

#HASHTAG

DECEMBER EDITION, 2025



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NETWORK**

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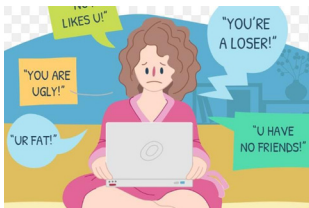


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Editor's Note



Melinda Ncube
CITE Youth Network Coordinator

December is here, and with it comes that familiar feeling we all love, the soft return home. It is the month where the year finally slows down, and we get to breathe, look back, and celebrate how far we have come. For us at #tag Magazine, this edition is all about reflection, reconnection, and the magic of December.

This is the season of homecomings. The moment when streets fill up, loved ones reunite, and cities come alive with laughter, music, and endless plans.

Whether you are attending a long awaited event, vibing at year end parties, exploring new festive spots, or simply enjoying a good plate of home food, December carries a special glow that reminds us why this time of year is unmatched.

In this edition, we reflect on the highs, the lessons, the surprises, and the moments that shaped our year. We celebrate youth creativity, the stories that moved us, and the energy that continues to push us forward.

And as the festive season unfolds, we honour the joy, the colour, and the culture that December brings to Zimbabwean youth everywhere, from township cookouts to city lights, from rural gatherings to late night vibes.

Here is to the year we have had and the one waiting ahead.
Here is to home, joy, and celebrating ourselves.

Happy December, and enjoy the read.

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December in Zim: Celebrate, reflect, inspire



By
Nicolette Rigava

Hey, fam December in Zimbabwe is like no other month. The air is filled with excitement, laughter, and the promise of new beginnings. As the year comes to a close, we get to celebrate, reflect, and inspire each other for the year ahead.

Gigs and Good Vibes
December is gig season, besties! From soulful tunes to the energetic beats, to stand upcomedies, international artists there's always a show

to attend. Put your squad together and put on your dancing shoes. Some hot gigs to look out for include:

- The Zimbabwe Music Awards
- In search of the King
- The Bulawayo shutdown and a lot more.

It's an event every weekend, depends on how far your pockets can carry you!

Reuniting with Relatives
The festive season is all about reconnecting with loved ones, especially those coming from abroad. For some it's about visiting grandparents kumusha/ekhaya, a scenario most

GenZees want to avoid at all costs. It's about family reunions, laughter, and stories of each others adventures ;it's a time to cherish and make new memories.

Feasts and Festivities
Food, glorious food, December is all about indulging in traditional Zimbabwean cuisine: think sadza, shisanyama, salads and alcohol. It's about bringing back family recipes to life and connecting through food. From Christmas dinners to family gatherings, your taste buds are in for a treat.

But Wait, There's More...

As we celebrate and have a blast, let's not forget the realities of the festive season. Zimbabwe's roads become more treacherous, and accident rates skyrocket. Please, for the love of life, be safe and responsible when driving or partying. And, let's keep an eye on each other, especially when it comes to excessive consumption of alcohol. Let's prioritize our well-being and make it to January 2026 in one piece!

So, besties, let's make this December one to remember! Celebrate, reflect, and inspire , but most importantly, stay safe and have fun.

Homecomings & Hope: Zimbabwe's December Return



By
Tafadzwa Gumunyu

As December approaches, the holiday season brings with it a familiar rhythm across Zimbabwe. At airports in Harare and Bulawayo, and at border posts, many citizens living abroad are arriving home and some for a short visit, others for good. It is a time of reunion, laughter, memories, and hopeful new beginnings.

Official statistics support what this season feels like on the ground. Reports from 2025 show that diaspora remittances continue to surge: in February alone, Zimbabwe received about US\$165 million from abroad, marking a 7.5 % increase from the same month last year.

Across the first eight months of 2025, remittances from Zimbabweans overseas amounted to roughly US\$1.5 billion, underlining how much the nation still depends on its diaspora.

For many families, December is not just about holidays but it's also reunion, relief, recovery. At the main arrivals hall of Harare International Airport on a humid November evening, a crowd gathers: some clutch brightly wrapped gift boxes, others hold luggage bags stuffed with groceries or clothes. Among them is "Tariro", a returning nurse from the UK. She steps out of the gate, and her mother runs

forward, tears in her eyes. "I've missed this place and missed you," her mother says as they embrace. Tariro smiles, glancing at the dusty skyline.

"It's good to be back," she says quietly. Not far from the airport, a kombi rank bursts into life. Kombis are loaded with luggage, cool boxes, and families heading to Bulawayo, Gweru, villages up north or rural homes. Among the passengers is "Caleb", a young man who studied in Pretoria. He sits beside a window,

watching the street lights blur. "I came back for my cousin's wedding," he says, "but after the party my plan is to stay and maybe start something small here." These personal moments — hugs, laughter, nervous smiles, tell a bigger story. Experts argue that remittances and return migration do more than help households survive: they can become seeds for growth and development.

A 2024 academic study on diaspora remittances in Zimbabwe found that money from abroad has a statistically significant link with national economic growth meaning that when remittances rise, the economy gets a boost.

For many returning diaspora, the pull of home is not just emotional but it is practical. They come with foreign currency, new skills, and sometimes a wish to invest: buying houses, starting small businesses, or helping

relatives with school fees, medical bills, or home repairs.

Back in high-density suburbs, families gather around wooden tables, preparing plates of sadza and nyama, cooking rice rine Dovi or mutakura (umthokwana). Kids ask for sweets and fizzy drinks brought from abroad. In one house, "Shamiso", who studied IT in Johannesburg, walks around carrying a bag of maize-meal and cooking oil. "This is how my childhood smelled," she says. "Coming back and cooking with gogo that's what I missed the whole year."

But homecomings are not always easy. Some returnees speak of shock and the slow water supply, patchy electricity, the rising cost of living. "I left when the roads were smooth," says "Keith," still rubbing his shoulders after a long ride from the airport. "Now the roads feel rough, and things are more expensive than I remember." Still, many choose to stay. They bring with them hopes, plans, and sometimes a sense that this time, they are not just visitors but part of rebuilding.

As the announcer calls the last boarding for a Harare–Bulawayo flight, a group of young engineers from the diaspora load their laptops and work boots. One of them, "Nqobile", says: "We want to build here. I've seen how things work outside and now I want to bring some of that here."

December homecomings are more than festive visits. They are part of a larger rhythm: migrants coming home, remittances flowing in, family bonds re-threaded, and hopes for a better future re-born.

Whether with cash in hand or luggage full of memories, those returning carry something more valuable than goods, they carry heart.

This December, as the streets hum with chatter, planes land, and kombis roll through towns and cities, home is alive again, vibrant, warm, and full of possibility.

Closing the year with Grace: How to end the year without stressing about what you didn't do

By Ruvarashe Munyoro

December is that month when everyone remembers all the goals they set in January and suddenly starts acting like life is an exam and the invigilator is walking around saying, "Five minutes remaining!". Relax. Breathe. You are not a failure you're just human. Closing the year with grace means allowing yourself to look back with honesty, softness, and maybe even a laugh or two. Because let's be real: some of us had goals that were ambitious. Some of them didn't fail they simply asked you, "Be serious." But that's fine. Growth is rarely linear. And progress doesn't always look like a checklist with neat little ticks. So how do you close the year gracefully?

1. Celebrate the small wins

You may not have launched the company, but you learned the skill.
You didn't read 20 books, but you read three and understood them!
You didn't save \$10,000, but you opened a savings account (and kept it open).
Sometimes the small wins kept you alive, sane, and moving. That counts.

2. Reflect, don't roast yourself

Reflection is healthy.
Self-roasting? Fun in the moment, destructive in the long run.
You don't have to tear yourself apart because your plans changed.
Life happened. You adapted. That's strength.

3. Forgive yourself

For procrastinating.
For being scared.
For trying and failing.
For not trying sooner.
You're learning. Be kind.

4. Appreciate the growth that wasn't visible

Some of the most important things you did this year won't show on Instagram:
You healed quietly
You let go of people who drained you
You made better choices
You learned your worth
You survived things you thought would break you
That's growth. Deep growth.

5. Enter the new year with hope, not pressure

You don't need to reinvent your entire life on January 1st.
You don't need to become a new person overnight.
You just need to continue growing with intention, awareness, and softness.
Because closing the year with grace is about understanding one simple truth:
You did the best you could with what you had and that is enough.
So here's to you:
The resilient, hopeful, still-figuring-it-out soul who refuses to give up.
You're not behind.
You're blooming.
And next year?

You'll grow even more your way.

The Power of self-fulfilling prophecies: How others' words shape our reality



By
Ruvarashe Munyoro

Have you ever been told you're not good enough and somehow started to believe it? Words have power. They can build us up or tear us down, and over time, they can even shape the reality we live in. This fascinating idea is known as a self-fulfilling prophecy when what others expect of us subtly influences how we think, act, and ultimately, who we become.

How It All Begins

As children, we're highly influenced by the voices around us. Our parents, teachers, and caregivers shape how we see ourselves and what we believe we can do. For instance, a parent who constantly tells their child,

"You're not good at math," may unknowingly create a self-fulfilling prophecy. The child begins to believe that they aren't capable, struggles more, and eventually lives up to that expectation. On the other hand, a parent who encourages their child to follow their passions can build confidence and motivation that last a lifetime.

The Science Behind the Prophecy

When we are repeatedly exposed to certain expectations or messages, our brains start to internalize them. Over time, we behave in ways that confirm what we've been told whether it's positive or negative. This doesn't just affect how we learn or perform at school. It influences our relationships,

careers, and mental well-being, quietly steering our choices and self-worth.

Breaking Free from Limiting Beliefs

The good news is that we can rewrite our inner script. Here's how to break free from negative self-fulfilling prophecies:

Become aware of your thoughts: Notice negative self-talk and challenge it.

Question the messages you've absorbed: Are they true, or just someone else's opinion?

Surround yourself with positivity: Spend time with people who uplift you.

Focus on your strengths: Build your confidence by leaning into what you do well.

Shaping a Positive Future

Understanding the power of self-fulfilling prophecies gives us control over our own narrative.

By surrounding ourselves with supportive voices, challenging negative labels, and celebrating our abilities, we can create a new, empowering reality.

Final Word

The expectations of others can deeply affect who we become but only if we let them. So, the next time someone underestimates you, remember this: You have the right to define your own story. Choose to believe in yourself, speak kindness into your life, and watch how those words shape your reality.



By
Persistance Nkomo

The festive season is often celebrated as a time of joy, connection, and togetherness. For young people, December's festive vibes can lead to casual hookups and partying, sometimes clouding judgment. This can result in regret, heartbreak, and health risks like STIs. Young people should prioritise respect, consent, and safety in relationships, focusing on genuine connections over temporary fun.

Amid the glittering lights and holiday cheer, one message shines brighter than any decoration: healthy relationships and consent matter especially now. A healthy relationship is not defined by grand gestures or perfect social media posts, but by

everyday respect and care.

Mutual respect means valuing each other's feelings, choices, and boundaries. Trust and honesty allow partners to feel secure and confident in one another, while open communication ensures that needs, desires, and concerns are expressed clearly. Boundaries are equally important, protecting emotional, physical, and mental well-being.

Support is the final ingredient, encouraging each other's growth and independence rather than limiting it. During the festive season, these values are tested. With busy schedules, social events, and sometimes alcohol or peer pressure in the mix, it is easy to forget the basics. Yet the holidays should never be an excuse to ignore respect. Consent is the foundation of safe and respectful relationships.

It is more than just a word it is an ongoing agreement that must be clear, voluntary, and mutual. Consent can be withdrawn at any time, and it should always be enthusiastic rather than pressured. Respecting "no" is just as important as celebrating "yes." Think of consent as the ultimate holiday gift it shows care, respect, and love.

Just as you would not give someone a present they did not want, you should never push them into experiences they are not ready for. The festive season can also bring unique challenges. Parties may create peer pressure, alcohol can cloud judgment, and family expectations sometimes push ideas about relationships or marriage.

Loneliness or fear of missing out can make young people feel they should be in a

relationship, but rushing into one without respect or consent is never healthy. That is why it is important to check in with your partner, celebrate boundaries, and stay present in the moment.

Choosing respect over pressure whether it is a kiss under the mistletoe or a party invite makes the season safer and more joyful. As we step into the holidays, remember that the best celebrations are those where everyone feels safe, respected, and valued.

Healthy relationships are not about perfection; they are about kindness, trust, and consent. Whether you are exchanging gifts, sharing meals, or dancing under the stars, let respect be the tradition you carry into the new year.

We showed up. We spoke up. We made noise.



By
Proud CYN Member

Being part of the CITE Youth Network this year showed me something I did not fully understand before. Youth spaces are not just nice to have. They are necessary. They shape confidence, they shape skills, and they shape the way we see ourselves in the world.

When I walked into the network for the first time, I realised how rare it is to find a place where young people can speak, create, question, and experiment without being dismissed. In our meetings, shoots, and discussions, we were allowed to try things.

Some takes were perfect, others were messy, but all of it

was real learning. Having that room to grow is something most young people never get. Working on content for The Screenshot, Climate Chronicles and other projects showed me why spaces like this matter. When young people take the lead, the conversations change.

We talk about misinformation, gender based violence, online safety, and everyday youth reality in a voice other young people can relate to. It is different when the message comes from someone who lives the same life and faces the same pressures.

I also learned that a youth space is not just about the work we produce. It is about the confidence it builds. I watched members who barely spoke at first start suggesting ideas, asking questions, and

taking on bigger roles. I saw people practice interviewing, on screen presence, script writing, and digital storytelling. Being surrounded by other young people who are learning at the same time makes you brave enough to try.

Another important thing is community. Youth spaces bring together people who would have never met but somehow understand each other instantly. In our network, we shared ideas, pushed each other, corrected each other, and celebrated each win. That kind of community makes you realise you are not working alone. It reminds you that your voice matters and so do the voices of the people next to you.

What stood out to me is how youth spaces allow us to be taken seriously. Adults often

speak about young people, but rarely with us. In the CITE Youth Network, our ideas made it onto screens, social media feeds, and conversations in real time. We were not background extras.

We were creators with something to say. As the year ends, I understand now that youth spaces are not just rooms where young people gather. They are training grounds for future creators, leaders, and storytellers.

They give us a platform to grow, to learn, and most importantly, to be heard. This year proved that when young people have a space to express themselves, they do more than participate. They lead. And they lead loudly.

Home, loud and lit: December culture the Zimbabwean way



By
Patricia Moyo

If there's one month Zimbabwe truly understands, it's December. This isn't just the end of the year it's the biggest vibe on the calendar. The heat turns up, playlists get louder, and the country collectively decides: we're outside. From packed highways to buzzing townships, December in Zim is all about movement, memories, and main-character energy.

Homecomings? Mandatory.

December means going back home whether it's the rural homestead, the old neighbourhood, or just reconnecting with your people.

Cities thin out, villages light up, and suddenly everyone is laughing louder, eating better, and sleeping later. It's reunions that heal, stories that stretch past midnight, and moments that remind you exactly where you come from.

Holiday Mood Fully Switched On

With schools closed and work slowing down, the agenda becomes simple: enjoy. Pool days, braais, dam chill sessions, and road trips to Nyanga, Kariba or Vic Falls define the season.

Summer in Zim moves at its own pace sun high, drinks cold, stress on mute. December gives permission to breathe.

Gigs Run the Calendar

Nights belong to the music. From amapiano and gqom to dancehall and sungura, December brings back-to-back events and unforgettable performances. DJs don't miss, artists show up, and dance floors stay full till morning. Every weekend has a plan, every group chat has a flyer. In December, Zimbabwe doesn't sleep, it dances.

Quiet Reflection, Loud Dreams

Between the turn-ups, December also brings reflection. The kind that feels honest, not heavy. It's thinking about how far you've come, what you survived, and what you're ready to chase next. Conversations shift from "this year was crazy" to "next year I'm going harder." December inspires the reset.

Summer Looks Good on Us

Random rain showers, dramatic sunsets, and skies so blue they don't feel real. December is a visual flex. Add music in the background, laughter in the air, and joy spilling into every moment. It's carefree, confident, and full of youthful energy.

December in Zimbabwe is bold, emotional, and unapologetically loud. It's culture, love, reflection, and rhythm all wrapped into one season.

Home. Loud. Lit.

That's December~ the Zimbabwean way.



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Christmas
& a
Happy New Year

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The Year That Changed Me: My Personal Reflections on 2025



By
Amanda Ndlovu

If I could describe 2025 in one sentence, this was the year life pushed me to grow in ways I never planned, but desperately needed. It was a year filled with unexpected lessons, heavy moments, quiet victories, and turning points that reshaped the way I see myself and the world. It wasn't a perfect year, but it was a transformational one and the more I look back, the more I realise how much it moulded me into a stronger, wiser, and more grounded version of myself. 2025 was the year that changed me.

A Year of Learning to Trust My Journey

In the beginning of the year, I felt uncertain, almost suspended between who I used to be and who I was becoming. Nothing made perfect sense. Plans shifted, people changed, and I found myself navigating moments that tested my confidence.

But somewhere in the middle of all that confusion, I learned the quiet art of trusting my own journey. I discovered that life doesn't always reveal the destination immediately.

Sometimes it simply asks you to keep moving forward even when you can't see the whole road. I realized progress doesn't always look like big milestones; sometimes it's just choosing to keep going, refusing to let fear or doubt stop you. It was in those small, private moments that my strength truly grew.

Joining a Youth Network: A Turning Point I Didn't Know I Needed

One of the most defining shifts of 2025 came when I joined a youth network. What I expected to be a simple membership became one of the most eye-opening experiences of my life. The network introduced me to young people who were passionate, outspoken, and deeply committed to transforming digital spaces into

places of learning, empowerment, and truth.

I learned more about the power of social media than I ever imagined not just the creativity and connection it brings, but also the risks, the misinformation, the noise, and the responsibility that comes with having a voice online. For the first time, I truly understood how narratives shape people, how quickly false stories spread, and how important it is for young people to create content that is responsible, accurate, and rooted in real experiences.

Being part of that network didn't just teach me digital skills; it taught me confidence. It made me aware of how powerful my voice can be. It reminded me that I am part of a generation that refuses to be silenced. It became a space where I felt seen, valued, and inspired a space that challenged me to grow in ways I never expected.

The Business That Failed, and the Strength I Found in Not Giving Up

Another major chapter of my 2025 story was my attempt to start a small business. I had dreams, plans, and a vision that felt so real. I poured energy, time, passion, and money into it. But things didn't work out the way I hoped. The business struggled, and eventually, it failed. It was painful. I questioned myself. I wondered if I had made the wrong decisions or if I simply wasn't good enough. Failure has a way of making you doubt everything, even the things you were once proud of. But as the months passed, I realized that the failure wasn't the end.

It was a beginning disguised as a setback. Instead of giving up, I chose to learn. I studied where things went wrong. I reflected on what I could have done differently. And slowly, I started rebuilding my mindset. It was in that rebuilding process that I found my real strength. I didn't give up on myself. I didn't let the failure define me. The business may have fallen, but I refused to fall with it. And that resilience became one of the greatest lessons of my year.

2025 taught me that failure isn't final unless you stop trying. It reminded me that every dream requires effort, patience, and sometimes a fully new strategy. And as I step into the next chapter of my life, I carry this truth with me: I am not afraid to try again.

CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE...

Letting Go, Growing, and Becoming

This year also taught me the importance of releasing things that no longer aligned with my growth. I had to let go of old expectations, outdated identities, and relationships that had quietly run their course. I learned that not every person you start with is meant to stay until the end and that doesn't make the journey less beautiful. Letting go made space for new beginnings. It allowed me to reconnect with myself, understand what I truly want, and embrace the person I am becoming. Growth sometimes requires shedding, and 2025 made that clearer than ever.

The Highlight of My Year: I Graduated

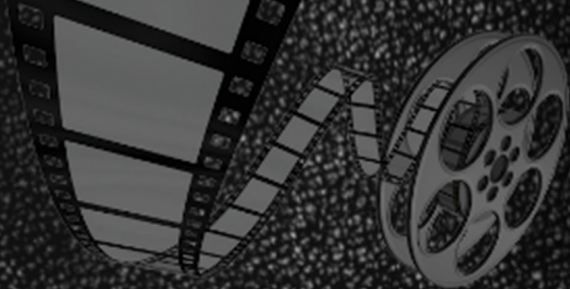
Out of everything 2025 gave me the challenges, the lessons, the setbacks, the new opportunities the brightest moment of all was graduating. Wearing that cap felt like stepping into a new era of my life. It was a symbol of every sacrifice I made, every late night, every moment I refused to give up when things got overwhelming. Graduation was not just a ceremony. It was a celebration of resilience. A reminder to say, all that hard work was worth it. A moment that told me, "You did it. You really did it." That moment restored me. It reminded me of my potential. It gave me a new sense of pride and hope that I will carry into every chapter that comes next.

A Final Reflection: Becoming the Person

I Needed

As I look back on 2025, I see a year that challenged me more than I expected, but also rewarded me more than I deserved. It taught me courage. It taught me patience. It taught me the importance of community, the lessons hidden in failure, and the beauty of starting over. I learned to trust myself. I learned to honor my journey. I learned that I am capable of rising even when the ground beneath me shakes. 2025 was not perfect, but it was powerful. It changed my perspective, strengthened my voice, and shaped my future. And as I step forward, I carry every lesson, every highlight, every moment with gratitude. This year changed me. And I am walking into the future stronger because of it.





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By
Tafadzwa Gumunyu

Every December, Zimbabwe's streets, markets, and shopping centres take on a new pulse. The economy may be tough, but the festive season brings a wave of energy that reminds people just how important small businesses are during the holidays. From city pavements to township corners, December hustle becomes its own kind of survival, creativity, and celebration.

Across the country, young entrepreneurs, vendors, tailors, street photographers, hairdressers, and food sellers prepare for their busiest month of the year. Many say the season "makes or breaks" their profit for the coming months. As one Harare vendor shared, "December is the month we push. Even if the year was slow, this one month gives us hope."

Mbare Musika, Siyaso, Gulf, and downtown Bulawayo become festive business hubs, with

stalls overflowing with Christmas clothes, toys, cheap decorations, and summer essentials. Prices may rise slightly, but customers still keep coming, driven by end-of-year excitement, bonuses, and the tradition of buying something new for the holidays. In high-density suburbs, kids run around looking for the latest drip, while parents negotiate for discounts the way only Zimbabweans know how.

But this hustle is not only about shopping. It's also about food and the centre of every Zimbabwean celebration. Small-scale chicken producers, butcheries, and neighbourhood suppliers say December delivers their strongest sales. Many Zimbabwean families order broilers early, prepare party packs, or plan big braai nights filled with meat, drinks, and music. A young butcher from Cowdray Park described December simply: "If you don't prepare stock early, you lose money. People buy chicken, beef, pork and everything moves."

Transport entrepreneurs also thrive. From kombi operators to those who hire out private cars, December brings a spike in demand as families head home for rural visits, weddings, and gatherings. Even though fuel prices can be unpredictable, the season still pushes business forward. "People travel no matter what. It's December, and nobody wants to miss home," said one driver on the Mutare route.

Digital hustlers have also joined the wave. Content creators record holiday videos, photographers do Christmas family shoots, and online sellers move perfumes, gadgets, sneakers, wigs, and summer outfits through WhatsApp and Facebook groups. For many youths, the digital hustle now pays more than traditional jobs. A young seller from Bulawayo put it this way: "I don't have a shop, but my phone is my shop. December is when it gets crazy and orders come all day."

Of course, challenges remain. Cash shortages, high prices, inconsistent supply, and tight

budgets mean hustlers must be creative to survive. Many offer flexible payment plans, mobile-money options, or group discounts. Others extend their working hours, staying open late into the night as demand peaks before Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Still, despite the struggles, December brings something special: a rare moment of optimism. Small businesses don't just survive but they drive the entire festive economy. Their energy keeps the nation moving, their creativity fills the season with colour, and their resilience tells a bigger story about Zimbabwean spirit.

A look at recent data helps underline just how important the informal economy, the backbone of this hustle is for Zimbabwe. According to the most recent economic census by Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZimStat), about 76.1% of all business establishments nationwide are informal micro-businesses, many of which rely heavily on seasonal trade like December.

Moreover, over 80% of Zimbabwe's working population depends on the informal sector for income and livelihood. In a country where formal-sector jobs are limited and economic conditions tough, this informal economy often underestimated becomes a vital lifeline.

As one elderly market woman in Bulawayo said with a smile, "We work hard all year, but December reminds us why we keep going. People are happy, business moves, and the streets feel alive again." And in a season built on celebration, reflection, and hope, the hustle becomes part of the magic.

101 session

By
Persistence Nkomo

November is more than just another month, it's that time when men worldwide turn their moustaches into symbols of awareness, courage and real conversation. That's the energy behind Movember: using the "mo" to spark global discussions around men's health, from prostate cancer and suicide prevention to the silent emotional battles many men fight alone. It's a reminder that masculinity isn't about bottling things up; it's about expression – and sometimes, survival.

December is a wild ride, isn't it? Parties, family gatherings, and endless indulgence, it's a wonder we make it out alive! But as the month settles, and the decorations come down, it's time to face the music, January is here, January disease as we call it and that's the time

to get back to reality.

For many of us, the festive season is a financial squeeze. We splurge on gifts, travel, and entertainment, and our wallets will feel the pinch. Add to that the back-to-school and back-to-work expenses, and it's no wonder people are feeling broke.

But if you stay focused, you can navigate this tricky time with ease. Some that can help you balance and focus include number 1, Budget, budget, budget, yep you've probably heard that a lot of times, right? Taking control of your finances by creating a realistic budget that accounts for all your expenses is one of the most important things ever.

Learn to prioritise needs over wants, and make sure to include a bit of fun money in there too. Cutting back on non-essentials can also be another way

to help yourself because let's be honest, do you really need that daily junk food habit or partying everyday, cut back on luxuries and save that cash for something worthwhile.

Also you can get creative with free activities during the festive, anyway who says you can't have fun on a budget? there are activities available locally that you can try out that don't break the bank.

Another thing, stay away from debts. Use whatever you have, and if you can't afford it, then maybe it's not for you; leave it. You'll feel a weight off your shoulders when January comes, and you don't have any debts, and you'll be saving yourself stress.

Another thing, prepare for the goals that you have for next year, ask yourself what's your January goal? Write it down, make a plan, and start working on it. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

December survival kit



By
Brandon Ncube

1 Stay Hydrated (Not Just “Bev-drated”) Drink water between drinks. For real. December heat + alcohol = ambulance vibes. Don’t be that guy.

2. Protection is part of the outfit

Protect yourself and your future. Use protection every time. Safety is part of enjoyment.

3. Don’t RSVP to parenthood by mistake

Groove now, responsibilities later. Make choices you won’t regret when the music stops. Choose wisely

4. Uber, Walk in Groups, or Have a “Sober Driver”

Your best friend after midnight is someone who didn’t drink. If they can’t walk straight... they can’t drive straight.

5. Learn the Dances

We’re tired of ama1K doing delay-delay moves. Know the viral TikTok steps before you

embarrass yourself at groove.

6. Know the Hits

Please don’t ask “which song is this?” when everyone else is screaming the lyrics. Do your homework.

7. Keep Your Phone in a Safe Pocket

December thieves run marathons. Don’t give them a trophy.

8. Budget Like You’re Broke (Because You Are)

Don’t spend all your money on one night. January exists.

9. Respect Boundaries

No means no. Drunk doesn’t mean “yes.” Everyone deserves safety.

10. Have Fun — But Think Twice

One wrong DM, one wrong snap, one wrong decision... December screenshots last forever.

Go out, stay sharp, stay safe — and enjoy December without regrets. Its just a month.

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