

# #HASHTAG

AUGUST EDITION, 2025



**CITE YOUTH  
NETWORK**

**PAGE 4**

**ZIM'S UNSUNG HEROES:  
YOUNG, BOLD AND  
CHANGING THE  
GAME**

**PAGE 5**

**THE LEGACY OF  
ZIMBABWE'S  
FOUNDING  
FATHERS**

**PAGE 7**

**ZIMBABWE'S YOUNG  
HEROES LEADING THE  
CHARGE IN WILDLIFE  
CONSERVATION**

**Brot**  
für die Welt



## Contents



### **03** Editor's Note



### **04** Candice Sibanda

**14**

**Not every hero wears a cape**

**15**

**The Day I Almost Became a Functioning Adult**

**17**

**Youth day vibes at Luveve Youth Centre**

### **08** Heroism in Zimbabwe: local roots, Global pop culture influence

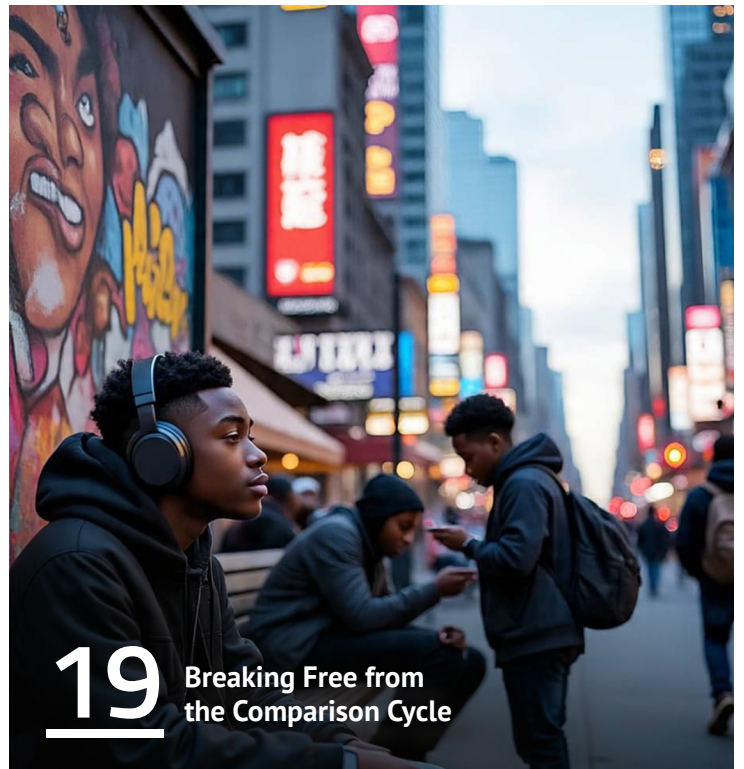
In the realm of pop culture, heroes are more than just characters in movies, comics, or books; they're mirrors reflecting societal values, struggles, and aspirations.

### **10** Unsung heroes around us

"The quite strength of ordinary people is what truly holds the world together"

### **12** Empowering Young Voices: The Story of Lee-roy Thobelikhaya Mpofu

Lee-roy Thobelikhaya Mpofu is a force to be reckoned with in the realm of youth advocacy and empowerment.



### **19** Breaking Free from the Comparison Cycle



# Editor's Note



**Melinda Ncube**  
CITE Youth Network Coordinator

Every generation has its heroes. Some are remembered in our history for leading struggles that shaped nations. Others live quietly among us, changing lives in ways that never make headlines.

In this special Heroes Issue of #tag magazine, we pause to reflect, to celebrate, and to ask: what does it mean to be a hero today?

For many, the word “hero” brings to mind the brave men and women who fought for freedom and justice.

Their sacrifices laid the foundation on which we stand, and it is important that we keep telling their stories, especially to the young people who will carry that legacy forward. But we also recognise that heroism is not just found in the past.

It is alive in the present, in the teacher who inspires, the activist who speaks truth to power, the artist who challenges us to see the world differently, and the young person who chooses hope over despair.

This issue is about widening the lens. It is about showing that heroes come in many forms. Some wear uniforms, some raise placards, others create with paintbrushes, laptops, or simply their voices.

What unites them is courage, vision, and a willingness to act when it matters most.

As you flip through these pages, may you not only learn about heroes but also be inspired to become one in your own way.

Heroism is not about perfection, nor is it about recognition. It is about impact, the small, consistent choices we make every day to stand up for what is right, to support one another, and to build a future that reflects our highest hopes.

This is your invitation to see yourself as part of the story. Because the next chapter of our nation's and our world's history will be written by you, the youth.

And maybe, just maybe, someone will call you a hero one day too.

## FOLLOW US

FOR NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENT



@CITEZW | WWW.CITE.ORG.ZW



# Zim's Unsung Heroes: Young, bold and changing the game



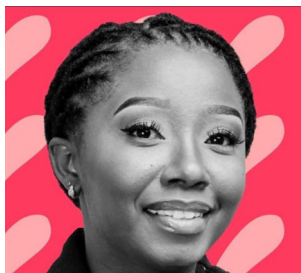
By  
Anele Nkomo

**W**hen we talk about “heroes,” most people picture statues, war history, or big politicians, but the truth is, some heroes aren’t in the history books yet. They may be walking the streets of Harare, vibing in Bulawayo, or representing us on world stages. And guess what? They’re **YOUNG**. Here are some of six Zimbabweans proving that our generation isn’t just the future, we’re already the **NOW**.



**Nkosilathi Nyathi** – The Eco-Warrior Kid  
At just 11 years old, Nkosilathi built a biogas plant at his school so meals could be cooked without cutting down trees. Today, he’s stood on stages like COP25 in Spain, addressing world leaders on climate change.  
✂️ “Age doesn’t limit impact.”

His story reminds us that no one is too young to lead. If you have a vision, don’t wait for permission, start where you are.



**Namatai Kwekweza** – Fearless Voice for Democracy  
At 18, Namatai was arrested for standing up to political manipulation. Instead of backing down, she founded WELEAD Trust, a civic movement pushing for youth voices in decision-making. Fearless, unshaken, and still going strong. Her courage says to us: “Speak even when your voice shakes.”



**Theresa Nyava** – Ending Period Poverty Through

Sanitary Aid Zimbabwe Trust, Theresa makes sure girls don’t miss school because of lack of pads. Her mission? To give every young woman dignity and opportunity. “No girl should ever sit out her dreams because of her cycle.” She’s a reminder that small acts of kindness can rewrite someone’s entire future.



**Ayanda Candice Sibanda** – Shining with Albinism  
Bulawayo’s own Ayanda is a model and activist turning stigma into strength. By owning her beauty with albinism, she inspires confidence in thousands and shows us that difference is power. Her journey says: “Don’t just exist—shine.”



**Actions Winya** – Healing Through Yoga  
In Chitungwiza, Actions brought yoga to the most unexpected spaces, even taverns. His work shows that healing doesn’t need to be fancy; it just needs heart. He’s teaching stressed-out communities to breathe, stretch, and heal.

“Healing starts the moment you pause for yourself.”



**Peter Chimntanda** – Mental Health Educator  
From Mbare to Epworth, Peter is tackling depression, addiction, and stigma head-on. By training young peer educators, he reminds us that mental health is not a taboo—it’s part of life. “You’re not alone. We heal together.”

It’s true that heroes aren’t only found in the history books, they’re among us right now. These six prove that change starts small: planting trees, speaking out, handing out pads, walking the runway, teaching yoga, or opening up about mental health.

So here’s the challenge: Who’s the unsung hero in your hood? Maybe it’s your friend with a side hustle, a teacher who pushes you forward, or even **YOU**.

Remember this: “Your voice is power, your actions are impact, and your story is inspiration.” Don’t wait to be celebrated to make a difference, **BE** the difference because in the end, the next hero of Zimbabwe might just be reading this article.



# The legacy of Zimbabwe's founding fathers



By  
Lungisani Moyo

**M**eet the men and women who shaped Zimbabwe's destiny. From fighting for freedom to building a nation, Zimbabwe's founding fathers left a lasting legacy.

Zimbabwe's founding fathers faced numerous challenges as they fought for independence and built their nation. One of the biggest hurdles was the struggle for independence, which required immense courage and determination. Leaders like Joshua Nkomo and Robert Mugabe faced opposition, imprisonment, and exile, but their resolve remained unwavering.

Once independence was achieved,

they faced leadership challenges, including uniting diverse groups and managing expectations. They had to build a nation from scratch, creating institutions and infrastructure from the ground up.

Economic challenges were also significant, with the country struggling to rebuild after years of war and sanctions. Poverty, inequality, and limited resources were just a few of the issues they had to contend with.

As we reflect on the challenges faced by Zimbabwe's founding fathers, we can draw valuable lessons from their experiences. One key takeaway is the importance of unity and reconciliation. Despite their differences, they came together to fight for a common goal - independence.

Another lesson is the need for inclusive economic development. The founding fathers struggled to address poverty and inequality, and it's a challenge that still resonates today.

Finally, their experiences show us the importance of balancing national interests with global relations. Zimbabwe's founding fathers navigated complex international relationships while trying to assert their independence.

As we reflect on the legacy of Zimbabwe's founding fathers, we honour their sacrifices and vision for a better future. Their triumphs and challenges offer valuable lessons for today's leaders and citizens. By learning from their experiences, we can build a brighter future for Zimbabwe, one that is united, prosperous, and just for all.



# #tag Playlist of the Month

This August, our playlist brings together the hottest sounds from Afrobeats, Amapiano, and American pop.

From chart-toppers to fresh drops, here are the 10 tracks defining the vibe right now:

1. Rema – Baby (Is It a Crime):  
Smooth Afrobeats with a nostalgic Sade sample.

2. Rema – Kelebu:  
A fiery viral hit lighting up TikTok.

3. Tiwa Savage ft. Skepta – On The Low:  
Afro-fusion with UK rap energy.

4. D'banj ft. DJ Maphorisa & DJ Obi – Tobari:  
A blend of Afrobeats, Amapiano, and Afro-house.

5. DJ Maphorisa & crew – Ngibolekeni:  
Amapiano's hypnotic anthem of the season.

6. Doja Cat – Jealous Type:  
Funky, bold, and already climbing charts.

7. Demi Lovato – Fast:  
A high-energy diva-house comeback.

8. Sabrina Carpenter – Manchild:  
Disco-pop perfection at No. 1 worldwide.

9. Miley Cyrus – Easy Lover:  
Emotional soft rock with a pop twist.

10. Tame Impala – End of Summer:  
Psychedelic dance to close the season.



## Zimbabwe's young heroes leading the charge in wildlife conservation



By  
Tafadzwa Gumunyu

**Z**imbabwe is home to many amazing animals like elephants, cheetahs, rare birds, and wild dogs. These creatures shape our identity and culture, but now, their future is at stake. Poaching, deforestation, and conflict over land are making life harder for wildlife. Still, there is hope. Young people across the country are stepping up. These are today's real heroes: students, volunteers, eco-club members, and musicians working to protect nature.

In Victoria Falls, rural school children visit the Victoria Falls Wildlife Trust. They meet rescued animals like Sylvester the cheetah and

Judd the vulture. They learn that wildlife belongs to our shared home and future. Older students join week-long programs: game drives, national park trips, and team projects. Many are inspired to become rangers, guides, or start conservation initiatives. Eco-clubs run by Children in the Wilderness (YES programme) bring students to places like Hwange National Park. They teach care for the environment, leadership, and teamwork. Many participants go on to speak at events, lead clean-ups, and support anti-poaching efforts. Some young heroes use art and social media to spread the word. Voltz JT, a hip-hop artist from Chitungwiza, sings about life in Zimbabwe and the importance of protecting what is ours. Through partnerships with organisations

like Wild Africa, his music has drawn young fans into conservation conversations.

At Dimbangombe near Victoria Falls, rural youth are trained in wildlife management, eco-tourism, and small eco business showing how conservation can support livelihoods.

Scholars also stress the power of youth in conservation. A recent study notes that "Youth are increasingly recognised for their important role in shaping environmental decisions surrounding conservation," even though they often face barriers to participating fully. Across Zimbabwe, these young heroes are making a real difference. They remove snares, speak at schools, post videos, and talk to their

families and neighbours about living in harmony with animals.

They don't do it for fame, but they do it because they care. They know that if they don't act now, there may be nothing left for the future. "These young people remind us that you don't need money or power to be a hero," says a Hwange teacher. "All you need is the courage to care for the land and the animals we share it with." These are Zimbabwe's true heroes, not in uniforms or capes, but in gumboots, T-shirts, and school shirts. They are the new guardians of the wild, and because of them, there is still hope for our animals, forests, and the future of our country.



# Heroism in Zimbabwe: Local roots, global pop culture influence



By  
Nicole Gugulethu Moyo

In the realm of pop culture, heroes are more than just characters in movies, comics, or books; they're mirrors reflecting societal values, struggles, and aspirations. In Zimbabwe, a nation with its own rich history of celebrating national heroes, the concept of heroism in pop culture takes on unique dimensions. Global superheroes like Black Panther shape perceptions of courage, justice, and representation, while Zimbabwe's Heroes

Day honours the legacy of national heroes like Sekuru Kaguvi and Mbuya Nehanda, who died in the line of duty fighting for liberation.

Globally, heroes in pop culture transcend entertainment; they embody ideals of strength, justice, and representation. In Zimbabwe, Heroes Day on August 11th underscores the nation's respect for those who contributed to its liberation and development. Zimbabwean heroes like Sekuru Kaguvi and Mbuya Nehanda, spiritual leaders in the First Chimurenga against British colonial

rule, were executed for their bravery. Their legacy, along with others who died in the line of duty, is celebrated for tangible impact on Zimbabwe's history and values of unity.

The blend of global influences and local heritage shapes how heroism is perceived in Zimbabwean society. Young Zimbabweans engage with both international media and local storytelling, drawing inspiration from global superheroes and Zimbabwe's own heroes. This dynamic creates a cultural landscape where both global narratives

of heroism and local traditions of honouring heroes shape perceptions of courage, impact, and heroism.

In everyday Zimbabwean life, ideals from global pop culture heroes and national heroes inspire community actions and personal values. From volunteering locally to standing up for justice, the spirit of heroism motivates individuals to make a difference. Celebrating both global and Zimbabwean heroes fosters courage, unity, and positive impact.



# Unfulfilled promises

By Nicole Gugulethu Moyo

In the annals of time, their  
names etched deep, Nehanda  
and Kaguvi, spirits bold and steep.  
Fought against the chains of  
colonial gold,  
Their legacy lives on,  
forever to be told.

Their voices echoed, a call to arms,  
Against the oppressors, with  
hearts that harmed.  
They stood tall, unwavering  
and strong,  
For the land, the people,  
and freedom's song.

Years went by, and independence  
dawned, Robert Mugabe's leadership,  
a new path was drawn.  
But as the years went by, a new struggle  
emerged, From racism to tribalism,  
the people's  
hopes submerged.

The same people, different tribes, now oppress,  
Each other, with power's intoxicating mess.  
The youth struggle on, with education's plight,  
Employment's scarcity, a constant fight.

Medical assistance, a luxury to afford,  
A new form of oppression, a modern day chord.  
The struggle's far from over, the battle's not yet dry,  
Independence Day's fanfare, a hollow sound, why?

Why celebrate independence, when freedom's not complete?  
When the youth's future's uncertain, and their voices retreat.  
The heroes who fought, for a nation so grand,  
Would they be proud, of the state of the land?

Let us honour our heroes, with more  
than just a day, Let us strive for true freedom,  
in every single way.  
For Nehanda and Kaguvi's  
legacy to live on,  
We must continue the fight,  
until justice is won.



# Unsung heroes around us



By  
Amanda Ndlovu

**///** The quite strength of ordinary people is what truly holds the world together”

When we hear the word hero, our minds often take us to the images we see in movies, men and women with capes flying across the skies saving the day in different ways, or we tend to think heroes are the men and women who fought in the war. But in truth the real heroes live right here among us, they don't always make the news, they don't trend on social media and they rarely get the applause they deserve yet every single day they quite shape our lives, hold our communities together and remind us what true courage looks like. These

are the unsung heroes.

Think about our parents, the very first heroes we have ever known. They sacrifice dreams, stretch resources, and give their all so that we are afforded with opportunities they sometimes never had. Their love is not loud, but it is steady, powerful and strong enough to carry us through life's biggest storms. Behind every milestone we celebrate, there is a parent who cheered us on even when the world doubted us.

Then there are our teachers, the patient architects of the future. Day after day they pour knowledge, wisdom and care into classrooms, sparking curiosity in young minds. For many of us a teacher was the very first person who looked in our eyes and said “you can

do it” their names may fade with time but their impact echoes through generations. Our nurses are heroes in scrubs. They stand at hospitals bedsides with compassion, offering strength when families feel weak, and comfort when pain feels unbearable. They work super long tireless hours often putting the well-being of others before their own. To be a nurse is to live in service of humanity and that is nothing short of heroic.

Heroes also rise before the sun, the street sweepers and cleaners often overlooked by many, are the reason we can walk through clean streets, work and live in healthier spaces. Their work is humble and quite but without them our workspaces, cities and towns will turn into a dumpsite chaos and crumble

into disorder. We must also honour the taxi drivers and bus drivers. Every day they navigate crowded roads carrying the responsibility of lives in transit. They make sure children arrive at school, parents arrive at work and families get to their destinations safe and sound. Without them movement would stall and dreams would be delayed. And how can we forget the vendors, the beating heart of our communities. With resilience and determination they wake up early set up stalls and sell goods that keep our household running day in day out. Through their hustle, they teach us perseverance, dignity in work and courage to face tomorrow even when today has been unkind.

These are the faces of everyday heroism. They don't wear medals, they don't command headlines, they don't carry guns but they embody the spirit of resilience, service and love. They remind us that heroism is not only found in extraordinary acts, but also in ordinary people who show up every single day and give their best. So the next time you pass a parent, teacher, nurse, a cleaner a vendor or a driver pause, smile and say thank you. Because without these unsung heroes, the world would not stand firmly as it does. In celebrating them we celebrate humanity itself, quite, enduring and profoundly heroic.

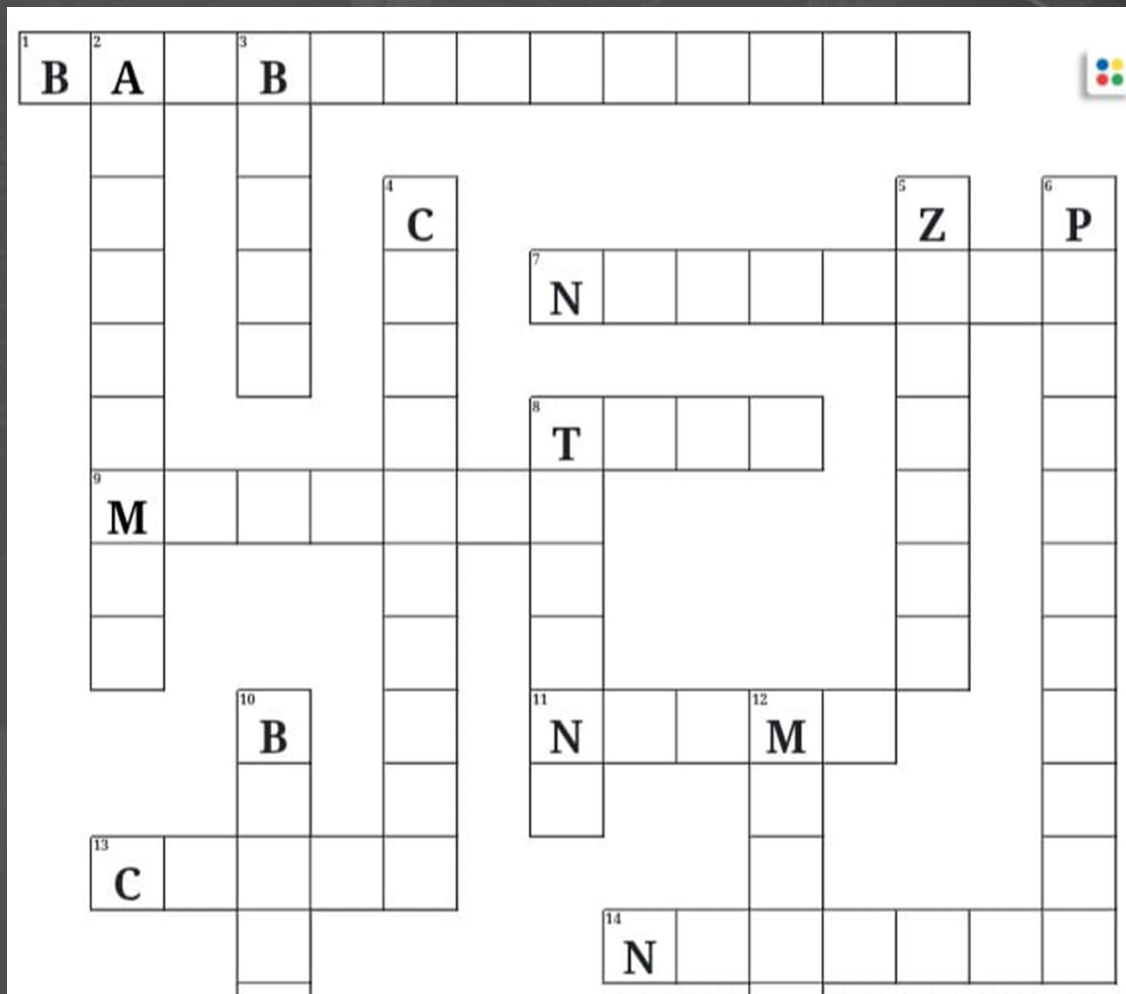
“I hope we never forget to notice those who walk besides us. I hope we learn to see the everyday sacrifices that too often go unspoken. For honouring the unsung we also find the best parts of ourselves, love, kindness and gratitude”  
Amanda.



# Crossword Puzzle

By Brendon Ncube

- 1.(Famous stadium in where soccer legends play.)  
 7.(Miss NUST, second name is Sisa.)  
 8.(Beloved nickname of Oliver Mtukudzi.)  
 9.(A skhoboskhobo, this artist brings raw energy of the street.)  
 11.(“Father Zimbabwe”, first Black Vice President.)  
 13.(Influential indigenous spiritual healer, ‘Mai’ \_\_\_\_.)  
 14.(She’s a kasi barbie and rapper known as \_\_\_\_ J.)
- Down
- 2.(Popular Bulawayo clothing brand possibly in the top 3.)  
 3.(Football faith, chant on the terraces: Siyinqaba! We are \_\_\_\_.)  
 4.(Environmental engineer and founder of GreenHut; her name is also a fairy tale character.)  
 5.(Director of CITE, Bulawayo-based journalist & filmmaker (first name).)  
 6.(Bosso & Warriors football legend from Bulawayo.)  
 8.(He’s the funniest man on the streets of CBD – known simply as \_\_\_\_.)  
 10.(TikTok sensation, some consider him the best)





# Empowering young voices: The story of Lee-roy Thobelikhaya Mpofu



By  
Persistence Nkomo

Ever feel like negative thoughts are holding you back? Yeah, we've all been there! But what if you could flip the script and change the way you think about yourself and your abilities? Negative thoughts can be major buzzkills, but the good news is you can learn to challenge and change them. Reframing is all about becoming aware of those negative thoughts, questioning their validity, and replacing them with more positive and realistic ones. It's like

hitting the reset button on your mindset!

Lee-roy Thobelikhaya Mpofu is a force to be reckoned with in the realm of youth advocacy and empowerment. As a social sciences student, peer educator, and chairperson of the Local Coordinating Committee at Midlands State University, Lee-roy has dedicated his life to promoting student-centered policies, awareness campaigns, and safe spaces for young people.

Lee-roy's motivation stems from seeing the direct impact that advocacy and

awareness can have on young people's lives. He believes that young people need to have their voices heard and be at the forefront of policies that affect them.

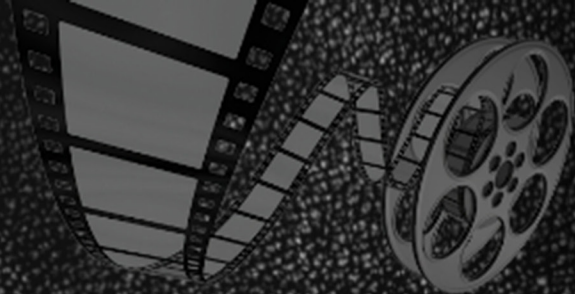
As he puts it, "A student can make informed decisions, prevent health risks, or speak up against harassment because of the work we do keeps me going." This passion has driven him to take on various roles, including serving as a TB Champion and youth policy advocate in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR). Some of Lee-roy's notable achievements include spear-

heading the implementation of MSU's Sexual Harassment Policy, raising awareness about TB, and being featured in the Zimbabwe national Rights and Literacy Manual. He has also been recognised internationally for his work, including being featured in the Heygirl manual drafted by Bantwana Zimbabwe. According to Lee-roy, "Change is not instant; it takes patience, persistence, and collective effort." This philosophy has guided his approach to advocacy and leadership.

Despite facing challenges such as overcoming stigma and resistance, especially around issues like sexual health and harassment, Lee-roy remains committed to his work. He emphasises the importance of peer-to-peer engagement, noting that "young people listen and learn best when the message comes from someone who relates to their reality." Lee-roy's experience has also taught him that leadership is about service, not titles. As he puts it, "It's not about titles, but about the difference you make in the lives of others."

Looking ahead, Lee-roy plans to broaden his advocacy beyond the university space, working at national and regional levels to influence youth-friendly policies and sustainable health programs. His vision is to see a generation of young people who are empowered, informed, and unafraid to claim their rights. As he advises young people, "Never underestimate the power of your voice. Start where you are, use what you have, and keep pushing because small efforts, when combined, create big change."





Who is doing your

# DOCUMENTARY Productions?

- ★ High quality
- ★ Cohersive storytelling
- ★ Great artistry
- ★ High end production



CONTACT:  
+263 788 084 339



FOLLOW US: @citezw

A Khulasizwe production





# Not every hero wears a cape



By  
Sharon Mwanga

**T**he idea of a “hero” is not fixed; it changes over time based on society’s values and dreams. In Zimbabwe, this change is especially clear, with the meaning of a hero shifting from warriors on the battlefield to everyday people facing modern challenges. In the pre-colonial period, heroes were respected leaders, brave warriors, and spiritual guides.

Their heroism came from their ability to protect their communities, lead them during conflicts, and uphold cultural traditions. For example, Mbuya Nehanda and Sekuru Kaguvi are celebrated not just for resisting colonial rule but for their spiritual leadership, which inspired the First Chimurenga (the first liberation struggle). Their roles as spirit mediums helped connect people with their spiritual beliefs.

During the fight for independence, a new type of hero emerged: the freedom fighter. Many young men and women left their homes to battle the oppressive Rhodesian regime.

Figures like Josiah Tongogara and Hebert Chitepo became symbols of this struggle, representing the fight for freedom and self-determination. Their heroism was defined by their sacrifices for the country’s future.

After independence, the definition of a hero grew more complex. While respect for liberation heroes remains, there is an increasing acknowledgement of those who contribute to society in different ways.

Today’s heroes may include a teacher who buys books for students with their limited salary. A doctor working hard in an underfunded hospital. A young entrepreneur is creating jobs in their community. Their heroism is not about

military strength but about resilience, creativity, and a commitment to overcoming everyday challenges.

Dr. Tariro Dube, a sociologist from the University of Zimbabwe, emphasises that “a hero is not just someone who fought in a war, but anyone who strives for a better life for their family and community.” Today’s heroes are often ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

This shift is reflected in stories that captivate people every day. For instance, Strive Masiyiwa, a telecommunications leader, built a successful business from nothing, and Tinashwe Murefu, a determined farmer, created a thriving agricultural enterprise against all odds. Their achievements inspire hope and show that success is possible even in tough times.

In this evolving landscape of heroism, today’s youth are emerging as powerful

change-makers. By engaging in social issues, utilizing technology to advocate for change, and participating in community initiatives, young people are redefining what it means to be a hero. Whether they’re standing up for environmental causes, supporting education, or promoting equality, every action counts.

This active involvement shows that heroism is not just about historical figures but also about the impact young people can make in their communities today.

The evolution of heroes mirrors the nation’s journey. From traditional spiritual leaders to freedom fighters and the everyday heroes we see today, the common thread is a commitment to the well-being of the people. Heroism may change in its expression, but the core values of sacrifice, courage, and the desire to uplift others remain constant.



# The day i almost became a functioning adult



By  
Nicole Gugulethu Moyo

I woke up with a sense of determination, something I hadn't felt in weeks. Today was the day I would finally become a functioning adult. I would shower, dress, and maybe even cook a healthy breakfast. The possibilities seemed endless. As I rolled out of bed, my cat, Garfield, looked at me with a mixture of confusion and scepticism. "You're going to adult?" his expression seemed to say. I ignored him and shuffled to the bathroom.

After a refreshing shower,

I got dressed in the most adult outfit I could find: a button-down white shirt and a peach pencil skirt, "shucks! mogirl is quelling". I even ironed them, because, why not? I was on a roll.

In the kitchen, I decided to make myself a bowl of oatmeal with sliced banana. It was a bold move, but I was determined to prove to myself that I could, in fact, adult. As I waited for the oatmeal to cook, I felt a sense of pride and accomplishment. This was going to be a great day.

But, as it often does, reality had other plans. As I was rushing to get to work on

time, disaster struck. I spilt coffee all over my freshly ironed shirt. Not just a little spill, either, a full-on, brown-stained, ruin-your-day kind of spill.

Undeterred (or so I thought), I grabbed my bag and headed out the door. That's when I realised I had forgotten my lunch on the kitchen counter. And, because the universe loves a good laugh, I locked my keys in the car with the engine still running.

As I stood on the sidewalk, sweating and frustrated, I realised that adulting is hard. Hard. Like, "I-think-I-left-the-stove-on-at-home-and-now-

my-house-is-on-fire" hard.

Just when I thought things couldn't get any worse, my phone buzzed with a text from my wise friend, Lisa. "Adulting tip: fake it till you make it. Or just eat pizza and blame Netflix for your productivity issues."

I laughed, despite myself. Maybe adulting wasn't about being perfect; maybe it was about embracing the chaos and finding humour in the mess.

I decided to take Lisa's advice and order a pizza. As I waited for it to arrive, I sat on the sidewalk, surrounded by the remnants of my failed adulting attempt, coffee stains, forgotten lunch, and locked car keys.

When the pizza arrived, I took a bite and closed my eyes. The flavours of melted cheese and savoury sauce transported me to a place of temporary bliss. Maybe adulting wasn't so bad after all, as long as I had pizza.

As I sat there, eating my pizza and laughing at my failures, I realised that maybe being a functioning adult wasn't about having it all together. Maybe it was about embracing the mess and finding joy in the little things like pizza, Netflix, and a good sense of humour.

From that day on, I decided to redefine what it means to be a functioning adult. It's not about being perfect but it's about being imperfectly happy. And if that means eating pizza for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, so be it. I'll take that.



# Youth day vibes at Luveve Youth Centre



Compiled by  
Melinda Ncube

**F**riday, 15 August 2025, was a day full of energy, creativity, and connection at Luveve Youth Centre. Young people both from the Luveve community and the CITE Youth Network (CYN) came together to celebrate International Youth Day, turning the centre into a hub of fun, learning, and inspiration.

The day kicked off with a series of activities designed to engage young minds. Quizzes tested knowledge, while debates sparked meaningful conversations about issues affecting communities today. Participants had the chance to showcase not only their intellect but also their ability to think critically and express themselves confidently. Meanwhile, advocacy skits brought social

challenges to life through humour, drama, and creativity, proving that youth have powerful ways to communicate messages that matter.

Adding extra excitement to the day, junior council members, artists from We Create, the reigning Mr Zimbabwe, and the reigning Miss NUST were in attendance. Their presence inspired attendees, showing what young people can achieve when they combine talent, leadership, and determination.

But the event was far from all work and no play. Between activities, the energy shifted as music pumped through the centre and young people hit the dance floor for spontaneous dance breaks. From freestyle moves to mini dance battles, the atmosphere was electric. These moments of pure fun gave everyone a chance to let loose, laugh, and celebrate being young.

Alongside the dancing, there was plenty of mingling and networking. Attendees shared stories, exchanged ideas, and built connections that extended beyond the day itself. For many, it was an opportunity to meet like minded peers, make new friends, and feel part of a larger, supportive youth community.

The celebration also included a spirited soccer match, rounding off the day with teamwork, laughter, and healthy competition. Cheering and energy filled the air, proving that sport remains one of the most powerful ways to unite people.

At its core, the CYN Youth Day event was more than just a celebration it was a space where young people could shine, speak up, and simply be themselves. It was a reminder of the creativity, energy, and potential that exists in every young person.

# Breaking free from the comparison cycle



By  
Ruvarashe Munyoro

**W**e live in a world where everything seems to move faster, news, technology, opportunities, and even expectations. For today's youth, that can be both exciting and exhausting. On one hand, we're exploring careers our parents never imagined, connecting with around the world, and finding creative ways to turn passion into income. On the other hand, we're facing pressures that can feel overwhelming, especially when it comes to measuring up.

Many of us know the feeling: sitting at a family gathering and hearing the words, "Do

you see what so-and-so is doing with their life?" Sometimes it's meant as encouragement, but it often lands as a heavy weight on our shoulders.

We understand where it comes from. Our parents want the best for us. They've sacrificed, prayed, and worked hard so we could have opportunities they never had. And we deeply appreciate that. But the reality is, the path to success today doesn't look the same as it did a generation ago.

Jobs are fewer. Costs are higher. The internet has reshaped the world of work. Two people can be the same age yet living completely different lives. One may already own a home while another

works two jobs to pay rent. One might be studying at university, the other running a small business. One could be travelling the world, the other caring for family members. Every journey is valid, because life is not a race, and our timelines are not supposed to be identical.

When comparisons are made, even casually, they can create self-doubt. They can make us hide our struggles for fear of disappointing those we love. And they can make us feel like no matter what we achieve, it might never be "enough." That's why it's important to recognise that progress doesn't look the same for everyone.

Today's youth are navigating a new landscape. Some of

us are building skills instead of taking traditional career paths. Some are creating content, learning to code, selling products online, freelancing, or starting small businesses from our bedrooms. These things might not look like "success" in the early stages, but they are the seeds of a future we're working hard to build.

For our generation, success isn't just about money or titles. It's about resilience, bouncing back from challenges. It's about purpose, doing work that means something. It's about balance, protecting mental health while chasing goals. And it's about impact, making a difference in ways big or small. We want to be fulfilled, not just financially stable. We want to be happy, not just "settled."

As a community, we can help each other by celebrating small wins, encouraging effort, and offering guidance that lifts rather than discourages. The goal isn't to avoid expectations altogether, but to create space for individuality, where every young person can grow at their own pace without feeling like they are in a constant race.

We are not behind. We are not failures. We are learning, growing, and adapting to a fast-changing world. Progress may be slow at times, but it's still progress.

So the next time someone measures our journey against another's, we hope the response is simple and proud: "They're building their life their way, and that's worth celebrating."



# Acknowledgements

## **Editor**

Lesley Moyo

## **CITE Youth Network Coordinator**

Melinda Ncube

## **Cover**

Candice Sibanda

## **Writers**

Tafadzwa Gumunyu  
Brendon Ncube  
Melinda Ncube  
Lungisani Moyo  
Nicole Gugulethu Moyo  
Amanda Ndlovu  
Anele Nkomo  
Persistance Nkomo  
Ruvarashe Munyoro  
Sharon Mwanga

## **Graphic Designer**

Wellington 'Cee Jay' Sibanda

## **Follow us:**

@citezw

[www.cite.org.zw](http://www.cite.org.zw)