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Editor's Note

Welcome back to another exciting edition of our magazine! This month, we are thrilled to bring you something fresh and dynamic, as we experiment with a new format that we hope you will love. We are introducing different sections to highlight the unique stories of Bulawayo and the inspiring journeys of its youth.

In this edition, you'll find a blend of everything: for those in need of a good laugh, our brand-new comedy section will keep you entertained. For the career-focused students, we've included job opportunities to help you on your path. And for those curious about what's happening beyond the city, our rural section will bring you closer to the stories of resilience and innovation happening in rural communities.



We are also excited to feature Bulawayo's rising TikTok sensation in this edition! You'll get an inside look at her journey to building a thriving social media profile, as she shares insights on her success and what keeps her motivated.

As always, we're keen to grow this community, so if you're passionate about storytelling and want to be part of the magazine, reach out to us at +263 78 146 4664. We can't wait to hear from you!

Happy reading, and enjoy this month's issue!

Lungile Ngwenya
CITE Social Media Editor

10 QUESTIONS IN 10 MINUTES:

Unveiling the Secrets Behind Bulawayo's TikTok Sensation

In this issue, we sit down with one of Bulawayo's TikTok influencers Sibusiso Khupe AKA "iKhalanga lenkosi" who's been making waves on social media. With her vibrant personality and creative content, she has successfully grown her online presence and captured the hearts of many. Curious about how she achieved this? We sat down with her for a quick 10-minute session, asking 10 questions to uncover her secrets to success. Stay tuned to find out how she turned her passion into a thriving digital platform!

1. How did you first get started on TikTok, and what inspired you to create content on that platform?

"I started doing TikTok videos 2022 I was going through the darkest time of my life it saved me from dark thoughts."

2. Was there a specific moment or video that helped boost your popularity? Can you tell us about it?

"Yes, there are a couple of videos of me that went viral here in Zimbabwe and in South Africa. A lot of people were sharing these videos and that's when my profile grew on TikTok."

3. What do you love most about being a social media influencer and engaging with your audience?

"What amazes me the most is when I meet my fans on the streets and they get disappointed they say I'm not the same character as in social media. The person you meet in person is Sibusiso and not "iKhalanga lenkosi"

4. What are some of the challenges you've faced in your journey as a socialite/influencer, and how have you overcome them?

"Cyber bullying is everywhere on Social media. I get bullied a lot and I've been body shamed but I just let people be. I told myself that not everyone is going to like you whether you do good or bad it's all the same."

5. How do you come up with new content ideas, and what keeps you motivated to create consistently?

"My type of content is not difficult to create, at times my friends send me the voice notes to use"

6. As a TikTok influencer, how important is it to stay authentic, and how do you maintain that authenticity with your followers?

"To stay authentic you need to be always interacting with your audience, post at least everyday, respond to comments and give them what they want. Don't Try Too Hard."

7. What advice would you give to young people who want to build a career on social media or achieve success in their chosen field?

"Do what you like do it with love and passion be consistent to stay relevant and be patient those numbers don't come easy."

8. What's the most rewarding experience or opportunity you've had because of your social media presence?

"The best part of it is being recognized by big companies and getting to advertise their brands."

9. Can you share a fun fact about yourself that most of your followers might not know?

"I'm actually a shy person. lol"

10. Looking ahead, what are your future goals or projects, and how do you see yourself growing as a social media influencer?

"My aim is to reach 1million followers soon I'm now on 200 000."

IYASA PERFORMS IN GERMANY AS PART OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

BY JEWEL DAMUNESA

Five performers and one director from Zimbabwe's Inkululeko Yabatsha School of Arts (IYASA) have been in Germany since September 6, 2024, as part of the Kinder Kultur Karawane program. This initiative, which sponsors artistic groups from around the world to tour Germany for up to three months, has chosen participants this year from Zimbabwe, Tanzania, South Africa, and India.

The Zimbabwean group includes Innocent Dube, founder and director of IYASA, alongside performers Banele Moyo, Hasty Hassan, Fortune Ndlovu, Lauretta Phiri, and Gugulethu Matshazi Dube. The group has traveled across several cities, including Homburg, Eisenberg, Marburg, Bremen, Freiburg, Kassel, and Frankfurt, staying with host families to immerse themselves in local culture.

"Staying with the families has been amazing. You get to experience normal German family life and traditions. We get to know them, and it's been really great to make these connections," said Dube.



She added that as part of the exchange, the team performs at schools and engages in discussions with students.

"We perform for the students, but we also have question-and-answer sessions. It helps break down the stereotypes that people might have about Zimbabwe or African life in general," Dube said.

One of the biggest takeaways for Dube has been the level of personal freedom she's witnessed in Germany. "There's an abundance of freedom here," she said. "People are free to wear what they want without fear of judgment or shaming. You can really see how it helps people grow individually and feel protected."

Dube also stated that admires the parent-child relationships in Germany. She explained how the relationships between parents and children are open and flexible, noting that they create an environment that allows for growth, freedom, and progress. It's something I think Zimbabwe could really benefit from.

While German students show enthusiasm for social change, Dube notes a difference in context. "The students here are eager to effect social change, but there aren't as many causes to fight for compared to what we experience back home. It's the reality of living in a first-world country."

Despite missing her family and home, Dube is excited about the opportunities this tour offers.

"We're getting so much exposure, and our performative skills are really being sharpened. We're all looking forward to bringing this experience and knowledge back to Zimbabwe to make a difference."



SELF-LOVE SANCTUARY:

Prioritizing Mental Health Self-Care for Women

By Gugulethu Faith Hlabangana



As women, we often put others first – our families, friends, careers, and communities. But what about our own well-being? It's time to shift the focus inward and prioritize mental health self-care. Neglecting self-care can lead to burnout, anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. By taking care of our mental health, we become stronger, more resilient, and radiant women.

So, what is self-care? It's intentionally taking time to nourish your mind, body, and spirit. Self-care is not a luxury; it's a necessity.



It's essential to recognize that self-care is not a one-size-fits-all approach. Experiment with different activities to find what works best for you.

Start with small, manageable rituals. Take 5-minute breaks to breathe, meditate, or practice yoga. Journal your thoughts, feelings, and gratitude. Schedule regular check-ins with supportive friends. Indulge in scented baths, manicures, or spa days. Practice mindful eating and exercise. Learn to say "no" and prioritize your needs.

Nature has a profound impact on our mental well-being. Take walks outside, soak up sunshine, and connect with nature. Creative expression is also vital. Paint, draw, write poetry, or compose music. Set aside time for relaxation and rejuvenation – dedicate one day a week to Self-Care Sundays.

In today's digital age, it's crucial to establish boundaries. Limit social media, set phone-free hours, or take a digital break. Remember, self-care is not selfish; it's essential. By prioritizing mental health, you'll become a more productive, creative, and compassionate person.

Empowering affirmations can also shift your mindset. Repeat phrases like "I am enough," "I am worthy of love and care," and "I trust myself." Believe them, and watch your confidence soar.

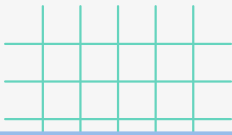
If you're struggling with mental health issues, know you're not alone. Reach out to friends or family, talk to a church leader, or try online therapy platforms like BetterHelp.

Remember, self-love is a journey, not a destination. By prioritizing mental health self-care, you'll unlock a more vibrant, resilient you. Share your self-care story and inspire others to do the same. Stay beautiful, inside and out!

BEYOND FESTIVITY:



Reflecting on King Mzilikazi's legacy and the Ndebele Identity Today



By Jewel Damunesa

The commemoration of the death anniversary of King Mzilikazi on the 8th of September this year was marked with festivity and jubilation, positively indicating the vitality and continuation of the Ndebele Kingdom.

This ought to arouse a historical vis a vis status quo reflection on the essence of the Ndebele Kingdom, and an open inquiry into the constitution of the Ndebele identity – especially in an increasingly diversified and pluralized society that challenges the binary notions of either being this or that, and never neither or both. The thoughtful reflections will inevitably lead to not only the continued survival of the cultural identity, but foster the realization of the dynamic evolution that has taken place in order to survive changes that come with time.

It is apt to be aware of the diversity that marked the emergence of the Ndebele Kingdom – its composition accounted for captives captured during the journey to what is now known as Matabeleland, and the stratified social organization that was controlled by rules of service and political rank. King Mzilikazi is himself said to have been friendly to European travelers of various professions, missionaries like Robert Moffat, an explorer and trader David Hume and a medical doctor and ethnologist Andrew Smith.

This should point people to reflect on the value of cultural exchange, which, contrary to popular belief that it causes dilution, enriches an identity and shines light on the inherently plural nature of Bantu identities.



Raising awareness of this diversity also avoids the homogenization of the Ndebele identity which robs it of its richness, being Ndebele is not a fixed condition or an attempt at repossessing and antiquated glorious past by wearing traditional gear and re-enacting cultural practices as though it were a play or mockery. This commemoration of King Mzilikazi should encourage people, especially the youth, about the true meaning and depth of traditional practices and the importance of historical figures that played key roles in shaping the Ndebele identity. It is a fatal flaw of our unrecorded cultures that we lose out on the richness of the teachings, philosophies of our ancestors, but we can ensure that the culture continues to survive.



LUYAMEMETHEKA UDLAME ESTEZI NGENXA YEZIDAKAMIZWA

Umlobi ngu Christabel Sibanda

Ukusetshenziswa kwezidakamizwa eluhlwini lweStezi, e Matabeleland South sekukhuphule izinga lodlame esigabeni.

Izidakamizwa ezilentengo ephansi okugoqela isidakamizwa esidumileyo intshengu sekubangele ukuthi inengi lentsha kulesisigaba lingabe lisathakazelela ukuya ezikolo ngoba bechitha isikhathi sabo bezilibazisa ngezidakamizwa.

Omunye wentsha, u Busisani Ndlovu owaqala ukunatha untshenku esaseskolo emva kokuyengwa ngabangane bakhe ubike ukuthi imbangela yokuthi abantu abatsha benathe yikuzama ukulalisa imicabango yabo ukuthi bengacabangi ngalokhu okubahluphayo.

Undlovu yena ubuye waveza ukukhathazeka ngezinga lodlame olwenziwa yintsha lapho isithe yanatha izidakamizwa.

“Okusihluphayo singanatha siyabulalana, siyagwazana. Intshengu yona iyalimaza emzimbeni, iyabulala amaphaphu lezibindi njalo singayinatha sibalezibindi zokubulalana.”

UNDlovu uthe inengi lentsha sebezenza iziqhwaga zokubulala abanye abantu ngenxa yezidakamizwa.

“Abanengi sebenatha besesikolo lokubhema lembanje bebancane yikho okwenza bebulalane, abasahloniphi labantu abadala babaphendula noma yini abayifunayo, lezandla zabo sezilula sezikwazi lokutshaya abantu abadala sebekhuluma lehlamba ezethusa uzulu wonke.”

Ungezelele ngokuthi izakhamizi sezihlala zithithibele ngokwesaba intsha esithe yanatha izidakamizwa.

UNDlovu uphinde wathi okunye okuyimbangele yokuthi intsha isebenzise izidakamizwa esigabeni yikuswelakala kwendawo zokuzilibazisa lokwenza imisebenzi yezandla.



RURAL SECTION

Abafundi eStezi abayi esikolo bedinga amanzi

Umlobi ngu Celeste Ndlovu

Usabhuku kaward 6, eSibona, esigabeni seStezi, esabelweni se Matabeleland South ukhankasela ukugejwa komgodi ozasiza izakhamizi zithole amanzi.

Ukuswelakala kwamanzi sekubangele ukuthi abafundi bekhuthe izifundo zabo ngoba betshona bedinga amanzi.

Umnyaka ka 2024 ube lezulu elincane ngenxa se somiso esibangelwe yi EL Nino. Lesi somiso sibangele ukoma kwamadamu kanye leminyane imthombo yamanzi egoqela izikotsho okuyizo ezisiza abantu emaphandleni.

Usabhuku wesigaba umnunzana uSibanda ucele ukuthi isigaba sakhe sigejelwe umgodi le damu lilungiswe ukuze izakhamizi zisizakale kanye lezifuyo.

“Silesithuli ngokwenzakala esigabeni sethu, asiselamanzi. Besicela kukhansili ukuthi bezosigebhela imigodi yamanzi ukuze izifuyo zethu kanye labantu bethole amanzi.”

Egcizelela amazwi ka Sibanda, omunye we zakhamizi, uMoyo ubike ukuthi ukuswelakala kwamanzi sekuphazamisa intsha, ikakhulu amantombazane ezifundweni zabo.

“Ukuswelakala kwamanzi sekubangele ukufa kwezifuyo lentsha ezifundweni zabo ngoba kwamele umntwana aqale ayekukha amanzi ibanga elide ongalihamba amahola amabili.

Umntwana avele ayehluleke ukuphumelela ezifundweni zakhe.” Uhulumende weZimbabwe ubethembise ukugebha izibhorane phansi kohlelo lwe Presidential Borehole Drilling Scheme.

FUNNY STORIES THAT HEAL REVIEW: THE FIRST OF MANY, MANY MORE..

BY MZIWETHU KHUMALO

On the 24th and 25th of August at the Bulawayo theatre the self proclaimed most handsome comedian in Zimbabwe, Frank Chirisa held a fill up Bulawayo theatre comedy special and boy was it packed. A youth dominated lineup boasting the likes of Sisa and Sox who dazzled us with their poetry, hosted by Sncomie on the 24th and Comedienne Tanya Alex on the 25th. This event was something we usually experience on TV but I had to be there to experience it myself.

I went on Sunday the 25th of August getting there relatively early, just straight after church to scope the scene. It had been a fairly hot day and my expectations were quite high, you see Frank is a dear friend of mine and I figure since he did this before, on the previous day the second and last show of his special was going to be a walk in the park. Truly speaking it was our host for the day Comedienne Tanya Alex who tantalized it with jokes as she introduced the various acts coming onto the stage from Sisa's emotional Catharsis on the stage to Sox's.

Actually I noticed that Sox was wearing literally socks on stage, what a way to encapsulate your entire image and capture the crowd. Anyway Sox had the ladies screaming for more, his poem was rather explicit in a good way, for the ladies.

Overall the event went well act after act, there was a rapper saying all kinds of unsavoury things about his ex. Let's just say it was an act because that had me a bit worried for some time and I almost looked for him after the show to give him some contacts of a few free psychologists I know. Brandon Masuku also blessed us



with his Kasi inspired comedy style very unique and I should really add that in the middle of all these acts Tanya Alex would be entertaining throughout the show up until the man of the our himself graced us with his comedic brilliance making us laugh out loud and at times out of our seats.

I have to give a huge congratulations to Frank you really did your thing and from a brief conversation with him he told me about going on a Southern Africa tour starting on the 11th of October in Masvingo with his entourage. Frank is a good indicator that if you believe you can achieve he's a true inspiration for the youth and deserves his flowers.

Are you looking to boost your career or explore new areas of journalism? Look no further! We've curated a list of jobs, training programs, grants, fellowships, and awards to jumpstart your media career or take it to the next level. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting, there's something here for everyone. Prepare your application materials – CVs, Cover Letter, essays, proposals, etc. – in advance to ensure timely submissions. Do not forget to revamp your LinkedIn Profile! Opportunities won't wait for you to feel ready - You just have to go for them. Opportunities don't go to those who deserve them, they go to those who GRAB them.



1. The application phase for the 2026-2027 [Deutsche Welle](https://akademie.dw.com/en/dw-traineeship-2026-2027-apply-now/a-70487446) traineeship has begun. Aspiring journalists can apply for the bilingual program until November 18. Apply Now: <https://akademie.dw.com/en/dw-traineeship-2026-2027-apply-now/a-70487446>
2. [Global Press](https://ats.rippling.com/global-press-careers/jobs/9c9dae55-d4a8-4cc7-b429-94999af6645f) announces the Shifting Democracies Reporting Fellowship for Women Journalists. Applications are open now through Nov. 8. Fellows will work remotely and must be from and located in one of 15 eligible countries. To learn more, click the link: <https://ats.rippling.com/global-press-careers/jobs/9c9dae55-d4a8-4cc7-b429-94999af6645f>
3. [Diya Banerjee](mailto:banerjeed@who.int), the head of social media and media monitoring at [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int) is hunting for an enterprising, creative multimedia producer who can do trend-based short videos for World Health Organization's corporate [TikTok](https://www.tiktok.com/@who.int) account. You have to have a pulse on news, a sense of the creator economy and propose and implement ideas that can help World Health Organization's young audience relate to global public health and science in new exciting ways. Drop them your portfolio and CV at banerjeed@who.int. Subject: TikTok Creator
4. If you are ready to make a meaningful impact by better communicating science, development and climate issues, this [Arianna Flores Corral](https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7251968597806174209) #CommsJobBoard 36 of 2024 is for you: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7251968597806174209>
5. Looking for an impactful role in communications? The [International Labour Organization](https://www.ilo.org/) is hiring a Senior Communication and Public Information Officer (P4) in Geneva. The role involves leading communication strategies for promoting freedom of association and collective bargaining globally. Candidates with at least seven years of experience in public information and a strong grasp of digital content creation are encouraged to apply. Deadline: November 4, 2024. For more details and to apply: <https://ow.ly/W3tI50TJLI>
6. Calling US Based Journalists - [Rebecca Aguilar](https://rebeccaaguilar.wordpress.com/2024/10/03/journalism-job-openings-the-october-list-2/) has compiled more than 100 JOURNALISM JOB openings for US based Journalists in her October list: <https://rebeccaaguilar.wordpress.com/2024/10/03/journalism-job-openings-the-october-list-2/>
7. [Baraza Media Lab](https://www.barazalab.com) has curated opportunities for media and creatives in Africa. From residencies and fellowships to grants and full-time jobs. Check out this week's round-up of exciting openings! Visit [jobs.barazalab.com](https://www.barazalab.com) for the full list of opportunities or check out their LinkedIn Newsletter: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/baraza-opportunity-board-edition-9-baraza-media-lab-a05ge/?trackingId=ZCz6qv6Dz59%2B11b%2F0XnC%2Fg%3D%3D>
8. The Media Viability Manifesto (MVM) is out. It provides an urgently needed common framework for joint action from the global media development community. Download the Media Viability Manifesto in English, Spanish or French here: <https://akademie.dw.com/en/out-now-the-media-viability-manifesto/a-70419932DW> Akademie
9. [L'Oréal](https://careers.loreal.com/en_US/jobs/JobDetail/?jobId=186941) is hiring an Internal Communications & Engagement Manager: https://careers.loreal.com/en_US/jobs/JobDetail/?jobId=186941
10. [UN Environment Programme](https://careers.un.org/jobSearchDescription/243904?language=en) at Nairobi is hiring a Communications Intern: <https://careers.un.org/jobSearchDescription/243904?language=en>
11. In the spirit of creating the best conference for investigative journalists, the 2025 Global Investigative Journalism Conference #GIJC25 is now looking for great ideas for its sessions. Send your proposals by Dec. 20: [https://gijn.org/stories/send-us-your-panel-and-workshop-ideas-for-gijc25/Global Investigative Journalism Network](https://gijn.org/stories/send-us-your-panel-and-workshop-ideas-for-gijc25/Global%20Investigative%20Journalism%20Network)

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