

ISSUE NO. 1

AFRI-Can

MAGAZINE

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE

JOURNEY TO ZANZIBAR,
TANZANIA

COLUMN

WHY COUPLES STRUGGLE TO
TALK ABOUT MONEY

ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS

REGGAE DANCEHALL
DOMINANCE

POLITICS

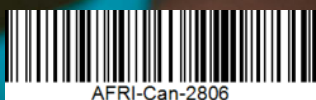
AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS IN
CANADIAN POLITICS

SHORT STORY

MOM WHY, WHY ME?

STUDENTS

YOUNG AUTHORS ESSAY
CONTEST



AFRI-Can-2806

Cover Photo by mk_photoz (pexels)

The Dawn
**of a
New Era.**



We're not just launching a magazine; we're igniting a global conversation that celebrates the dynamic pulse of contemporary African and diaspora culture. This is your invitation to join a growing community of curious minds, trendsetters, and storytellers. Be part of our journey from the very beginning. Subscribe now and help us shape the narrative.

LAUGH MORE, FEEL BETTER

MEME of the Day



IN ALBERTA, “speed limit 60” translates to
“if we all go 80 they can’t pull us over”
and I think that’s so beautiful.



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Pelletier | FITCH EVENTS

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AFRI-CAN

ONLINE MAGAZINE

From The Editor,

Welcome, brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, to the launch of Afri-Can!

It is with immense pride and a heart full of hope that I address you today. Afri-Can is more than just a new online magazine; it is a long-awaited home for our collective voice. We chose this name for its powerful duality: it proudly declares our heritage while firmly stating our presence and capability here in Canada. This is our story, our platform, and our call to unity.

Many of us arrived in this great nation with dreams woven into the fabric of our traditions and ambitions burning brightly. Yet, navigating a new system can often feel isolating. Afri-Can is founded on the belief that our greatest resource is each other. This platform is dedicated to celebrating the vibrant tapestry of African excellence thriving right here, from the entrepreneur launching a groundbreaking startup and the artist captivating new audiences; to the professional excelling in boardrooms and the community elders preserving our cherished customs, traditions, and values.

But celebration is only the beginning. This is a direct call to action. To our business owners: advertise with us. Let this community be your first and most loyal customer base. To our established professionals: we urge you to share your expertise. Mentor a young graduate, contribute an article, or simply share your story. Your journey is a roadmap for the next generation who desperately need to see their own reflection in positions of success.

Together, we can build a powerful network that fosters growth, opportunity, and unwavering support. Afri-Can is your stage to shine, to connect, and to uplift. Let's build this legacy, together.

With gratitude and excitement,



The Editor

A night-time photograph of the Toronto skyline, featuring the CN Tower and various skyscrapers with their lights reflecting on the water. The title 'Why Afri-Can?' is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, stylized font. 'Why' is in black with a red outline, and 'Afri-Can?' is in black with a red outline, where the 'Can' part is red with a black outline.

Why Afri-Can?

“Your Bridge, Your Voice, Your Community: Welcome to Afri-Can Magazine”

For the African in Canada, life is a vibrant tapestry woven from two rich cultures. It's a story of ambition, resilience, and the beautiful journey of building a new life while honoring your heritage. But where is the platform that tells these stories? Where is the hub that connects this dynamic community? Look no

further. This is why Afri-Can Magazine exists, and why it needs to be your essential monthly resource.

Imagine a magazine that feels like a conversation with a wise friend, a cultural compass, and a career coach, all rolled into one. By subscribing to Afri-Can Magazine, you gain an all-access pass to the pulse of the African diaspora in Canada.

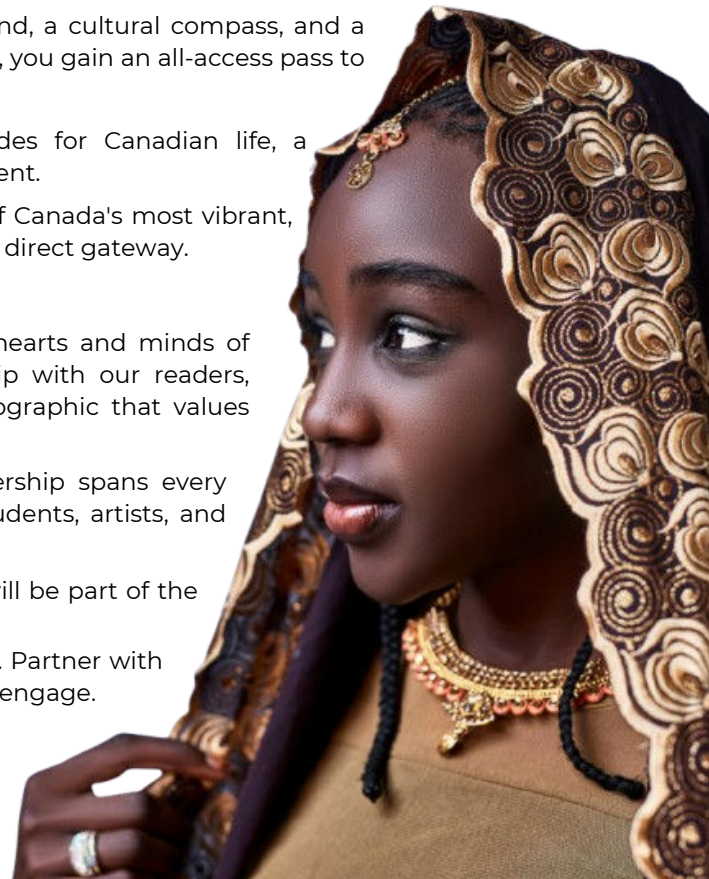
Every month, look forward to exclusive, inspiring essential guides for Canadian life, a celebration of culture & connection, and opportunities & empowerment.

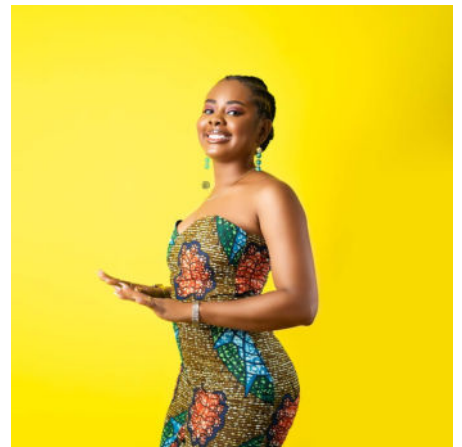
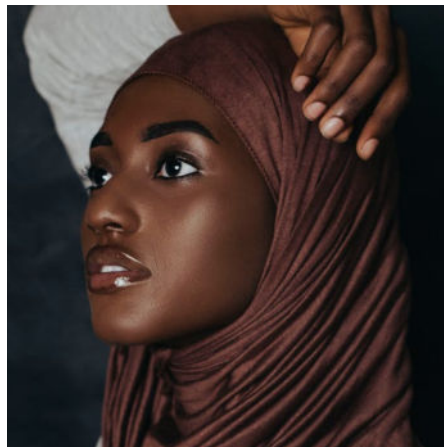
If you are a business or organization looking to connect with one of Canada's most vibrant, ambitious, and fast-growing communities, Afri-Can Magazine is your direct gateway.

Why advertise with us?

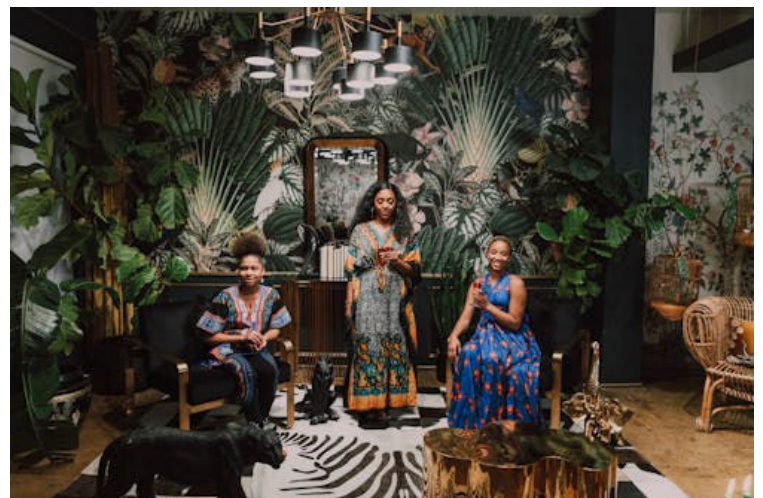
- Target a Captive & Loyal Audience: We speak directly to the hearts and minds of Africans across Canada. We are building a trusted relationship with our readers, making our platform the most effective way to reach a demographic that values quality and authenticity.
- Comprehensive Demographic Reach: Our coverage and readership spans every sector, from established professionals and entrepreneurs to students, artists, and families.
- Content-Aligned Marketing: Your brand won't just be an ad; it will be part of the content our audience actively seeks out.

We are more than just a magazine; we are a community institution. Partner with us to tell your brand's story to an audience that is ready to listen and engage. Join us in building the definitive voice for Africans in Canada.





Fashion.



*The Divine Power in African
Attire and Why Every Woman
Should Own Her Style*

Urban Goddess

A woman, her skin gleaming like sun-kissed honey, stands with the regal grace of a queen. She is adorned not in generic cloth, but in the vibrant, specific language of African heritage. Her gele, headwrap, is tied with precision and pride, a towering symbol of dignity.

Her dress is a cascade of Ankara or Chitenge, bursting with rich golds, deep crimsons, and patterns that tell ancient stories, perhaps of fertility, strength, or river currents. Gold jewelry, intricate and layered, adorns her neck, wrists, and ears, catching the light with every confident movement. She is not just wearing clothes; she is wearing her history, her power, and her divine essence. She is the embodiment of an African goddess

This image is more than just a beautiful photograph; it is a declaration. It is a modern reclamation of a divine aesthetic that colonialism and globalization have long attempted to suppress. To see an African goddess dressed in her traditional wear is to understand that our clothing is far more than fabric; it is armor, it is language, it is a direct link to our ancestral power.

For too long, the narrative around African fashion has been sidelined, often labeled as "ethnic" or "tribal" in a way that diminishes its profound cultural significance. But to see it worn with this level of intention and pride is to remember that every pattern, color, and fold has meaning.

The headwrap (gele or chitambala) signifies respect, spirituality, and married status in many cultures. The specific motifs on the fabric can represent proverbs, social status, or even historical events. This attire is a wearable archive.

The woman in this image does not wear her clothes for the male gaze or for Western approval. She wears them for herself. This act of intentional dressing is a critical form of self-value that every woman can learn from, regardless of her cultural background.

She reflects back the potential for every woman to embody her own divine nature through the conscious choice of what she wears. To value your dressing is to acknowledge that you are a living, breathing work of art; a testament to your history and a beacon for your future.

A NEW BABY IS BORN

*Beauty
unfiltered*

CATEGORIES

- Culture & Arts
- Entertainment & Pop Culture
- Style & Fashion
- Health, Wellness & Self-Care
- Food & Drink
- Politics & Current Affairs
- Technology & Innovation
- Travel & Adventure
- Opinion & Essays
- Home & Design
- Letters to the editor
- Religion
- Short Stories

Beyond The Ordinary

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POEM

The Deliberate Gardener



Image by Shutterstock

This is not a hunt for a fleeting thrill,
A transient spark on a winter's hill.
This is the search for a cornerstone,
A love to build on, deeply known

I do not wander through sunlit fields,
Picking what the short season yields.
I am a gardener who kneels to see
The roots of a strong, future tree.

The first date is not a performance, a show,
But a quiet question: "Might we grow?"
Do our values align, do our visions connect?
Is there character, kindness, and deep respect?"

I listen less for a laugh, loud and fast,
And more for the echo of things that will last.
How they speak of their past, their family, their
friends,
A blueprint of where the long pathway ends.

We talk of the mundane, the daily, the real,
The strength it requires to help one another heal.
The patience for seasons of struggle and strain,
The will to keep choosing, again and again.

Some call it serious, lacking in fun,
But they chase a setting, not a rising sun.
I am building a hearth, not lighting a spark,
Preparing for both the light and the dark.

So I will be patient, and carefully weed
The charming distraction, the untrue seed.
For I am not just looking for someone to kiss,
But a partner for life. It is this. It is this.

The End



COMEDY COMES TO CANADA

Are You Ready?



Ubuntu.

Respectful Co-Parenting Strengthens African Families in the Diaspora

For generations, the African community has been guided by the profound philosophy of Ubuntu: "I am because we are." It is a principle that emphasizes interconnectedness, community, and the collective raising of a child.

Today, as familial structures evolve, a modern application of this ancient wisdom is emerging as a critical force for stability: the conscious practice of respectful co-parenting.

While separation or divorce marks the end of a romantic relationship, a growing movement of African parents is championing the idea that it does not have to mean the end of the family unit. They are redefining success, not by the survival of a marriage, but by the health and happiness of their children, proving that a united front, even from two households,



is the ultimate act of love and cultural preservation.

Traditionally, in many African cultures, divorce has been heavily stigmatized, often viewed as a failure that brings shame to the family. This pressure has, in the past, forced some couples to remain in unhappy situations or, upon separating, to engage in bitter disputes that fracture the entire extended family.

This shift in perspective is crucial. Parents are realizing that by choosing respect, they are not just avoiding conflict; they are actively giving their children a profound gift: the freedom to love both parents without guilt, shame, or loyalty conflicts.



When Co-Parenting Becomes a Weapon

The ideal of co-parenting is a noble one: two parents, living separate lives, who come together to raise a happy, healthy child. They communicate respectfully, make decisions as a team, and prioritize their child's well-being above past grievances.

But for many families, this ideal is a distant fantasy. Instead, the reality is a toxic dynamic known as antagonistic co-parenting, where one parent, often fueled by a sense of entitlement and unresolved bitterness, uses the children as leverage to make the other parent suffer. This isn't just about occasional disagreements.

...Go to Page. 15

A portrait of Giorgio Armani, an elderly man with white hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark grey suit, a white shirt, and a dark blue tie. He is holding a pair of glasses in his right hand. The background is a blurred interior space with warm lighting.

GIORGIO ARMANI

1934 - 2025

Giorgio Armani's Legacy in Fashion Industry

Giorgio Armani's passing at 91 marks the end of an era for fashion. The visionary designer revolutionized style with his power suits and timeless, elegant aesthetic, building a legendary, independently-owned empire. His death leaves an immense void, not just for his eponymous brand, but for the entire industry that revered his unwavering commitment to design integrity.

The immediate question surrounds the future of the Armani empire. While the house has succession plans, his unparalleled creative direction is irreplaceable. The industry mourns a true maestro whose influence will be felt for generations.

Image by Shutterstock



Image from Pexels



GIORGIA MELONI

The Prime Minister of Italy shared a tribute to Giorgio Armani: "Giorgio Armani leaves us at 91 years old. With his elegance, sobriety, and creativity, he was able to bring lustre to Italian fashion and inspire the entire world. An icon, a tireless worker, a symbol of the best of Italy. Thank you for everything."

FASHION TITAN WHO BALANCED SOFTNESS WITH POWER

He left behind a foundation to protect the brand from takeover and placed relatives and trusted aides in positions to ensure continuity. Whether the empire endures without him remains to be seen. What is certain is that Armani gave the world a vision of elegance that transcended seasons. He made clothing that let people stand taller, walk slower, breathe more easily.

When his death was announced, his company called him "indefatigable to the end." He worked until his final days, designing. His burial will be private, but a chamber at the Armani headquarters will allow mourners to pay respects.



Italy treated him as a national treasure. He received the Italian Order of Merit for Labour. France awarded him the Legion of Honour. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni called him "a symbol of the best of Italy."





POLITICS'

Desk

*By Rajesh Kumar,
Edmonton*

FROM NEW CANADIANS TO KEY DECISION-MAKERS: AFRICAN IMMIGRANTS IN CANADIAN POLITICS

Canada's political landscape is undergoing a quiet but powerful transformation, which reflects the rich diversity of its population. A growing wave of African-Canadians is moving from the sidelines to the center of political power, winning elected office and ensuring their communities have a voice in the halls of government.

This rise marks a significant evolution in Canadian democracy, where the experiences of immigrants are increasingly shaping the policies and future of the nation.

For decades, the contributions of African immigrants to Canada were often celebrated in cultural festivals and comm-

-unity organizations, but were less visible in the highest echelons of political leadership

Driven by a desire to give back, to represent the concerns of their communities, and to influence decisions on everything from housing and transit to education and economic development, African-Canadians are stepping up to run and win.

The foundation for this current wave was built by pioneers who broke barriers and proved it was possible. This cannot go without mentioning people like; the Honourable Jean Augustine, a trailblazer who emigrated from Grenada under the domestic worker program and was elected to the Parliament of Canada in 1993 and later served as a cabinet minister.

Another one is Honourable Ahmed Hussen who came to Canada from Somalia as a refugee. His story is one of remarkable resilience. He was elected as the MP for York South, Weston in 2015 and has held several high-profile cabinet positions, including Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship and Minister of Housing, Diversity, and Inclusion.

On recent electoral successes and building on this foundation, a new generation of leaders has emerged, winning significant seats across the country.

The 2022 provincial election saw a historic number of Black MPPs elected to Queen's Park. This includes Chandra Pasma (Ottawa West, Nepean), Jill Andrew (Toronto, St. Paul's), and David Smith (Scarborough Centre), who have become powerful advocates on issues of social justice, education, and equity.

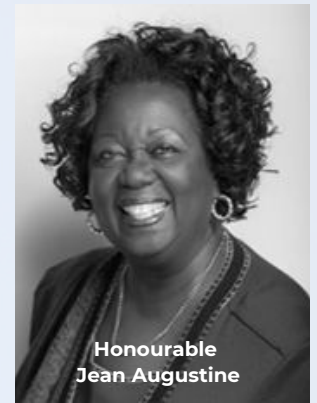
The momentum is not slowing down. As municipal and federal elections approach, a new cohort of African-Canadian candidates is putting their names on ballots, determined to make a difference.

The Greater Toronto Area, a hub for immigrant communities, consistently sees a strong slate of candidates of African descent running for city and regional council positions, school trustee seats, and other local offices. While a full list is extensive, their presence is felt in races in Brampton, Mississauga, Ajax, and Pickering, where they are engaging new voters and bringing fresh perspectives to local issues.

The increasing participation of African immigrants in politics is crucial for a healthy democracy. When legislatures and council chambers reflect the people they serve, policies are more likely to address the needs of all citizens. It inspires young people from diverse backgrounds to see themselves in leadership roles.

African immigrants leaders often bring firsthand understanding of the immigrant experience, from navigating settlement services to overcoming barriers in the job market. This insight is invaluable in crafting effective, compassionate policies.

The journey from immigrant to elected official is a powerful embodiment of the Canadian dream. It speaks to a country where, increasingly, your background is not a barrier to leadership but a source of strength and perspective. As more African-Canadians answer the call to public service, they are not just winning elections; they are enriching Canadian democracy for everyone.



...Co-Parenting

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This is a sustained campaign where one spouse feels they are owed everything, primary custody, financial control, ultimate authority, and operates under the damaging belief that the other parent's pain is a necessary consequence of the separation. The children, unfortunately, are the silent casualties in this war.

- The most profound and heartbreaking effects are on the children caught in the crossfire. Children are intuitive emotional barometers who live in a constant state of hypervigilance, anxious about the next conflict, the next snide remark, or the next broken promise. This chronic stress can manifest in plummeting grades, social withdrawal, or even physical symptoms like headaches and stomachaches.
- The antagonistic parent often forces the child to choose sides, explicitly or implicitly. A child might be made to feel guilty for loving their other parent or for enjoying time spent with them. This creates an unbearable internal conflict, fracturing their sense of security and forcing them to betray one parent to please the other.
- Children learn about relationships by watching their parents. When one parent consistently models manipulation, disrespect, and vengeance, they internalize this as normal. This blueprint can set them up for their own toxic relationships in the future, perpetuating a cycle of conflict.

Co-parenting was never meant to be a weapon. It is a responsibility. When one parent chooses entitlement and vengeance over the well-being of their children, the entire family pays a price. The path forward is difficult, but it must be walked with one unwavering goal in sight: building a wall of protection around your child, so they have a chance to heal and thrive despite the conflict.

- Children often blame themselves for their parents' fights. They may believe that if they were "better" or less trouble, their parents wouldn't fight. The constant tension and negativity can make them feel like a burden, fundamentally damaging their self-worth.

The parent on the receiving end of this behavior suffers immensely, which is often the exact goal of the antagonistic ex. They usually have to go through constant legal battles over custody or support, coupled with the daily struggle of navigating unreasonable demands. The targeted parent lives in a state of defensive alert, their own life and new relationships stifled by the ongoing conflict.

They are forced to stand by and watch their child be used as a pawn, often feeling powerless to stop it. This comes with a deep sense of grief, not just for the ended marriage, but for the healthy co-parenting relationship they hoped for and the childhood their child is being denied.

In severe cases, this behavior escalates into parental alienation, a disturbing phenomenon where a child is manipulated into rejecting a parent they once loved. The targeted parent faces the ultimate punishment: the loss of their relationship with their child.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO WITHHOLD

African

CULTURAL VALUES
IN THE DIASPORA

WHEN STRIPPED OF CULTURAL CONTEXT, CHILDREN CAN
FEEL UNTETHERED, STRUGGLING WITH QUESTIONS OF
"WHO AM I?" AND "WHERE DO I BELONG?" PRESERVING
AFRICAN CULTURE PROVIDES THE ANSWERS.

For millions of people of African descent living outside the continent, life is a constant dance between two worlds. They navigate the dominant culture of their adopted countries while guarding a sacred, internal connection to a homeland they may only know through stories, food, and song.

Preserving Culture and Raising Grounded Children in the Diaspora

Own Correspondent

In this balancing act, the conscious preservation of culture and tradition is not merely a hobby; it is an essential act of identity formation, resilience, and raising a generation that is both globally aware and deeply rooted.

This task is one of the most important responsibilities for parents in the Diaspora. It is about more than just teaching a language or wearing traditional attire on holidays. It is about instilling a value system, a sense of history, and a moral compass that will guide their children through life. It is, fundamentally, about nurturing kids in the right way to raise adults who are not only successful but also respectful, disciplined, and culturally whole.

A key fact in a world where negative stereotypes about Africa persist, teaching children about the rich, diverse, and majestic histories of their ancestral lands is a powerful antidote and builds a foundation of identity and pride.

It replaces shame with pride, and confusion with confidence. Knowing they are descendants of kings, queens, innovators, and scholars builds self-esteem that is immune to external prejudice.

The preservation of culture and tradition replaces shame with pride and confusion with confidence. It offers a community beyond the immediate family, connecting children to a global family with shared experiences, struggles, and joys. This network provides a crucial support system, reminding them they are never alone.

Traditions are not abstract concepts; they are living history. The stories told by elders, the proverbs repeated during lessons, the rhythms of the music, and the recipes cooked in the kitchen are all vessels of knowledge. They carry lessons of survival, philosophy, community, and spirituality that textbooks often ignore.

This is a bold subject: the importance of cultural preservation and nurturing disciplined children within the African Diaspora.

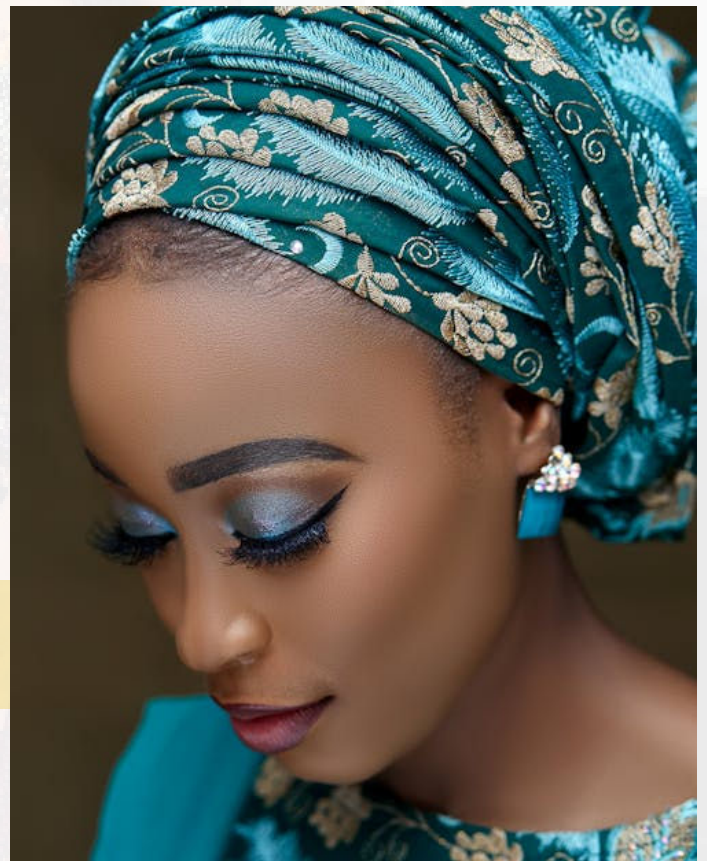
Manners and Discipline

At its heart, many African cultures are built on a framework of profound respect and communal responsibility. This is where the direct link to raising disciplined children with impeccable manners is forged.

Respect for Elders: The African value of respecting one's elders is a masterclass in discipline. It teaches children to listen before they speak, to value wisdom over fleeting opinion, and to understand their place within a larger communal structure. This translates directly into manners: how to greet properly, how to speak to adults, and an understanding that the world does not revolve solely around them.

Use of Proverbs as Moral Guides: African proverbs are concise tools for moral instruction. Sayings like "It takes a village to raise a child" (Igbo/Yoruba origin) teach communal responsibility. "A tree is known by its fruit" teaches personal accountability. "He who is being carried does not realize how far the town is" teaches gratitude. These nuggets of wisdom provide a cultural framework for distinguishing right from wrong.

Community Accountability: In most African traditions, a child is the responsibility of every adult in the community. This means that discipline and guidance aren't confined to one's parents. This system reinforces rules and expectations const-



antly, creating a consistent environment that nurtures discipline. It teaches children that their actions reflect on their family and community, fostering a sense of personal pride and accountability.

The path, however, isn't always easy. Parents battle against the assimilating pull of mainstream culture, the fear of their children being "different," and sometimes, a lack of cultural knowledge themselves.

The goal is to raise children who are fluently navigating both their heritage culture and their national culture, children who are respectful, self-assured, disciplined, and focused.



How can parents build this bridge?

By making culture a living, daily practice. Speak your native language at home. Cook traditional meals and explain their significance. Play the music. Share the stories. Celebrate the holidays. Most importantly, explicitly teach the values behind the traditions, explain why we respect our elders, why we greet everyone, and why we give thanks.



For the African Diaspora, culture is the anchor and tradition the compass. By investing in their preservation, parents raise a generation that knows its worth, carries itself with dignity, and moves through the world with the discipline, manners, and grace that are the true legacies of their ancestors. They raise children who are not lost between two worlds, but empowered by both.

Feedback

We always welcome your feedback and contributions, please reach out to us at



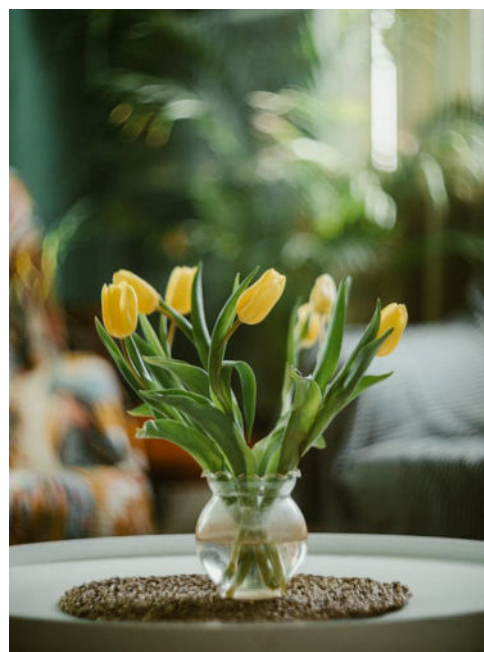
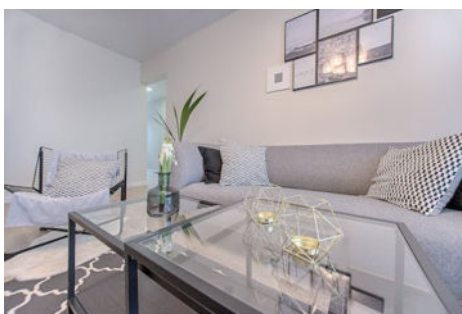
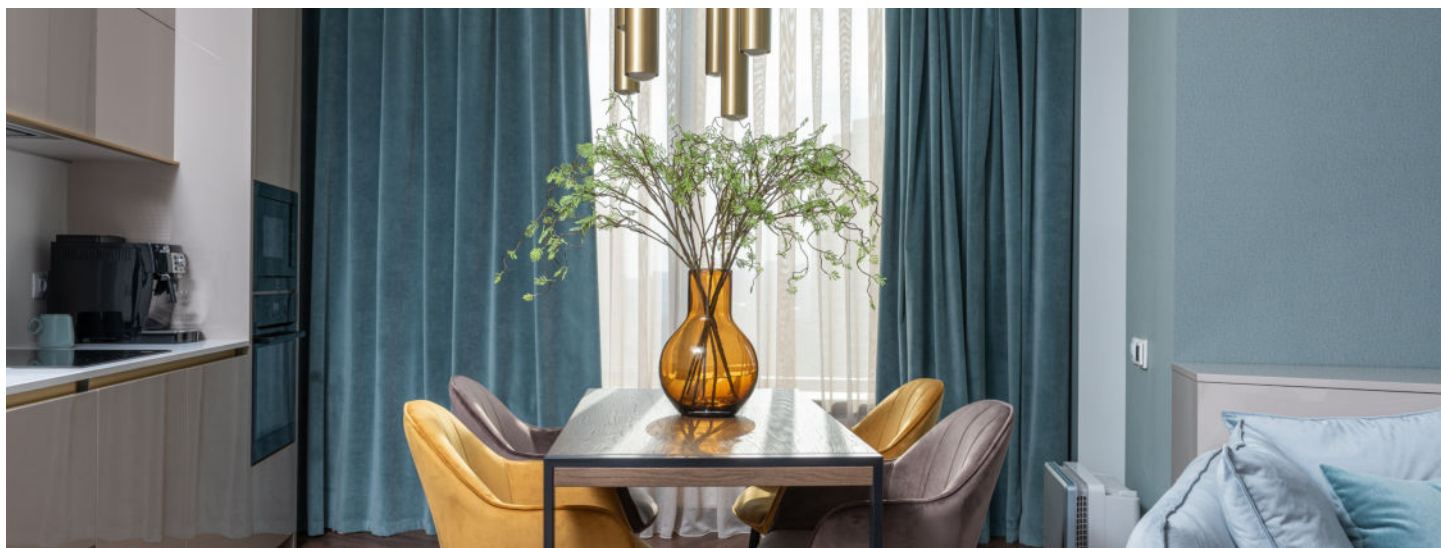
zee@thedigitaldispatch.com

Home Decoration that Makes You Feel at Home

A home should feel good, not just look good. Incorporate textures that invite you to touch and relax: a chunky knit throw on the sofa, a soft wool rug underfoot, or smooth, worn wooden surfaces. Don't forget scent, the sense most tied to memory. A favourite candle, fresh herbs in the kitchen, or the simple smell of books can create an immediate and powerful sense of comfort and familiarity.

A beautifully designed space is a joy to behold, a house only becomes a home when it evokes a feeling of comfort, belonging, and authentic joy.

Ultimately, a home that feels like home is a reflection of the life lived within it. It's imperfect, personal, and deeply comforting. So, let your decor tell your story. Choose what you love, prioritize comfort, and build a sanctuary that welcomes you the moment you step through the door. The secret lies in prioritizing personal connection over perfect trends. It's about crafting an environment that tells your story and engages your senses.



Sponsored

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When elegance

TRAVEL ACROSS BORDERS.

This bespoke creation journeyed all the way from Edmonton, Canada to grace a wedding in the United Kingdom, worn by a radiant client who carried her heritage with pride and sophistication.

With its soft champagne tones, hand-appliquéd floral lace, sheer illusion neckline, and structured corset back, Tariro Grace tells a story of timeless grace and cultural pride. The sculptural shoulder wrap was designed to make a statement and make women bloom boldly.

A heartfelt thank you to our beautiful client Mainah Mazhandu for trusting LizViko Collective to be part of her special moment. You wore it with such poise and purpose, we are honoured.

From the **Crowned in Culture Collection**
Designed with love. Worn with pride.

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 LizViko Collective



EDUCATION CORNER

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Basic Maths Questions

$$\text{Apple} + \text{Apple} + \text{Apple} = 60$$

$$\text{Banana} + \text{Banana} + \text{Banana} = 20$$

$$\text{Apple} + \text{Banana} + \text{Banana} = 38$$

$$\text{Apple} + \text{Banana} + \text{Banana} = ?$$

	18	
9	38	6
	17	

	12	
8	29	3
	12	

	13	
11	?	7
	8	

- **Multiplication:** If a box of crayons has 12 crayons, how many crayons are there in 5 boxes?
- **Division:** Emily saved \$48 from her allowance. She wants to buy books that cost \$8 each. How many books can she buy?
- **Fractions:** A pizza was cut into 8 equal slices. Sarah ate 3 slices. What fraction of the pizza did she eat?
- **Decimals:** You have 2.5 liters of water and you drink 0.7 liters. How many liters of water are left?
- **Geometry:** What is the perimeter of a rectangle that has a length of 10 cm and a width of 5 cm?



Young Authors Essay Contest

10-15
years

Calling All Young Writers! Share Your Story and Win!

Hey there, amazing kids and brilliant young thinkers! Do you have a story to tell, a big idea, or a powerful opinion? Here's your chance to share your voice with the world!

We are thrilled to announce our **Young Authors Essay Contest** and we want you to enter!

Pick your favorite topic and get writing:

- If I Could Invent Anything, It Would Be...
- My Hero and Why They Inspire Me
- The Coolest Thing About Nature
- How We Can Make Our School/Community Better
- A Time I Overcame a Challenge



The Best Part? There's a Prize!

- *Every essay will be read by our panel of judges. The winning essay will be published on our website for everyone to see, and the brilliant author will receive a **\$50 prize!***

How to Enter:

It's easy! Just follow these steps:

- Write your essay (500 words or less).
- Ask your parent or guardian to help you email it to us at: zee@thedigitaldispatch.com
- Make sure the subject line says: "Young Authors Contest - [Your Name]"
- In the email, please include your first name, your age, and your parent's name and phone number.

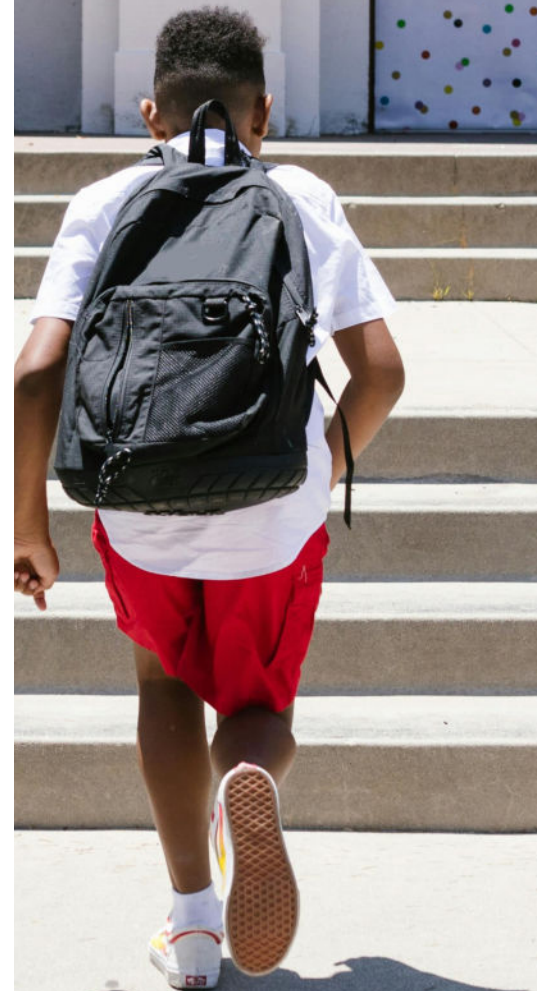
But wait, we need your parent's help!

A note for parents/guardians: Please review our safe submission guidelines. By submitting your child's essay, you grant us permission to publish their first name and age alongside the winning entry. We will never publish a child's full name or contact information. Full contest rules are available upon request.

Submit on time

Don't wait! The deadline to submit your essay is 15th of every month..

We can't wait to read your incredible ideas. Happy writing



Editor's



zee@thedigitaldispatch.com



@Afri-Can



www.thedigitaldispatch.com

EDITORIAL

All articles and contributions sent to us are subject to review.

CONTRIBUTIONS

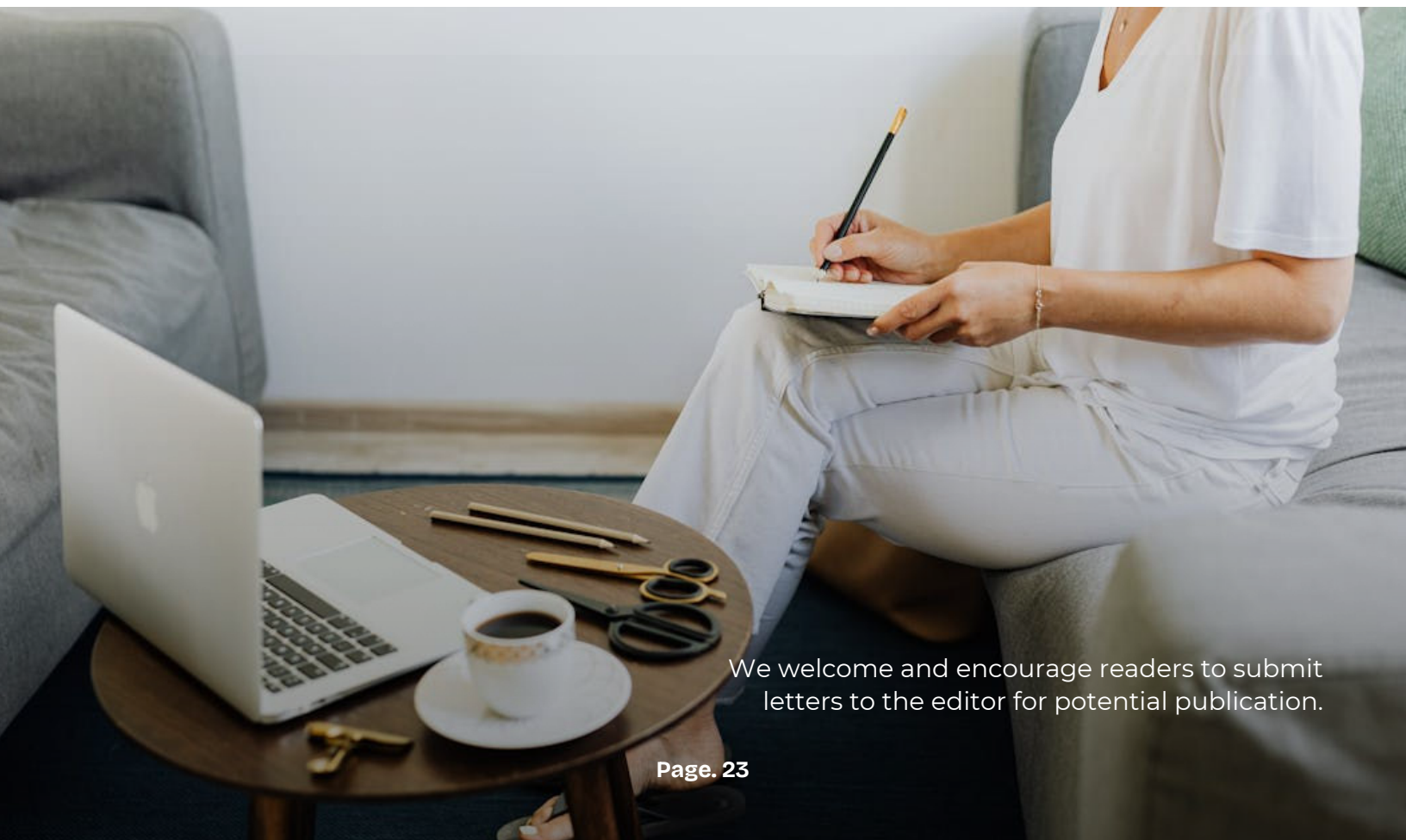
For article and story contributions, kindly submit by the 15th of every month through our editor's desk.

ADVERTIZING

Book for advertising early, as space is limited both in the magazine and on the website.



Desk



We welcome and encourage readers to submit letters to the editor for potential publication.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH:
BY **BOLARINWA OLASUNKANMI**
Lagos, Nigeria





Grace Vela

Grace writes in her own capacity as an individual with a passion to write. With over 15 years of experience in financial services, Grace Vela specializes as a financial and travel coach dedicated to helping clients achieve their definition of a rich life. She provides personalized guidance to turn financial aspirations into reality, drawing inspiration from her own experiences. Grace is passionate about empowering others to create a life of enjoyment and financial freedom.

BREAKING THE SILENCE:

Why Couples Struggle to Talk About Money

‘Choosing to message, call, or meet in person involves money: time is money, and how it’s spent signals priority and intention.’

From the uncertainty over who pays on a first date to unspoken expectations around engagement rings and wedding budgets, it’s no surprise that many couples find it difficult to discuss finances. Money remains one of the most sensitive and avoided topics in romantic relationships, often leading to misunderstandings and tension down the line.

The dynamics of financial communication should be established early in a relationship. While some couples express their expectations openly, others rely on subtle cues and assumptions, hoping to align their values without direct conversation. Yet, money is implicitly present in nearly every interaction; from how two people choose to spend their time together to the type of dates they plan.



Even the decision to invest time in someone carries financial undertones. Choosing to message, call, or meet in person involves money: time is money, and how it’s spent signals priority and intention. The setting of a first date, whether an expensive dinner or a casual walk in the park, can also reflect unspoken beliefs about value, effort, and commitment.

For many, discussing the subject of money feels risky. Women, in particular, may hesitate to voice financial expectations early on for fear of intimidating a partner or being perceived as materialistic. Some may downplay their own desires or adopt more affordable dating habits to avoid making their partner feel inadequate. Others might keep finances entirely separate, effectively sidestepping the conversation altogether.

This avoidance can lead to significant mismatches in long-term expectations. Couples who don’t discuss financial goals may discover too late that they have incompatible visions for their future. For example, one partner may assume a dual-income household with children in daycare,

Special Feature

What she said.....

— Endurance Grand



"My name is Endurance Dzigbordi Dedzo, but many know me as Endurance Grand. I was born on 20 December 1997 in Ho, Volta Region, Ghana, to a Ghanaian father from the Ewe tribe and a Nigerian mother from the Igbo tribe. Life was not easy after losing my father, and I had to live with friends and work small jobs, but those struggles shaped me into the woman I am today.

Dance gave me a new life, and it carried me from TikTok and DWP Academy to big stages and recognition across Africa. In 2024 I won the Trendupp Award in Nigeria and in 2025 I was named Best African Female Dancer. That same year, I made my acting debut in *The Fisherman*, Ghana's first film to be selected at the Venice Film Festival, a moment that showed me how far God has brought me.

I hold my mother and siblings very close to my heart. My story is one of faith, resilience and hope, and I thank every single person who has walked this journey with me."

...continued from Page. 24

while the other imagines a single-income model with a stay-at-home parent. These diverging paths are best navigated through open dialogue long before major decisions arise.

The key to productive financial conversations lies in tone, empathy, and flexibility. It's important to observe not only what a partner says, but how they respond to difficult topics. Are they receptive? Do they show a willingness to understand your perspective, even if it differs from their own? Do they revisit the conversation after reflection? These behaviors are telling indicators of how financial communication will unfold over time.

Having these discussions early does not lock couples into rigid roles; life circumstances change, and so do financial priorities. But starting the conversation builds a foundation of honesty and collaboration, turning a potential source of conflict into an opportunity for connection.



In conclusion, normalizing money talks can help couples align their values, reduce stress, and foster a healthier, more transparent relationship; financially and emotionally.

A LOOK INTO THE IPHONE 17



AND ITS GROUNDBREAKING FEATURES

The iPhone 17 represents more than just an incremental update; it signals a new direction for Apple's flagship product. With a radical new design, the integration of under-display technology, and a massive focus on on-device AI, the iPhone 17 is poised to set a new benchmark for what a smartphone can be.

Apple's CEO, Tim Cook said, "This is by far the most powerful iPhone lineup we've ever created."

The [iPhone 17](#) arrives in five shades (lavender, mist, blue, black, white, and sage) and stretches its screen to 6.3 inches with slimmer borders.

Apple's magic moment this year is the release of its thinnest iPhone ever (5.6-millimeter), built from "spacecraft"-grade titanium and clad in Ceramic Shield front and back.



DO YOU LIKE THE NEW IPHONE?



iPhone 17

- 6.3" display
- 120Hz refresh rate
- Aluminum design
- A19 chip
- 8GB RAM
- Dual cameras
- September 2025
- \$799~

iPhone 17 'Slim'

- 6.6" display
- 120Hz refresh rate
- Aluminum design
- A19 chip
- 8GB RAM
-
- September 2025
- \$1,299~

iPhone 17 Pro

- 6.3" display
- 120Hz refresh rate
- Titanium design
- A19 Pro chip
- 12GB RAM
- Triple 48MP
- September 2025
- \$1,099~

iPhone 17 Pro Max

- 6.9" display
- 120Hz refresh rate
- Titanium design
- A19 Pro chip
- 12GB RAM
- Triple 48MP
- September 2025
- \$1,199~

... and more accessories

Apple's vice president of audio hardware engineering, Kate Bergeron, called the AirPods Pro 3 her "favorite AirPods ever," and the spec sheet seems to back her up. AirPods Pro 3 debuts live translation, powered by Apple Intelligence.



Apple Watch Series 11 is Apple's thinnest and reportedly most comfortable watch yet, made with ion-X glass fused to a ceramic coating that supposedly makes it twice as scratch-resistant. It also adds 5G connectivity for stronger coverage, plus watchOS 26 with a fresh set of faces; including Flow, which refracts color through Apple's new Liquid Glass aesthetic.

AI and the Future

Tech.



AI augments human capabilities, automating tedious tasks to free us for creativity and solving complex problems in fields like medicine and science with incredible speed and accuracy.



AI is undeniably the future, revolutionizing how we live and work, and you can start harnessing its power today to dramatically simplify your tasks by exploring the incredible tools available at the following links:

- [ChatGPT.com](https://chatgpt.com) - answers everything
- [Lightpdf.com](https://lightpdf.com) - PDF editing
- [MidJourney.com](https://midjourney.com) - generates art
- [Replit.com](https://replit.com) - writes code
- [Synthesia.ai](https://synthesia.ai) - produces videos
- [Soundraw.io](https://soundraw.io) - creates music
- [Fliki.ai](https://fliki.ai) - crafts TikToks
- [Starry.ai](https://starry.ai) - designs avatars
- [SlidesAI.io](https://slidesai.io) - makes PPTs
- [Remini.ai](https://remini.ai) - enhances photos
- [Pictory.ai](https://pictory.ai) - video editing
- [Wordtune.com](https://wordtune.com) - summarizes notes
- [Copy.ai](https://copy.ai) - generates text

beef...

A Quest for Africa's Ultimate Barbecue

By Thabo Hlongwane, Quebec

Forget everything you think you know about barbecue. Set aside the familiar tang of Kansas City sauce and the slow-smoked allure of Texas brisket. There is a different, deeply rooted grilling tradition emerging onto the global stage, one born under the vast African sun and the incredible flavour of naturally bred, well-barbecued African beef.

This isn't just about cooking meat; it's a culinary journey that connects plate to pasture, and fire to freedom. It's about tasting a place in every single bite.

The story of exceptional African barbecue begins not at the grill, but in the sprawling, open landscapes where the cattle are bred. Across the continent; from the savannahs of Kenya and Tanzania to the grasslands of South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, and Namibia, a movement towards natural, free-range farming is yielding beef with a profound depth of flavour.

These are not grain-fed cattle confined to feedlots. They are hardy, indigenous breeds like the Ankole-Watusi with their majestic long horns, or the Boran, renowned for its well-marbled meat. They roam freely, grazing on a diverse diet of native grasses, herbs, and shrubs.

This active lifestyle and varied diet develop muscle with complex intramuscular fat, the key to incredibly juicy and flavourful beef. The result is a leaner, richer meat that is deeply terroir-driven, carrying the subtle, earthy notes of the African bush.

If the meat is the soul of the barbecue, the fire is its beating heart. African barbecue, or braai as it's known in Southern Africa, is an event, a social ritual centered around patience and community. The fire is almost always wood-fired, using aromatic hardwoods, imparting a distinct, smoky sweetness that gas or charcoal simply cannot replicate.



WODE

Maya

FIVE GHANA
WITH DIPLO





Ibrahim Mahama
Renowned contemporary
Ghanaian artist

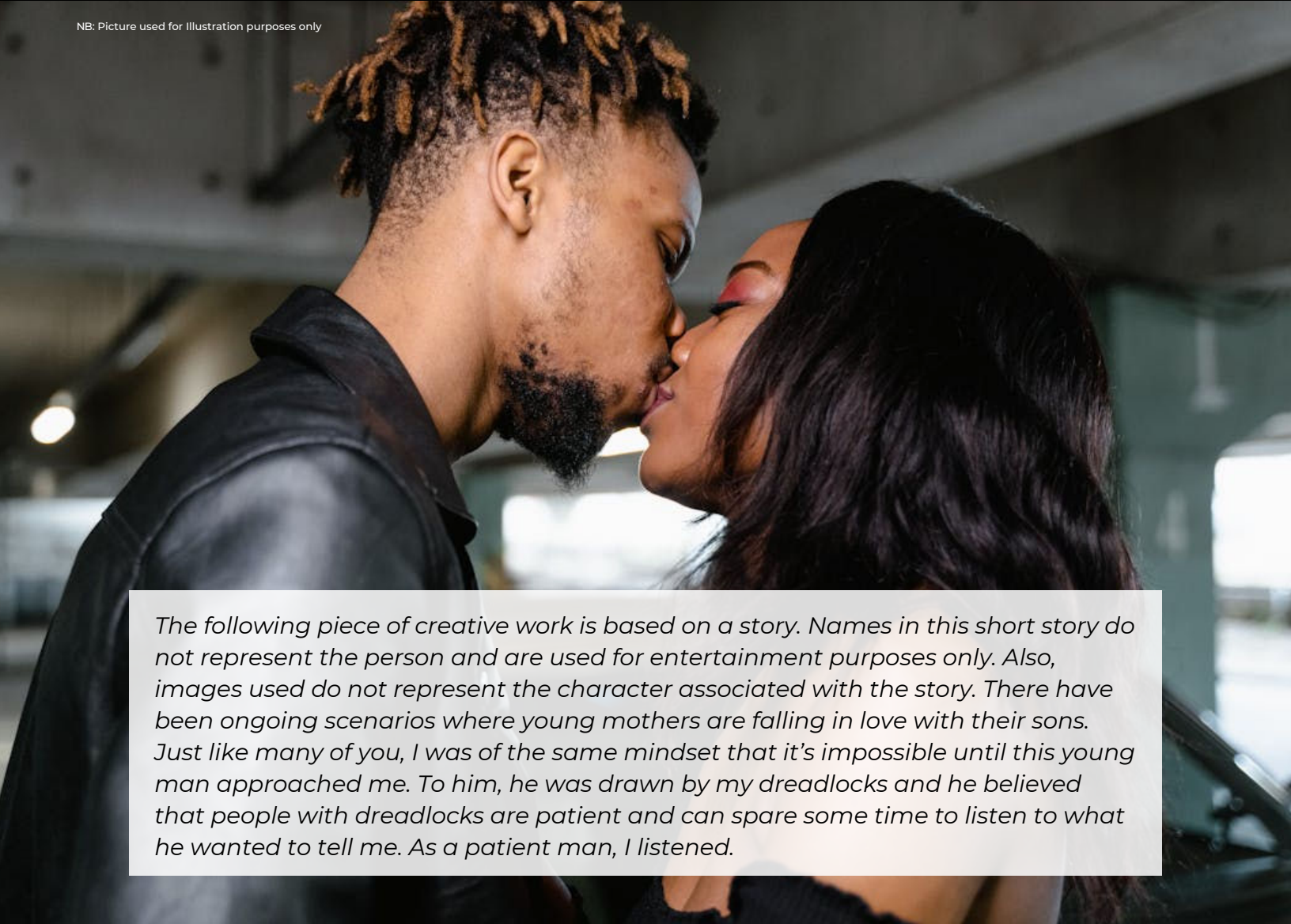


SHORT STORY

Mom Why, Why Me?

Drama. Romance. Thriller.

NB: Picture used for illustration purposes only

A close-up photograph of a man and a woman in a romantic embrace, about to kiss. The man has short dreadlocks and a beard, wearing a black leather jacket. The woman has long, dark, wavy hair. They are in a dimly lit indoor space, possibly a parking garage, with concrete pillars and lights visible in the background.

The following piece of creative work is based on a story. Names in this short story do not represent the person and are used for entertainment purposes only. Also, images used do not represent the character associated with the story. There have been ongoing scenarios where young mothers are falling in love with their sons. Just like many of you, I was of the same mindset that it's impossible until this young man approached me. To him, he was drawn by my dreadlocks and he believed that people with dreadlocks are patient and can spare some time to listen to what he wanted to tell me. As a patient man, I listened.

By Zvakwana Nomore Sweto | Published Author: 4 Books

The night and the sounds of the 90s R 'n' B music were ready for me. I was also ready for the mysterious surprise my mum had been promising me since I turned 18. In her own words, she would say, "Sonny, I got a surprise birthday for you when you turn 21."

Like every child to a parent, I was eager and anxious to know what my mama had prepared for me.

Anyway, I have gone too far without introducing myself. My name is Phil, and I just celebrated my 21st birthday. I was raised by my mom. I don't know my dad; he has never showed up ever since I was born. My mom is the only person I trust, as she has been with me, taking care of me and making sure she provides anything I need as long as it's within her means.

My mom is a beautiful young woman in her late 30s. Her followers on Instagram call her 'super sexy mom,' and I admire her but sometimes get jealous of the attention she gets from men on social media.

Now let me get straight to my story that has seen me spending sleepless nights and days in the park...

My 21st birthday was a massive one. My mum went all out to plan the special day for me. Close to 30 of my friends showed up and a couple of her friends.

The music Dj didn't disappoint. He played all the music on the playlist as I had requested. We ate, we drank, and enjoyed every moment. My mum always checked on me so that I don't get too excited and got drunk as the night was still young.

Around 9.17pm, my mum texted me. The message read, "We're sleeping out tonight. I have made reservations at a hotel about 20 minutes from the city."

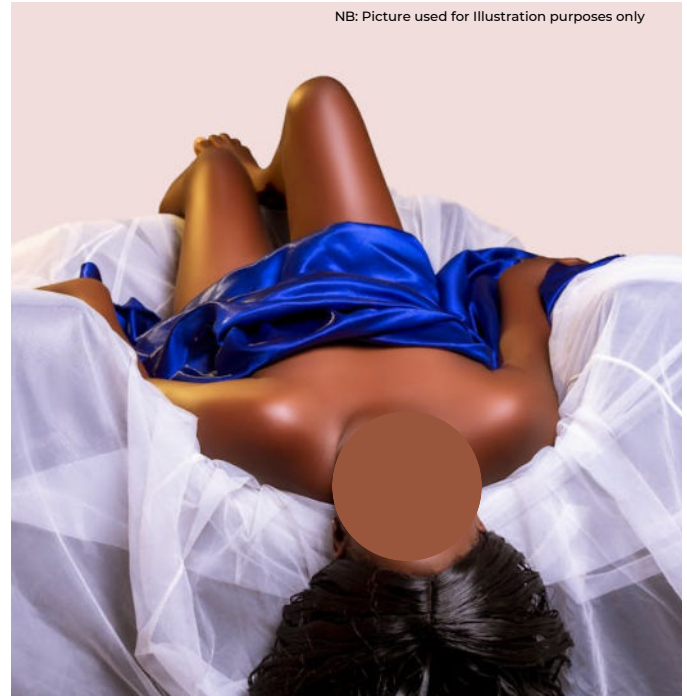
When I showed my friends, they all laughed and said your mum has arranged some good chic for you, be ready. We all laughed and continued to party.

For some reasons, my girlfriend had not shown up for my birthday. After this message I thought she deliberately failed to come, as maybe she had planned with my mom to be at the hotel. My friends kept asking about my girl. Some were saying that it's a sign that she is not mine and that she doesn't care for me anymore.

I am, people still wanted to party but the neighbours were already complaining about the noise, hence the party was cut short. The DJ announced the end of the party and assured everyone that if they want to still enjoy, we can go to one club downtown.

As people began to depart, my mother went to her bedroom to get dressed. Even though I was a little inebriated, she looked amazing in a tight miniskirt when she came out, and wow, that was sexy. After locking the doors, we drove to the hotel. "Are you ready for the surprise?" was the only question she posed. I answered right away and carried on with my dancehall tunes.

We got to the hotel and checked-in. It was one single room for both of us. We took the elevator upstairs, and she whispered to me, "No lights for the next hour."



NB: Picture used for illustration purposes only

In the room I stood by the desk next to the TV. There was a bit of light illuminating from the curtain, which was not properly closed. I stood there just hearing some sounds of maybe my mom trying to make herself comfortable. As I removed my jacket and shoes. I heard footsteps of someone coming towards me.

I felt a body close to me. Someone hugged me. The perfume was for my mum. I whispered my girlfriend's name and I felt a finger on my lips as a sign for me not to speak. I put my hands on her waist and she was naked.

She began undressing me. Within seconds I was in my birthday suit and she came close to me. My naked body squeezing hers to the point I couldn't resist the call of nature as my manhood did the right thing for the moment.

The world had shrunk to the space between us, defined not by sight but by sensation. The darkness was absolute, a velvet blanket that left us floating in a universe of our own making. I could hear the soft sound of her breathing, a little quicker than usual.



Then, her fingertips found my face. They were cool and gentle, tracing the line of my jaw with a touch so light it was almost a question. Her thumb brushed my cheekbone, and I turned my head instinctively into her palm, a silent answer.

I felt her warmth before I felt her kiss. The air between us changed, charged and still. She leaned in, and her breath whispered against my lips, a soft, warm warning that sent a shiver through me. And then, she closed the final distance.

It wasn't a collision, but a discovery. Her lips were soft and seeking, moving against mine with a slow, patient certainty.

Without sight, every other sense sharpened to a fine point. I could taste the faint, sweet hint of her lip balm, smell the clean scent of her skin and the lingering trace of her shampoo in her hair. My hands, which had been at my sides, came up to find her waist, pulling her closer until I could feel the steady, strong beat of her heart against my chest.

The kiss deepened, and in the profound dark, it felt less like an action and more like a language. A slow, silent conversation spoken in the meeting of lips, the gentle pressure of a hand on my back, the soft sound of a sigh that was felt more than heard. Time stretched and bent, losing all meaning in that sightless space where the only thing that was real was the feel of her, the taste of her, the breathtaking truth of her in my arms. It was a secret the darkness kept for us alone, a moment perfect and complete in its obscurity.

She came on top with her watery hands; she slid my 'little Johnny' into her wet and ready cookie. I felt it, and I wanted more. I whispered, "Babe, is this what you have been preparing for me throughout the day? Is this why you didn't show up for the birthday celebrations?"

We changed positions, I mean it was my night, our night. A night to enjoy. You only celebrate 21 years once in a lifetime. Because she had done it, I decided to go down on her as well. Man, it was freaking sweet. For about an hour we were both in a world of our own.

After eating the forbidden fruit, we slept off and only woke up around 4am. This time, I was the one who initiated an early morning sexual encounter. She also couldn't resist, as she was also hungry for sex. This was because prior to my birthday preparations, I had exams and had asked her to be celibate for a couple of months.

It was around 5:30am when I heard my phone vibrate and a message popped up. I grabbed the phone to read the message.

The message read, "Hi Phil, I was waiting for this day. I hope you enjoyed your 21st birthday celebrations. I just wanted to let you know it's over between us. I have since moved on like 2 months back. I wasn't in a good space to tell you this but I think this is the right time. As you have just turned 21, it's time you get a girl who deserves you. We are just incompatible. I'm sorry. Please block and delete my number. BYE!"

"Whaaaaaat? Who did I just sleep with? Am I dreaming?"

I quickly rushed to switch on the light. You won't believe what I saw. My mom lay on the bed naked and was in her own world dreaming as we had a long night. I took one of the bedsheets and covered her. I dressed up and sat next to the bed. I decided to wake her up to confront her.

"Mum what have we done. Why mum, why me?"

"Hey mum why, why, why, why me? I'm your only son. This can't be happening. Am I dreaming or what? Mum.....mum why?"

She woke up, removed the bedsheets I had covered her with, and stood up naked. I couldn't look at her eyes. She came close to me, held my shoulders, and with a low voice, she asked me, "Tell me, you don't want some more?"

I dressed up really quick and left the hotel. I booked an uber, home.

That day I felt so wasted. I blamed my manhood that had caused me to do this incest. We had unprotected sex, and what if she gets pregnant?

She arrived 30 minutes later, and she did not see anything wrong about what had happened. She even joked, saying, "Don't worry about pregnancy; I have a Jadelle implant, so we are safe on that."

I failed as a man; I have failed my entire generation. I don't deserve to be called a real man. I locked myself and the next thing I heard was a knock at my bedroom. When I opened, it was my mum with car keys. She asked me to come outside the house where I found a 2017 BMW, 318 parked just behind her car.

"Phil, babe, this is your 21st birthday present. I hope you will like it as you have been telling me it's your dream car."

I took the keys with a fake smile and hugged her. I went back to my room and started packing a couple of jeans and shirts.

I left the house at 4pm with the new car and never returned. It's two months now. She texts me I just read and react to her messages. I don't take her calls.

Every day I keep on asking myself, "Mom why, Why me?"

*****THE END*****



African barbecue: If the meat is the soul of the barbecue, the fire is its beating heart.

..... continued from Page. 29

The technique is one of reverence. The fire is allowed to burn down to a bed of glowing, hot embers. This provides a consistent, radiant heat that sears the meat perfectly on the outside while cooking it gently and evenly on the inside, avoiding the bitter taste of flare-ups and charred fat.

The philosophy behind seasoning this magnificent meat is often "less is more." To let the natural, robust flavour of the beef shine, it must be treated with nothing more than a generous sprinkle of coarse sea salt and cracked black pepper.

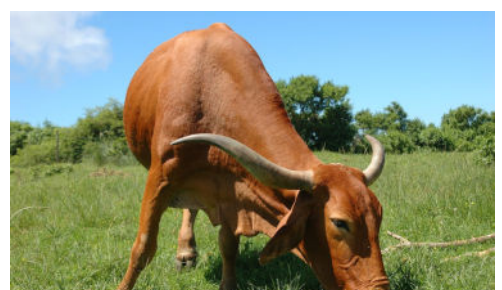
Imagine a thick, juicy ribeye or a skewer of tender sirloin cubes (nyama choma). The exterior is caramelized and slightly crisp, with a smoky perfume from the wood fire. As you bite in, the interior is remarkably tender and bursting with a pure, clean beef flavour, a taste that is unmistakably robust and inherently wild.

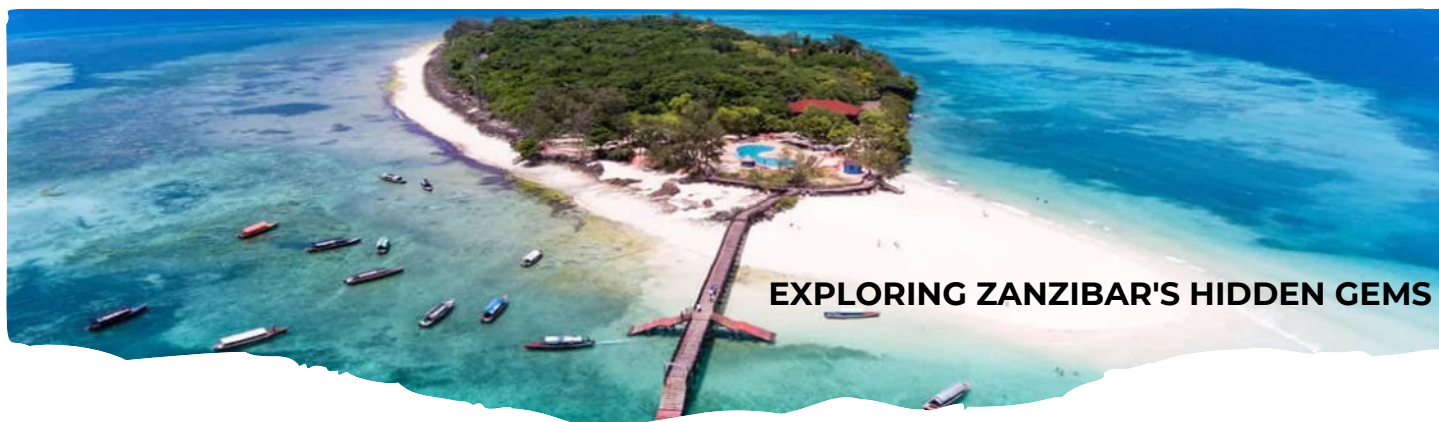
The seasoning, whether simple or spicy, doesn't mask the meat but elevates it, creating a harmonious symphony of smoke, spice, and earth. This is the promise of well-barbecued, naturally bred African beef: an authentic, unforgettable taste experience that connects you directly to the land and its traditions.

It's a reminder that the best flavours in the world aren't manufactured; they're nurtured under the sun and perfected over the fire.



Page. 34





By Grace Chenesai Vela (You Deserve Grace)

ZANZIBAR, TANZANIA

*"Embrace the Adventure:
Uncover Hidden Beauty and Enrich Your Life"*

The African continent is dotted with famed destinations, but sometimes the greatest treasures are the ones that whisper rather than shout. For the discerning traveler, the archipelago of Zanzibar offers a compelling case study in underrated beauty, a place where reality effortlessly surpasses the glossy allure of its reputation.

This is an adventure by your truly. The journey begins with a strategic bargain: a round-trip ticket from Vancouver to Dar Es Salaam secured for under a thousand Canadian dollars. A deliberately long layover in Dubai, leveraged through the airline's Dubai Connect, ultimately becomes a bonus adventure before the main event even begins.

For a solo female traveler, navigation is often governed by prudence. The goal is to be indoors by nightfall or within safe proximity to one's lodging. This made the northern village of Nungwi the ideal base for a specific cultural phenomenon: the Zanzibar Full Moon Party.

The party itself was a masterclass in modern event planning, a cashless, ticketed experience featuring a beachside buffet and a sonic landscape curated by international DJs that pulsed until dawn.

The day after the revelry was spent in motion, a three-hour transit journey across the island to the southeastern coast. Jambiani was the destination, home to what many describe as some of the world's most breathtaking beaches. The long drive was not a chore but a decompression, and the reward was immense.

There, a clever hotel model awaited. By booking the most economical (\$55/night) property in a boutique chain, guests gain access to the ame-

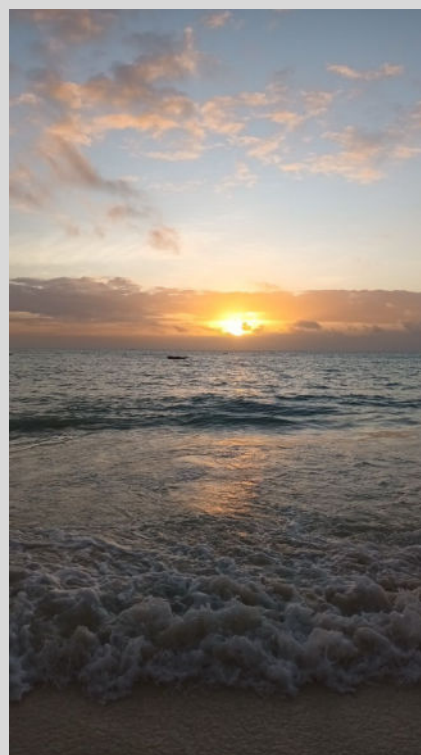
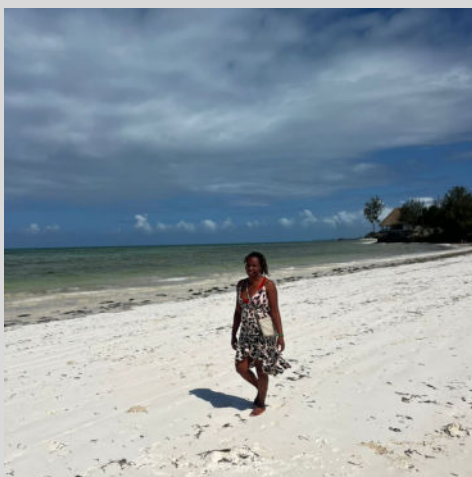
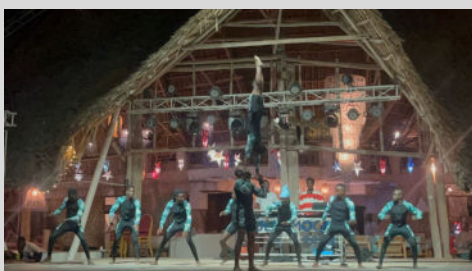
-nities of its sister locations. This meant breakfast on a serene rooftop patio in one place and an afternoon swimming in the infinity pool of another all inclusive of breakfast and snorkeling.

Leaving Zanzibar, I was really excited that I didn't take the ferry from Dar es Salaam over, so it would give me a reason to come back with my kids. There is so much to do, and a week is a good amount of time to spend, I only had 5 days, 4 nights there.





On the way back from dinner and music, I joined a group of digital nomads that were singing and drinking beside a fire in the sand. They were from every corner of the globe and united by the blood moon we were all watching.



Are You Ready For Winter?

The Canadian Winter Survival Guide

There's a certain magic to a Canadian winter. The world quiets under a blanket of snow, the air sparkles, and the landscape transforms into a pristine wonderland. But let's be honest: it's also a season that demands respect. The key to not just surviving but truly enjoying this iconic time of year is preparation. Think of it not as a chore, but as your personal ritual to welcome the cold in comfort and style.

To beat the winter, you need to be proactive. It's less about enduring the cold and more about being equipped to handle it comfortably and safely. Here are the 5 major things one must have to beat the winter in Canada:

1. Proper Footwear (Grip and Insulation)
2. A Serious Winter Coat (Personal Shield)
3. The "Core Four" Accessories: Mittens or Gloves, Scarf or Neck Warmer, Warm Socks, and a Beanie.
4. Winter Tires (Non-Negotiable for Drivers)
5. A Positive Mindset & a Plan (Mental Preparedness)



Getting ready for winter isn't about fearing the cold; it's about arming yourself with the tools and mindset to embrace it. With a little preparation, you can step outside, feel the crisp air on your cheeks, and appreciate the stark, stunning beauty that is a Canadian winter. Stay warm and enjoy!





Stay Warm and Healthy This Winter



As the temperature drops and winter sets in, many of us are more vulnerable to colds and flu. Instead of immediately reaching for over the counter remedies, why not try a soothing natural drink made with everyday ingredients? This flu relief blend is packed with immune boosting properties that not only ease symptoms but also bring comfort on chilly days.

Flu Relief Drink Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon whole cloves
- 1/2 fresh lemon, juiced
- 1 tablespoon natural honey
- 1 teaspoon fresh ginger, grated or crushed
- 1 cup hot water

Method:

1. Boil 1 cup of water and pour it into a mug.
2. Add the cloves and let them steep for 3–4 minutes.
3. Stir in the grated ginger, allowing its warming aroma to infuse the water.
4. Add the lemon juice and honey, mixing well until the honey dissolves.
5. Strain (optional) and enjoy the drink while it's warm.

Why It Works

- Cloves: Known for their antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory properties.
- Lemon: Rich in Vitamin C to strengthen immunity.
- Honey: Soothes sore throats and coughs.
- Ginger: A natural decongestant with anti-nausea benefits.

This simple yet powerful drink provides immediate relief for sore throats, congestion, and fatigue, keeping you warm and revitalized during cold season.

Entertainment

Lifestyle, Arts,

AND CULTURE

DANCEHALL REGGAE DOMINANCE

Originating from the streets of Jamaica, reggae and dancehall have achieved profound global dominance, becoming far more than just musical genres but powerful cultural forces. Reggae, with its roots in resistance and its message of social justice, unity, and spirituality, spread internationally through icons like Bob Marley, granting it a universal language of protest and peace that resonates on every continent.

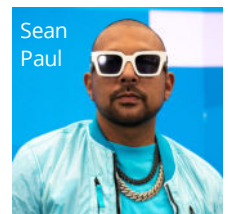
Its rhythmic foundation and distinctive off-beat guitar chops became a blueprint for countless other genres. Dancehall, reggae's more raw and digital descendant, dominates the modern airwaves and charts through its infectious rhythms, high-energy vibe, and potent influence on global pop, hip-hop, and Afrobeats. From Rihanna and Drake to Beyoncé's incorporation of dancehall motifs, the genre's impact is ubiquitous, dictating dance trends, slang, and fashion worldwide and solidifying Jamaica's unparalleled status as a cultural superpower.



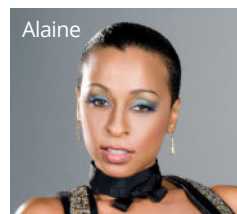
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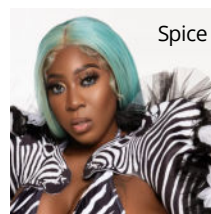
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Banton



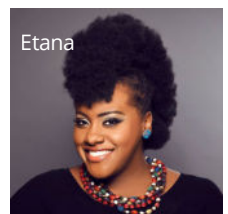
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Paul



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Spice



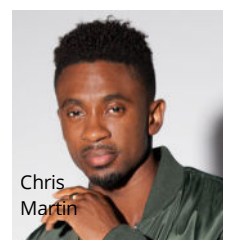
Etana



Romain
Virgo



Taurus
Riley



Chris
Martin



Shatta Wale

Shatta Wale, born Charles Nii Armah Mensah Jr. on October 17, 1984, is a Ghanaian dancehall singer, songwriter, and producer who has cemented his status as one of Africa's most influential and controversial music icons.

Shatta Wale is renowned for his charismatic, outspoken, and often provocative personality, which has earned him both ardent fans and vocal critics. His music, characterized by its hard-hitting dancehall rhythms, catchy hooks, and lyrics that often address social issues, personal struggles, and celebratory themes, resonates deeply with the Ghanaian youth, his "Shatta Movement" fan base.

Beyond music, Shatta Wale is a master of spectacle and self-promotion, known for his elaborate music videos, bold public statements, and a consistent ability to remain at the center of public discourse. Despite the controversies, his impact on the Ghanaian music scene is undeniable, having popularized a distinct Ghanaian dancehall sound and inspired a new generation of artists. He remains a powerful, unignorable force in African entertainment.

Shatta Wale was recently invited to perform at Vybz Kartel's "Freedom Street" Concert in Jamaica where he showed his lyrical prowess and represented Africa well.

MUSIC IS LIFE

Vybz Kartel, born on January 7, 1976, in Kingston, Jamaica, is a dancehall artist, songwriter, and producer who is arguably one of the most influential and controversial figures in modern Jamaican music. His real name is Adidja Azim Palmer.

Rising to prominence in the early 2000s, Kartel quickly became known for his raw lyrical prowess, clever wordplay, and ability to set trends within the dancehall scene. His music, often explicit and unfiltered, covers a wide range of topics from social issues and political commentary to dancehall's staple themes of violence ("lyrics gun"), sexuality, and celebration.

However, his life and career took a drastic turn in 2011 when he was arrested and later convicted for the murder of an associate. He has since been released and currently doing well in the music industry with sold-out shows.

Vybz Kartel



Winky D, real name Wallace Chirimuko is a Zimbabwean dancehall artist and songwriter widely celebrated as "The Big Man" and "Gaffa" of Zimbabwean music. He is not just a performer but a cultural icon whose music serves as a social commentary on the lives of ordinary Zimbabweans.

Rising from the vibrant and competitive dancehall scene in Zimbabwe, Winky D first gained prominence in the mid-2000s. He quickly distinguished himself from other artists with his conscious lyrics, unique vocal style, and ability to fuse classic dancehall rhythms with authentic Zimbabwean sounds, a genre often referred to as "Zimdancehall."

Unlike many of his contemporaries, Winky D's music transcends mere entertainment. He is known for his philosophical and often cryptic



Winky D

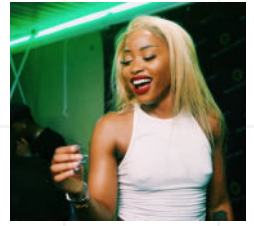
lyrics that require deep listening, making him a "musician of the people" who gives voice to collective struggles and aspirations. His annual "Ghetto Christmas" concerts are monumental events that draw massive crowds, a testament to his immense popularity.

Despite facing occasional pressure and unclear bans from performing, his influence is undeniable. Winky D is revered as an artist who has maintained his artistic integrity, using his platform to uplift, educate, and inspire, earning him a legacy as one of Zimbabwe's most important and beloved musical voices of his generation.

The Global Groove: Amapiano & Afrobeats

How it Conquered the World and Found a Home in Canada?

Article by Ayomide Chukwu, Totonto



From the bustling nightlife of Lagos to the sunny shores of Johannesburg, and now echoing through the bustling streets of Toronto and the vibrant venues of Vancouver, the sounds of Afrobeats and Amapiano have become the undisputed soundtracks of a global generation. This isn't just a musical trend; it's a cultural takeover, a testament to the power of African artistry to captivate the world stage.

While often mentioned in the same breath, the two genres have distinct roots. Afrobeats (distinct from Fela Kuti's Afrobeat) is a vibrant, polyrhythmic genre originating from Nigeria and Ghana in the 2000s. It fuses traditional African rhythms with influences from hip-hop, dancehall, and R&B, thus creating an infectious, high-energy sound designed for movement and dancing.

The Afrobeats Titans: Artists like Davido, with anthems like "Fall" and "IF," and Wizkid, whose collaboration with Drake on "One Dance" was a pivotal mainstream moment, have been instrumental. Burna Boy's album "African Giant" and his Grammy win unequivocally declared that Afrobeats was not a passing fad but a permanent fixture in global music.



South African producers and DJs like Kabza De Small and DJ Maphorisa (known as the Scorpion Kings) are the undeniable architects of the Amapiano sound. Uncle Waffles, with her electrifying DJ sets and viral fame, has become a global ambass-

-ador, bringing the genre to a new, younger audience.

Not to be forgotten is the recent explosion of Tyla, which is a perfect case study in global fusion. Her viral hit "Water," which blends pop sensibilities with Amapiano's signature log drum, became a global TikTok phenomenon and earned her a historic Grammy for Best African Music Performance, proving the genres' immense commercial and critical potential.

World Stage Recognition: Grammys, BET, and Beyond

This musical quality and massive popularity could no longer be ignored by the Western music industry. The embrace has moved from viral dance challenges to formal, institutional recognition:

BET Awards: The BET Awards have long celebrated Afrobeats, frequently featuring performances by its biggest stars. The introduction of the Viewer's Choice: Best International Act and specific performances dedicated to Amapiano on the show's stage highlight its commitment to these genres

The Grammy Awards: In 2024, the Recording Academy introduced the Best African Music Performance category. This was a monumental step, dedicating a prime-time Grammy to the vast and diverse sounds of the continent. Tyla's win for "Water" marked the first-ever recipient of this award.

International Charts: Songs like "Calm Down" by Rema and Selena -



Gomez have shattered records, topping charts globally and spending a

record-breaking weeks on the Billboard Hot 100, demonstrating undeniable mainstream appeal.

Canada, particularly its multicultural hubs like Toronto, Montreal, and Calgary, has not just embraced these sounds, but has fervently adopted them. The large and diverse African diaspora has provided a strong foundation, and the appeal has expanded far beyond, captivating music lovers of all backgrounds.

This embrace is most visible in the thriving live event scene where major Afrobeats and Amapiano artists now consistently include Can-



-adian cities on their world tours and have Sold-Out Tours.

The journey of Afrobeats and Amapiano from local gems to global phenomena is a story of cultural pride, artistic innovation, and the universal language of a good music.

As artists continue to innovate and the world continues to dance, one thing is clear: the rhythm of Africa is now the rhythm of the world, and Canada is dancing right along to every beat.

A full-page photograph of Cristiano Ronaldo in a yellow Al Nassr football jersey. He is looking upwards and to the right with an intense expression. The jersey features blue stripes on the shoulders and sleeves, and various sponsor logos including 'Gathern', 'ARROYA', and 'KAFD'. The Al Nassr Football Club crest is visible on the right chest. The background is a blurred stadium.

**CRISTIANO
RONALDO**

CR7



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10

MBOKO TENNIS VICTORIA

... inspiring new generation of tennis players, particularly Black girls, across Canada

Mboko this month appears on the most recent cover of Rolling Stone Africa, the 2025 season remains one of Victoria Mboko's achievements.

The 18-year-old, born to parents who immigrated to the United States, and then, Canada from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is the first female athlete to feature on the cover of the magazine, which launched last August and is based in Lagos, Nigeria.

At the National Bank Open, four former Grand Slam champions; Osaka, Sofia Kenin, Coco Gauff, and Elena Rybakina, all fell to the Toronto player. She is now the highest-ranked Canadian on tour, moving two spots ahead of Leylah Fernandez of Laval, Que. She also joined fifth-ranked Russian Mirra Andrejeva, who's also 18, as the only under-20 players in the top 25.



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Letters to

NO NONSENSE AUNTIE

Dearest Auntie,

I'm writing to you today with a heart that feels too heavy to carry on its own. I'm struggling, and I don't know who else to turn to who would understand without judgment.

Mark and I were together for four years. I truly believed he was the one, and we had built a life and a future together in my mind. What I have to tell you next is the part that cuts the deepest. Three weeks ago, he ended our relationship quite abruptly. And then, this past weekend, I found out he married Sarah. My Sarah. My best friend since university.

Auntie, I am cycling through so many emotions, grief for the relationship I thought I had and humiliation that I never saw coming. I feel like a fool for trusting them so completely. My world has been completely shattered, and I'm struggling to find my footing. I don't know how to process this level of hurt.

I know I need to be strong and move on, but right now, I can barely get through the day. Everything reminds me of them. I feel so lost and alone. I suppose I'm just asking.. how do I even begin to heal from this? How do I trust anyone again?

Any words of wisdom, or even just a listening ear, would mean more to me than you can know.

*Yours,
In Pain*

...Auntie replies

Hello Dearest,

My heart absolutely aches for you. Thank you for your courage in reaching out and sharing this profound hurt with me. Please know that your letter brought tears to my eyes, and my first and most important message is this: You are not alone. I am here, and I am on your side.

What you are feeling is not an overreaction. It is the entirely appropriate, human response to a devastating betrayal. Grieve, rage, and feel every single ounce of that pain. Do not let anyone, including yourself, tell you to "just get over it." You loved deeply and trusted completely; the fault for this fracture lies entirely with them, not with you. You are not a fool. You are a loyal and loving person who was met with disloyalty.

You ask how you begin to heal. Start small, my dear. Be unbearably kind to yourself. This is not a time for strength, but for tenderness. If all you did today was breathe and get through one hour at a time, that is enough. Let yourself cry. Delete their photos and block them on everything; this isn't about bitterness, it's about self-preservation. You must create a space without their shadow to begin your recovery.

As for trust? That will come later. For now, focus on trusting yourself. Listen to your instincts. You will get through this. The love you carried for him, and the friendship you gave her, are testaments to your capacity to love. That is still yours. They did not take it. They simply proved themselves unworthy of it.

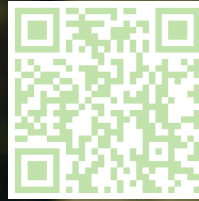
Remember you are loved,

Auntie No Nonsense.



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