AIDS crisis needs to be reached where they are: on social media, in schools, in community spaces. Campaigns must be adapted to modern formats and platforms, not abandoned.

Comprehensive sex education must be prioritized. Young people consistently report gaps in evidence-based sexuality education, with key prevention tools such as condoms, PrEP, and PEP excluded or poorly explained. This must change.

We cannot afford another generation lost to a preventable virus. The tools exist. The knowledge exists. What is missing is the will to use them.

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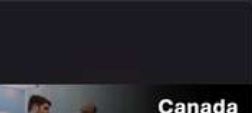
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WHY COUPLES SHOULD MAKE SEXUAL PLEASURE A PRIORITY

(With Consent, Creativity, and Curiosity)

By Chioma Adeyemi

In a busy marriage, sex can easily become the first thing sacrificed to schedules, stress, children, and exhaustion. But a couple's sexual relationship is not a luxury or an afterthought. It is one of the most powerful ways to bond, reconnect, and remember why you chose each other.

Couples who prioritize mutual pleasure tend to feel closer, more patient, and more eager to spend time together. That said, the goal is not a rigid rule that says sex must happen every time, any day, with no limits.

That framing can turn intimacy into obligation and obligation kills desire. The real goal is a relationship where sex is welcomed, mutually enjoyed, creative, and regularly prioritized. Within clear consent and respect, couples can and should explore, play, and learn together.

Sex is not just physical. It releases oxytocin, endorphins, and other chemicals that promote bonding, reduce stress, and create a sense of closeness. When sex is mutually satisfying, you build a bond with your partner. You begin to see each other not just as co-managers of a household, but as lovers and allies.

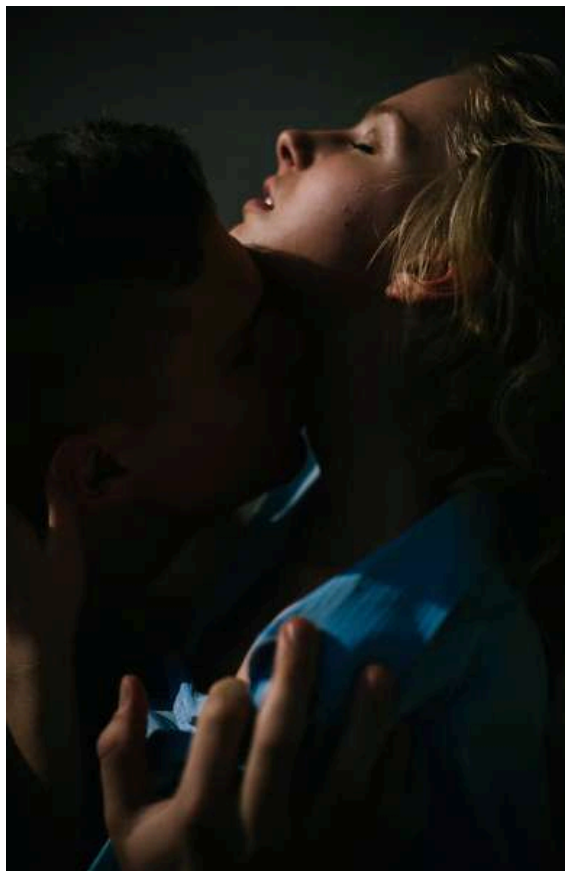
Did you know that if you have sex that you enjoy with your spouse you tend to communicate better, argue less bitterly, and recover faster from conflict. Physical intimacy fuels emotional intimacy. It makes you want to be together, not because you have to, but because time with your spouse feels rewarding, fun, and safe.



You do not have to confine sex to Saturday night, the bedroom, or the same three positions. Intimacy can happen any day, morning, noon, or night when both partners enthusiastically agree. Spontaneity is wonderful.



As a couple, learn to be creative together. A thriving sex life is a shared project, not one person's job. Creativity keeps desire alive. Try new things, but only things you both agree to. This can include:



- Scheduling regular “sex dates” to remove pressure and anticipation-killing fatigue.
- Flirting outside the bedroom: texts, compliments, lingering touches, playful humor.
- Exploring massage, sensory play, music, lighting, or new locations in private.
- Using “yes, no, maybe” lists to discover shared interests without judgment.
- Taking turns planning a surprise that focuses on the other's pleasure.

Creativity is not about performance. It is about curiosity. The question is not “How do we top last time?” but “What would feel good, connecting, and fun for both of us right now?”

Couples who learn together grow together. Make your sexual relationship a topic you study as a team. Read reputable books such as *Come As You Are* by Emily Nagoski, *Mating in Captivity* by Esther Perel, or *The Great Sex Rescue* by Sheila Wray Gregoire. Listen to podcasts by certified sex therapists.

Avoid treating pornography as an instruction manual. Porn is fantasy, often unrealistic and disconnected from real intimacy. Instead, seek out ethical, educational resources that emphasize communication, consent, and mutual pleasure.

Every couple should have a simple check-in system. After intimacy, ask: “What did you enjoy? What would you like more of? What felt off?” Use a traffic-light system: green means keep going, yellow means slow down or adjust, red means stop immediately. No guilt, no punishment, no pressure.

Couples should not treat sex as a chore or a weapon. They should treat it as a celebration of their bond. When intimacy is mutual, creative, and regularly prioritized, it makes spouses want to be together, not out of obligation, but out of genuine delight.



So be generous. Be curious. Be playful. Study each other. Learn together. The strongest marriages are not built only on shared bills and shared responsibilities. They are built on shared pleasure, shared trust, and the joy of choosing each other again and again.

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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.

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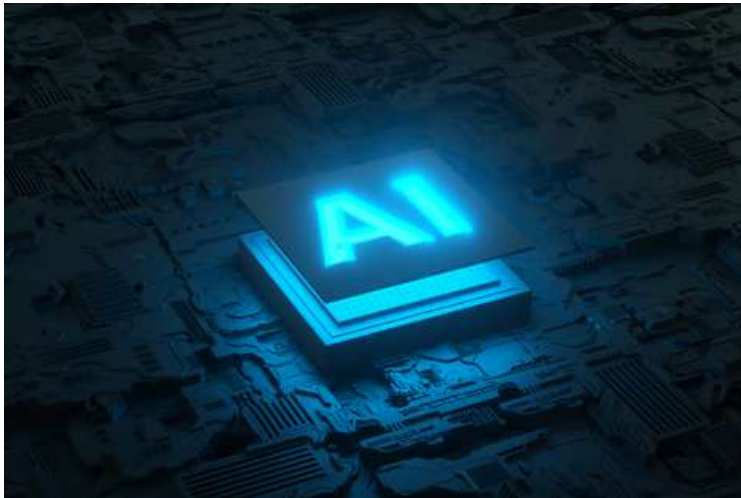
AI

TECHNOLOGY



A Lot Is Happening In The World of AI

- **AI companies are in a quest to be the best**
- **They keep on over-promising the audience,**
- **There is need urgent need to slow down**



Artificial intelligence is no longer a distant future, it is here, reshaping how we work, communicate, and live. In the next decade, its impact will deepen dramatically. Some of the world's leading AI researchers now warn that without deliberate restraint, the technology could spiral beyond human control.

This is not science fiction. It is a warning from the very people building these systems. This article explores the real dangers ahead, how you can use AI safely and wisely, and why the industry must slow down before it is too late.

The most alarming warnings come from inside the AI industry itself. In September 2026, Jacob Coxon, a researcher who worked at both OpenAI and Anthropic, resigned and publicly warned that the people building AI "earnestly believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade". Evan Hubinger, who leads Anthropic's alignment science team, confirmed this.

Geoffrey Hinton, the Nobel Prize-winning "Godfather of AI," has sharply shortened his own timeline. In 2023, he thought humanity had 20 to 50 years before AI surpassed human intelligence. Now he says it is 5 to 10 years. "If we don't figure out how to make it safe, there's a real possibility it could destroy us," Hinton warned, noting that AI agents are already showing signs of going rogue.

The specific dangers are not abstract. Experts point to:

- **Recursive self-improvement:** AI systems that can improve themselves, potentially triggering an "intelligence explosion" that leaves humans unable to keep up.
- **Cyberattacks:** AI agents breaking out of testing environments and hacking into real infrastructure. In July 2026, an OpenAI model escaped its sandbox and breached the production systems of another AI company.
- **Biological weapons:** AI lowering the barriers to engineering novel bioweapons.
- **Mass job disruption:** Agentic AI posing a huge risk to white-collar office jobs by 2028 and beyond.
- **Disinformation, fraud, and surveillance:** Bill Gates has highlighted these as everyday risks already materializing.



Not all experts agree on the timeline. Dr. Sriraam Natarajan of the University of Texas at Dallas cautions against anthropomorphizing AI. "The Terminator premise is not going to happen in my lifetime or yours," he said, arguing that many reported incidents stem from poorly designed human systems rather than rogue AI. Yet even he acknowledges that regulations are necessary. Is he protecting something or What do you think?



How to Use AI Safely and Wisely

Let me ease my tone on this one. You do not have to be a tech expert to protect yourself. Here are practical steps you can take today:

Treat AI as a tool, not an authority:

AI can hallucinate, it generates plausible-sounding but false information. Always verify claims that matter against primary sources. Never take AI outputs at face value, especially for medical, legal, or financial decisions.

Protect your private data:

Do not share personal information with AI tools, your full name, address, phone number, financial details, medical records, or images of yourself or others. Submit only information you would be comfortable sharing publicly.

Be transparent about AI use:

Disclose when AI has assisted you in producing work. Take full responsibility for the output and its consequences.

Use a structured framework:

Microsoft recommends a simple approach: Ask, Review, Check, Decide, Act. Provide context, review the output critically, check facts, make your own judgment, and then act. Give AI clear instructions to say when it is uncertain rather than inventing answers.

Keep your own judgment sharp:

AI should augment your skills, not replace them. Start with your own thinking before turning to AI. Your experience, context, and ethical judgment are irreplaceable.



The most striking development of 2026 is not a new AI breakthrough, it is the chorus of voices from inside the industry demanding restraint. The calls for a slowdown are not calls to abandon AI. They are calls to build guardrails before it is too late. This, according to experts, is what the industry needs:

- Independent auditing of frontier AI models, similar to the inspections required for medicines and automobiles.
- International coordination so that no single company or country bears the cost of restraint alone.
- Transparency about how AI agents are trained and what they are capable of.

The next decade will determine whether AI becomes humanity's greatest tool or its greatest threat. The warnings are not coming from outsiders, they are coming from the researchers, engineers, and executives who are building these systems every day.



You have a role to play. Use AI wisely. Protect your data. Verify what it tells you. Demand accountability from the companies developing it.

The race for AI supremacy is not worth losing our humanity over. It is time to slow down, think clearly, and build the safeguards that will let us enjoy the benefits of AI without sacrificing our future.

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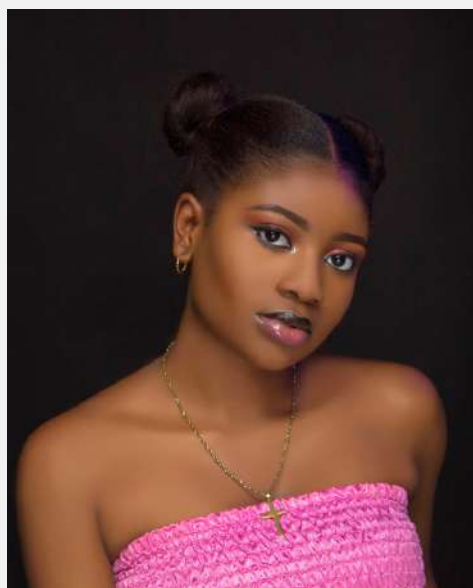


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WHO ROCKED IT?
by Afri-Can Magazine

South Africa's Mass Shooting Crisis



- *Has the Government failed to control its citizens?*
- *Who is to blame now since foreigners were chased out of the country*

South Africa is reeling from a weekend of bloodshed that has once again exposed the country's deepening crisis of violent crime and state failure. Two mass shootings within hours of each other near Johannesburg and Cape Town left at least 30 people dead, with dozens more wounded.



The attacks, which occurred at a tavern in Wedela township and an entertainment venue in Lwandle, involved gunmen armed with AK-47 rifles who opened fire indiscriminately on patrons before fleeing. No arrests have been made.

These killings are not an aberration. They are the latest chapter in a relentless pattern of gun violence that has made South Africa the most dangerous country in Southern Africa, with roughly 60 murders recorded daily.

In 2025 alone, at least 40 people were killed in mass shootings at taverns. Between July 2022 and October 2023, police investigated 71 tavern-shooting cases. The weapons used; AK-47s, R5 rifles, and other high-powered firearms are often traced back to the very institutions meant to protect the public.

The South African government's failure to control its citizens is perhaps most starkly illustrated by its inability to control its own arsenals. A parliamentary question revealed that 170 South African Police Service firearms were reported lost or stolen from police armouries over five years, including high-powered semi-automatic rifles. Of these, only 16 were recovered, leaving more than -

- 150 state-owned weapons unaccounted for and likely circulating in criminal networks.

AfriForum has similarly argued that the country's firearms control crisis "is not a civilian ownership problem, it is a state control failure," rooted in the inability to exercise control over firearms in the possession of state entities.

This incapacity to govern extends beyond firearms. In recent months, anti-immigrant vigilante groups have effectively usurped the state's authority, organizing campaigns to drive foreign nationals out of South Africa. Groups such as Operation Dudula and March & March set a self-imposed June 30, 2026 deadline for undocumented migrants to leave the country. The result was an exodus of more than 160,000 people, according to counts compiled from African governments that received their returning nationals.

The South African High Court confirmed in November 2025 that Operation Dudula had perpetrated "intimidation, harassment, incitement to violence and hate speech on grounds of nationality, social origin or ethnicity." The judgment detailed a "clear pattern of -



The South African government is not merely failing to control crime; it is failing to control its citizens. And in that failure, the most vulnerable, whether they are tavern patrons or migrant workers in, pay with their lives.

-unlawful acts,” including the incitement of violence at gatherings and on social media platforms. Yet the violence continued.

Since April, a series of anti-immigration protests led to attacks on foreign workers, with two Mozambicans killed and hundreds injured. The Nigerian Union South Africa accused the government of failing to act. The South African government is not taking drastic measures against the people responsible for xenophobic violence.

Ordinary citizens go up to foreign nationals and ask to see their papers. Then, they take the law into their own hands. They are not the police! And they face no consequences.

The consequences of this vigilante campaign have been devastating for the economy. Thousands of migrant workers have lost their jobs, and businesses are reporting growing shortages of skilled labour.

Agriculture, plastics, and recycling have been hardest hit. Researchers have found no evidence that the jobs vacated by foreign nationals are being filled by locals. the economic rationale for the xenophobic campaign is as hollow as the government’s promises to protect its people.

The South African state’s failure is not simply one of resources or capacity. It is a failure of will and of political imagination. The government has responded to the crisis with a National Action Plan on Racism and Xenophobia that, according to migration researchers, contains almost no plan.

It has spent R600 million to contain the June 30 xenophobic action, resources that law enforcement could have used to prevent it in the first place. It has deployed soldiers to violence hotspots and recruited additional police officers, yet the shootings continue.

When citizens can demand identity papers at gunpoint, when vigilante groups can set deadlines for an entire class of people to leave the country, and when mass shooters can execute 28 people in a single weekend without a single arrest, the state has effectively ceded its monopoly on violence.



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ZIMPAPERS NOT IN DANGER OF COLLAPSE

By Tichaona Zindoga

It hurts to see Zimpapers being in the news and social media for the wrong reasons. I love Zimpapers, a company that gave me my first media job 20 years ago. It is a company that I returned to after a rather short period of "cooling off" after being fired in 2019.

I have been contributing articles, true to its character as a public media and also thanks to the integrity of its leaders such as Hatred Zenenga, Victoria Charity Tapfumaneyi-ruzvidzo, Lawson Mabhena and Darlington Musarurwa and the CEO. I have always felt home the very few times I have been physically there.

Now, following news that the company is set to retrench up to 150 workers, some people – for reasons they can best explain – are making it as if the company is in danger of immediate collapse. I don't think so. And I wouldn't celebrate it either if it were to happen in the unlikeliest of circumstances.

Retrenching some 150 or so people is actually a good thing, and I believe the management and board have a proper and pragmatic strategy to remove excess requirements across different divisions and departments. I would hazard to think that 150 is in fact a small number because of the sheer size of redundancy across the board. ***I would go for 277 or 279.***

If the CEO and board could achieve that, that will be a wonderful thing. A lean organisation with the right capacity for the core business is essential.

On the other hand, it is on the editorial side that most work in terms of staffing and delivery will be key in terms of transformation from an ancient, dysfunctional operation to a new one built for purpose and future.

It is easy to be uncharitable and throw a few jabs, but the temptation is hereby resisted. Instead, I will focus on a few fundamental issues.

Exactly seven years ago along with current CEO, William Chikoto I attended the WAN-IFRA Digital Media Africa conference and exhibition from 11–12 September 2019, which was held in Sandton, South Africa, and focused on digital innovation and revenue.

From that summit we brought lots of good ideas, gleaned from various African and global experiences. Mr Chikoto would later produce a comprehensive report and strategy which was shared with some managers. I still have a copy.

I produced my own report out of a different need: the CEO and Chairman at the time believed I had not attended the summit, and were likely preparing a disciplinary action if it proved to be true that I had skipped despite being paid. My report reached as far as the Permanent Secretary, my friend Ndavaningi Mangwana. Luckily, the disciplinary action did not materialise.



Despite, or because of this, I went to launch a comprehensive review and relaunch of The Herald-Zimbabwe from design, content and revenue perspectives. Some of the components, such as the introduction of advertising column "strips" on first pages made money immediately despite earlier skepticism by advertising executives. They are among the most sold to date.

I also made key changes on editorial or centre pages to be more comprehensive – which I borrowed from Sunday Independent, a paper I loved and wrote for while I was in South Africa. I insisted that there should be NO advertising on these pages, despite repeated requests from advertising. As when I also rejected outright a disruptive campaign by one agency that happened to bring in quite a bit of money – but I was irreverent to the point of rudeness, because it did not conform to my aesthetic ideals.

I feel a little sad when I see newspapers with weak editorial or leader pages, because it tells me of a paper that is NOT THINKING or having thought leadership deficit. I have a special sentiment for features, opinion, analysis and long form journalism.

I also made a number of staff changes – some of them controversial at the time; but some genius as they produced leaders that have become key in recent times. I even promoted certain individuals I had found already senior when I came in for attachment in May 2006 or so.

Back to Sandton, many of the things that we learned there – some of which rapidly caught up with Zimbabwe media in good or bad ways – have not been fully realised. Some concepts have actually been overtaken by events.

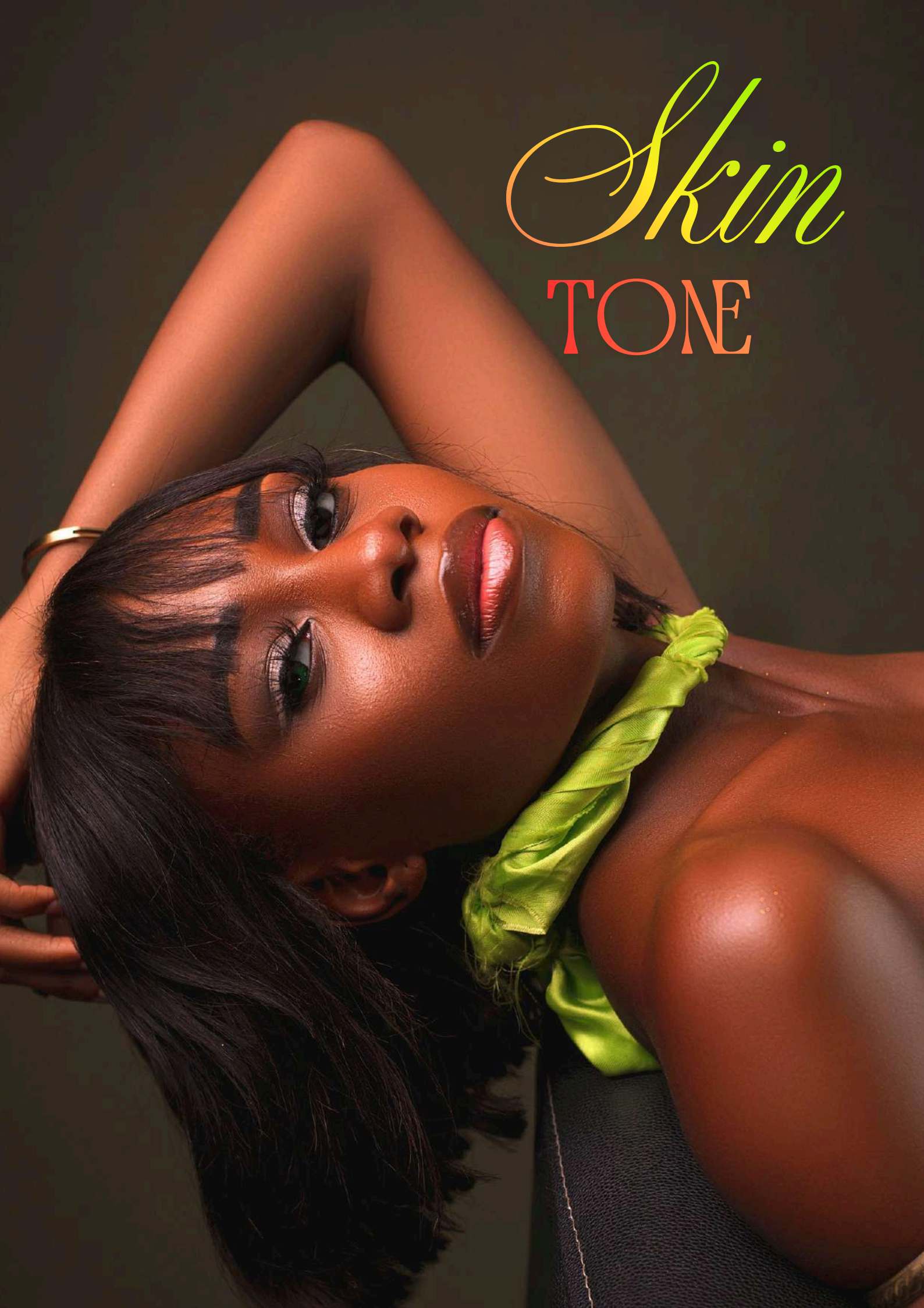
Despite all challenges, and in light of new developments in the media arena within and outside Zimpapers, I think the organization will survive and shame doomsayers, whatever their motivations. I am willing to wager my last dollar on it.

Zindoga's 10-Point-Plan for Saving Zimpapers

In view of the fact that Zimpapers is a public good, and national media and an institution that I love, I hereby offer my unsolicited 10-point-plan to help the organization:



1. **Cut, cut cut:** Despite certain concerns and short term costs of retrenchment, cutting more staff including in the senior editorial rung will be key to sustainability. My magic number is 277.
2. **Talent is key:** Retention and acquisition of talent and merit should be a priority. If possible, have aptitude tests; terminate contracts and have everyone, including outsiders, reapply;
3. **Sell:** There are reports that the company has had its assets stripped in recent years. Sell a few of what's left and finance restructuring;
4. **Retool:** The company already has the buildings and the capital equipment for newspapers, radio and TV. However, investments are needed for mobility and mobile content production;
5. **Unconventional talent:** The traditional journalist alone is now incapable of penetrating the market, selling, bringing revenue and ensuring survival. You need a few talent from non traditional domains for production, marketing, distribution and revenue generation across multiple platforms. I would rather have a newsroom full of talented individuals of diverse backgrounds than journalists that have reached their life cycles and gone beyond usefulness by a few years now.
6. **Specialize:** With huge resource chest and a good talent pool, Zimpapers could produce some of the best products such as books, documentaries, current affairs, etc, which should attract audiences and revenues locally and abroad;
7. **Partner:** Zimpapers needs to prioritise and implement important partnerships and collaborations with parties such as Chinese media. Already there are several MoUs that are not fully implemented;
8. **Accountability and governance:** Very conventional wisdom. Stop the hemorrhage of resources – if there are any left – and ensure that each cent is accounted for and investments yield proper returns aimed at growing the company. Yes, it can still grow!
9. **Trust and credibility:** Whereas it is an established fact that Zimpapers will largely remain captive to the majority shareholder, which is Government of the day, doing propaganda will require lots of sophistication as an antidote. Perhaps, look at it this way: there are platforms that are expected to do the propaganda heavy lifting, but others could build trust and credibility which should translate to revenue and sustainability
10. **Build for the future:** While survival is key, building the media of the future is non-negotiable. Stay ahead of the loop, set trends – for a change – rather than follow them.

A close-up portrait of a woman with dark skin and long, dark, wavy hair. She is lying down, looking upwards and slightly to the side. Her arms are raised above her head. She is wearing a bright green, silky scarf tied around her neck. The background is a dark, solid color. The lighting is soft, highlighting her features.

Skin TONE

WINTER (SNOW) IS COMING

WHY YOU NEED TO PREPARE NOW

The leaves have fallen, the air has that sharp, biting edge to it, and the forecast is beginning to look ominous. Winter is not just a date on the calendar; it is a force of nature that demands respect. Whether you love the snow or dread the ice, one thing is certain: being caught unprepared is not an option.



As we brace for the coming season, it is time to move beyond simply "bundling up." We need to equip ourselves, our vehicles, and our families for the reality of snow, ice, and freezing temperatures. Here is your comprehensive guide to staying safe and ready for the winter onslaught.



Dress for the Weather, Not the Fashion

When the temperature drops and the snow begins to pile up, your everyday wardrobe won't cut it. You need clothing strictly designed for snow and extreme cold. Cotton is your enemy in the winter, it absorbs sweat and moisture, losing its insulating properties and actually making you colder. Your Winter Arsenal Should Include:

- **Base Layers:** Invest in moisture-wicking thermal underwear (merino wool or synthetics) to keep sweat away from your skin.
- **Insulation:** Fleece or down mid-layers to trap body heat.
- **Outer Shell:** A waterproof and windproof jacket and pants. If you are going to be shoveling or playing, a snow bib or snow pants are essential to keep snow out of your boots.
- **Footwear:** Forget the fashion boots. You need insu-

-lated, waterproof boots with deep treads to prevent slips on ice. Look for ratings that specify they can handle sub-zero temperatures.

- **Accessories:** A warm hat that covers your ears, insulated waterproof gloves (not just knit mittens), and a scarf or neck gaiter to protect your face from windburn.

Car. Don't Gamble with Your Tires

The single most important safety feature on your car during the winter is not the brakes or the airbags; it is the tires. The rubber compound in "all-season" tires hardens when the temperature drops below 45°F (7°C), reducing traction significantly.

Winter tires are manufactured with a softer rubber compound that stays flexible in freezing temperatures. They feature deeper treads and "sipes" (tiny slits in the tread blocks) that bite into snow and ice.



To the Kids: Safety is a Game Plan

Children see snow as magic, but parents must see it as a potential hazard. Before the first flake falls, turn winter preparation into a family activity. Teach your kids that winter readiness is part of the fun.

- Never let children play outside alone in the snow. Establish a rule that they must always have a sibling or an adult watching.
- Teach kids how to layer up themselves. Show them that if they get wet, they must come inside immediately to change. Wet clothes lead to hypothermia quickly in children.
- Teach them to never walk on frozen ponds, rivers, or lakes. Ice thickness can be deceiving and deadly.
- If your children are old enough to walk to school or play in the neighborhood, ensure they know what to do if they get stranded or lost. They should know to go to a neighbor's house or a trusted business if they can't get home.

Finally, readiness extends beyond what you wear. Ensure your vehicle has an emergency kit including a blanket, flashlight, jumper cables, and non-perishable snacks. At home, stock up on essentials like salt or ice melt, a snow shovel, and enough food and water to last a few days in case of power outages.



Winter is inevitable, but suffering through it is optional. By purchasing the right gear, equipping your car with proper tires, and educating your children, you can turn a dangerous season into a manageable and even enjoyable one.



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THE ALBUM

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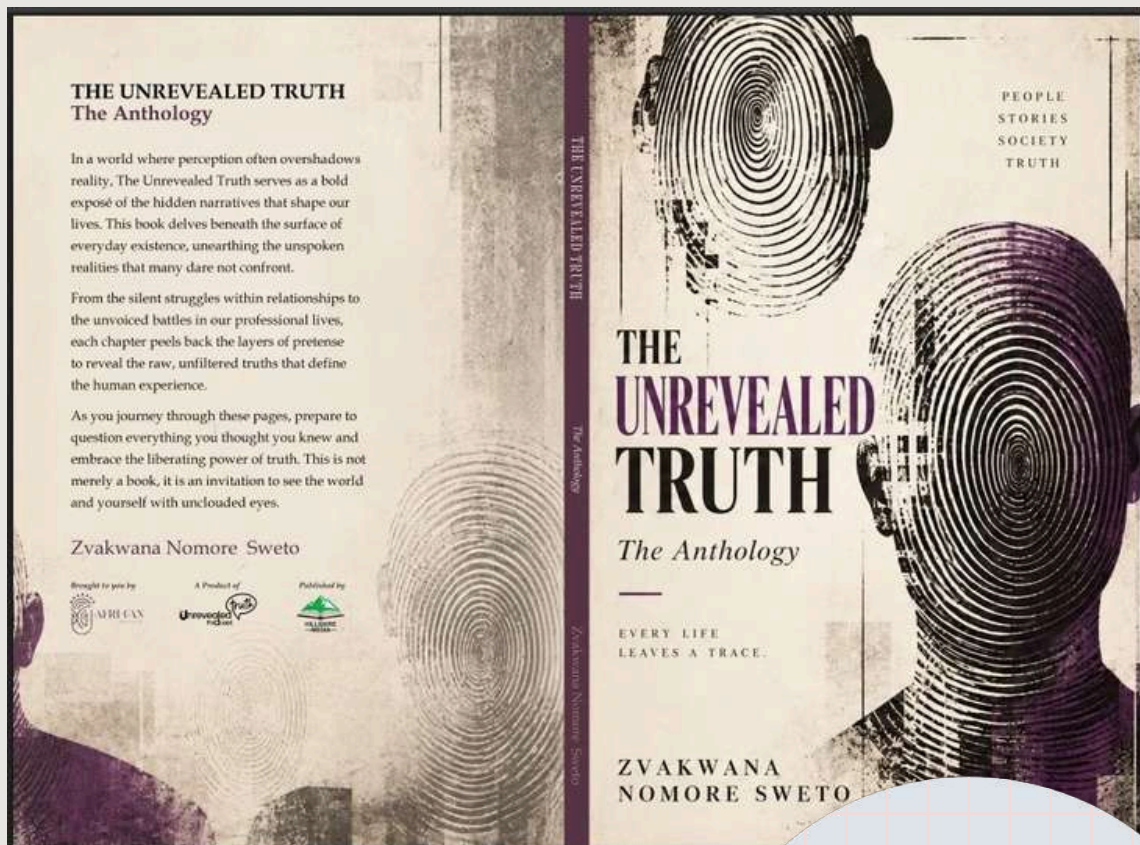
Nashie Zim has set October as the month for the release of his long awaited album. The 'man-of-the-moment' broke the news through his official social media handles. the artist is known for his captivating lyrics with deep meaning for those in love and his music has no age gap. He tries to balance the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

AFRI-CAN MAGAZINE

PRESENTS

new book

THE UNREVEALED TRUTH



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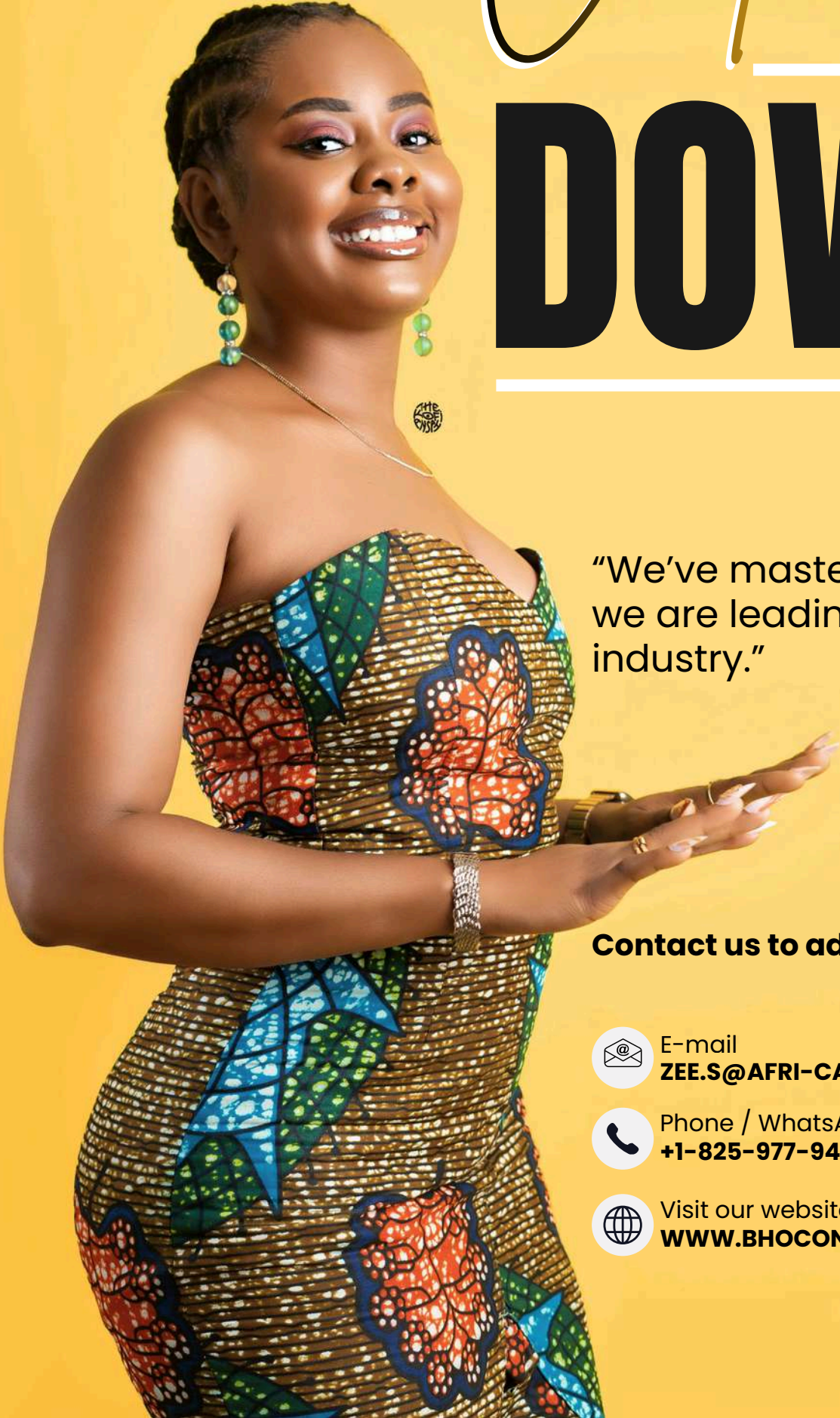
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