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ZIM SHOULD BE
APPALLED BY THE
ONGOING ABDUCTIONS

**KHANYI MBAU & THE
ARTIFICIAL SKIN-
VOLUTION**

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EDITORIAL NOTE



The world at large finds itself faced with a pandemic that has claimed over 338 thousand people's lives globally. With over 5.2 million people affected worldwide, countries are put measures to stop the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. These include banning of gatherings, enforcing lockdowns, restricting both internal and external travels amongst other things.

Measures put by authorities have resulted in the disruption of people's lives. In business, airlines have been disrupted, companies suspended operations, markets dwindled and even prices of oil crumbled. Most economies worldwide both the developed and emerging countries are feeling the heat. The entertainment industry also melts economically from the latest calamity on planet earth. Concerts, shows and movie launches were either cancelled or postponed, galleries closed down. Markets for artists, from stone carving and crafting, were also left deserted. Sports activities were halted. The religious world witnessed gatherings being banned and also fanatics and extremists making utterances of the history, and the future world after COVID-19.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Zimbabwean authorities have enforced a lockdown that has been extended indefinitely. This lockdown is and has affected every aspect of life. Religion, business, education sports and entertainment events were affected. Trade was also disrupted by the lockdown. Schools also remain closed.

As the lockdown progresses, three publications, Hallelujah Mag, Enthuse Mag and Bhizimusi Weekly

collaborated under the Enthuse Africa banner to produce one publication called ENTHUSE'D. This publication brings in articles from different writers with insights into what is taking place during the lockdown. The publication, therefore, brings to light how culture, entertainment and also business have been affected by the lockdown.

Enthuse Afrika's values in responsible, ethical, sensitive, factual, balanced reporting and coverage have been used to create the articles that appear in ENTHUSED. Such articles have been verified to produce quality content to consumers. The crew behind the scene hopes that the audience will not only enjoy reading but also become informed and educated on what is taking place in Zimbabwe, the region and beyond.

Ian Mapira
Content Creation Manager
Enthuse Afrika

Google Doodle Pays Homage to the Mbira for Culture Week



IMAGE SOURCE: GOOGLE

By Stephanie Kapfunde / Enthusemag.com

For nearly two decades, Google has its immense homepage traffic to highlight world issues, historic events, and celebrations around the globe through Google Doodles.

Today in honour of the beginning of Zimbabwe's Culture week; Google did their part in joining the celebration of heritage with an interactive Mbira Doodle.

The Doodle tells a story of a young girl who watches a mbira being played with great interest; before growing up and inspiring the next generation of mbira players. We strongly suspect this could be the story of any one of our favourite Mbirakadzi's from Ambuya Stella Chiweshe to Hope Masike or the late Chiwoniso Maraire.

Of course, a young girl playing the Mbira based on traditional values is not a simple reality. Maybe more on that another time.

Not only does the Doodle tell an educational story but it includes an interactive game through which a user

can learn to play Mbira greats such as Nhemamusasa using a mouse or keyboard.

The Google team had to come down to Zimbabwe to research more intently on the Heritage of the instrument. You can check out the mini-doccie by Google featuring the likes of Mbira Centre's Albert Chimedza.

It's exciting to witness this celebration of the indigenous heritage and hope this catalyzes more homegrown concepts of celebration.

Check out the Google Doodle on, well, www.google.com, screenshot it and tweet your interactive experience to us @enthusemag.



HOPE MASIKE / TWITTER

Schools Not Yet Ready To Accommodate Sitting Candidates for Learning: ZIMTA

By Ian Mapira / Bhizimusi.com

Schools are not yet ready to accommodate examination classes to resume lessons, Zimbabwe Teachers Association (ZIMTA) has brought this to light.

ZIMTA public relations Daisy Zambuko told bhizimusi.com that the teachers association had given the government some conditions to ensure that schools opening can be safe and secure because the first priority should be the health and safety of learners, teachers and any other education personnel.

“So as long as we don’t have those conditions in place like reduced class sizes more teachers employed to cater for those exam classes, running water, all schools with sanitisers, all learners and teachers with free masks that are provided from government, health personnel being in schools, we don’t see how it will be possible for schools to be opened. So as far as we are concerned the conditions are not yet there,” Zambuko said.

“As teachers, we are not ready to deal with corpses of teachers and the quarantining of learners. We don’t even know how to handle a victim in case they arise.”

ZIMTA, in a note, says the Zimbabwean education set up conflict the World Health Organisation guidelines with an average class of about 1: 60 teachers to students ratio

ratio which cannot ensure effective social distancing.

“Availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) in schools is another area of concern. Looking at the way Government has handled industry by merely giving instruction without the financial backing in regards to the issue of testing employees, leaves a lot to be desired. Schools most of which have dried up coffers are in no position to avail PPEs to Educators and pupils leaving this burden in the hands of Government,” the association says.

“Teachers who are the main characters in the administration of classes lack the technical and critical skills regarding the detection and handling of COVID-19 cases. Just like we have witnessed unequipped frontline nurses losing their lives in the fight against COVID-19, the same could easily happen to Teachers as they interact with children from various homes and backgrounds.”

“Temperature screening and hand sanitizing has been made mandatory at all entrances in all institutions, however this comes at a cost. Schools in this regard need to have someone who will be dedicated to this task which is another



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cost the Government is expected to cater for. As the testing happens, proper guidelines in regards to the handling of suspected cases need to be in place and made available to schools well before they open. As we speak there is nothing of that sort,” the association goes on.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa addressing the nation stated that the schools and tertiary education facilities will remain closed except for classes sitting for examinations this year.

Considering opening schools is also in direct conflict with the situation obtaining on the ground where schools are being used as COVID-19 quarantine centres according to ZIMTA

Zambuko said, “This opening of schools (I think) it’s a far fetched dream for us because the conditions are not yet there.”

“Even the numbers of people who are being infected now is rising... We closed schools because there was one deadly case now they are 46 people infected.”

The government closed the Primary and Secondary Education first term earlier than planned as a way of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

DAISY ZAMBUKO / FLICKR



"Zimbabweans Should Be Appalled By The Ongoing Abductions & Torture"

By Staff / Hallelujahmag.com

The Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) has received with shock and disbelief the news of yet another abduction and inhuman treatment of three young women including a Member of Parliament.

This comes only some few days after the barbaric physical assault of two women, Ntombizodwa and Nokuthula Mpofu, of Cowdray Park in Bulawayo by six police officers.

It should be stated that the reports suggesting that Harare West Legislator, Joanna Mamombe and her colleagues Cecilia Chimberi and Netsai Marova, were taken from police custody and were tortured, sexually assaulted, and inhumanly treated by yet to be known agents, point to something that is against the heart of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, the various International Conventions to which Zimbabwe is a signatory and, above all, to our cultural norms and our Christian fundamental beliefs regarding the sanctity and dignity of life.

There are many reasons why all peace-loving and patriotic Zimbabweans should be appalled by such abductions and torture.

First, it is deeply disturbing that the country has seen so many cases of abductions and torture in the last few months, most of which have not been conclusively investigated. What is further disturbing are the insinuations, from some State agents, that all these abductions are either stage-managed or carried out by an unrecognizable “third force” without substantiating such claims with credible and irrefutable evidence. This constitutes the denigration of responsibility of the highest order on the part of Government.

Second, this ill-treatment of women takes place in 2020 when the whole world is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, which was a global high point in the recognition of the dignity of women after centuries of patriarchal domination and treatment of women as second-class citizens of the world. We have realised that one of the major effects of the COVID-19 lockdown has been the worrying increase in domestic violence, especially against women and children. It is unthinkable that such domestic violence could be replicated even in more severe proportions with State sanction!

Third, this takes place in 2020 when the nation is celebrating its 40th Anniversary of Independence. Should this not be the year when we should all be celebrating the restoration of the dignity of all Zimbabweans in the face of racial segregation, especially women who tended to suffer double marginalization? We are appalled to see how women could suffer in the custody of the State, not only in the case of these three women but also the brutal as

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Fourth, we are aware of the economic hardships the ordinary people are facing as a result of the lockdown since it has interrupted the economic activities of the majority of Zimbabweans who are informally employed. Instead of the Parliament and other State Institutions providing leadership to galvanize the nation to work together to find shared solutions to ameliorate the pain of the citizens, it is unacceptable to see such callous acts executed while citizens are suffering from the effects of the lockdown.

Fifth, it is sad that this incident takes place when Zimbabwe is the current chair of the Regional Police Chiefs’ Cooperation Organization and that of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation in the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Would these responsibilities not be opportunities for the nation to....

[Visit Hallelujahmag.com](http://Hallelujahmag.com), to read the full story

Khanyi Mbau & The Artificial Skin-revolution

By Theresa Tswaki/ Enthusemag.com

With the help of Bolden, I will break down the differences between skin whitening, bleaching, and lightening as well as brightening.

Skin Lightening & Whitening

The terms are sometimes used interchangeably, but bleaching and whitening are one and the same. Lightening and whitening are solely based on how much melanin production is reduced. Skin lightening is a gradual method which is less obvious than bleaching, a more aggressive method.

Both methods use tyrosinase inhibitors (molecules which decrease the activity of the enzyme which controls the production of melanin) but, whitening uses stronger inhibitors such as mercury to completely get rid of melanin.

Skin Brightening

Skin brightening is a completely different concept from the aforementioned two skin terminology. See, the skin produces new cells to replace older cells as frequently as every 27 days, while the rest of the body takes about seven to ten to regenerate. The dead skin cells remain on the surface of the skin which makes it appear dull.

Whenceforth by exfoliating, one removes



KHANYI MBAU / INSTAGRAM

South African actress, television host and artist Khanyi Mbau has made headlines once again after posting a risque bikini selfie on Instagram. It turns out the world wasn't ready and people were fixated on her seemingly ghostly pale skin.

The 34 years star is famous for many things, but mostly it is her everchanging complexion that sends the public into mass hysteria time and time again. As if she is made from a tough skin, she remains unbothered as she's trolled, lashed at and negatively turned into memes.

Her case – bizarre to many people – has at numerous times been used as a tool to chastise black and brown people who may feel the need to enhance their skin tone for various reasons. Now, that's not an up-to-the-human-mark to have, and it's never too late to get your facts right if judging and trolling such folks happens to be on your agenda.



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one removes the dead cells which lead to revitalised skin which looks radiant and brighter. Ingredients such as hydroxy acids, vitamins A, E, and C help the skin naturally shed dead skin cells.

Anywho, don't get lost in the elaborateness of the nomenclature...

The fact of the matter is Khanyi Mbau is not the first, nor will she be the last black person to bleach her skin. Research shows that ancient civilisations such as the Egyptians, Romans, and Greeks used honey and olive oil to lighten their complexions.

What's more, colonialism embedded deep-rooted self-hatred by enforcing European beauty standards, creating a desire for lighter skin in most People of Color communities. Lighter skin meant wealth as rich women didn't work outside and overtime after mulattos (first generation of offspring with one white parent and one black parent) came about to be, light-skinned slaves were separated from dark-skinned slaves.

Now Colourism is Problematic!

In the communities of People of Color, colourism is a real issue. The darker your skin is, the harder it is to find good opportunities, especially in the entertainment industry.

When asked about colourism in entertainment, Khanyi said that "the entertainment industry is about looks" and that unfortunately, if you are darker-skinned, you have to work harder.

Men of Colour Are Not Innocent Too...

Even when it comes to relationships, real talk, many men don't find dark-skinned women attractive. While they argue that it's about preference, Black and Brown men love caucasian, Latina women, and you know, the lighter the better. Forget about the blacker the berry, the sweeter the juice.

In Nigeria, being fair gave you access to "hot bachelors" and a lifestyle that only light-skinned women could enjoy, so many women bleached their skin, damaging it irreparably. The cheap, illegal products that they used gave them a sore, pinkish complexion rather than the desirable caramel colour that most of them yearned for. Behold the double trouble!

Some women also vie for lighter skin men because they don't want dark children. As if the mess couldn't get messier, dark-skinned men and light-skinned men are often pitted against one another, i.e. light-skinned men are softer than dark-skinned men.

The point I'm making is...

There's a whole lot of misconstrued information about radical skin enhancement in the black and brown communities. Many of us believe that bleaching is another way of conforming to white ideals. Embracing our melanited skin and natural hair happens to be à la mode right now, it's a time to alive. However, not everything is so linear, especially the reasons why people lighten or bleach their skin...

Visit Enthusemag.com for the full story...



Tourism Sector Requires US\$500 Million Stimulus Packages From Government

By Ian Mapira/ bhizimusi.com

At a meeting to craft a post-COVID-19 recovery strategy, participants agreed on the need for timely disbursement of the \$500 million stimulus package by Government.

The meeting drew participants from several sectors including Environment, Climate, Tourism, and Hospitality Industry Ministry, Zimbabwe Tourism Authority, Finance Ministry, Transport Ministry, youths in tourism, Tourism Business Council of Zimbabwe as well and Hospitality industry.

Tourism players also advocated for wider collaborations amongst themselves rather than competing against each other according to information from the meeting that took place in Harare this week.

The issue of pricing of tourism products was also discussed externally with most

players agreeing that domestic tourism was the starting point to give impetus and lure international travellers.

Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry Minister Nqobizitha Mangaliso Ndlovu, who addressed the meeting emphasized the need to have a three-phased approach which starts by growing domestic tourism, regional the international market.

“Obviously, we are expecting that international tourism will take some bit of time to recover and we are looking at domestic tourism as an immediate source of relief and I think over time we have really not given it attention and it took centre stage today,” he said.

“We were able to look at critical issues that are inhibiting the growth of domestic tourism. We then looked at what needs to be done. We tackled issues to do with providing support

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structures. The sector highlighted that there are other enablers, there are other players who are providing services to the sector whose rates are quite high. They made mention of local authorities, electricity rates and the like.”

“This mandates us to have these broader discussions to see how best we can collaborate to drive down the cost, so that our locals can begin to travel but we are saying that’s the first phase of recovery domestic tourism. Beyond that, we are seeing regional tourism coming back thankfully as a region we are really not hard hit by COVID. We remain alert we’re not going to be complacent but so far we believe that we have reasonable numbers. It might not take long before the regional tourism roars into life, so we are getting ready for that as well,” Ndlovu added.

Zimbabwe’s tourism sector could lose up to US\$1 billion in potential revenue due to the Covid-19 pandemic according to local media.

Arts and craft practitioners called on Government to consider opening up spaces to act as markets and exhibitions for artists while observing the social distancing regulations.

The sector also agreed that the grounded national airline become operational to service domestic flights.

GIRAFFE /
PINTEREST



Pastor Mrs Veronica is No Joke, But Some of What’s Being Said About Her is

By Chris Charamba/Hallelujahmag.com

We’re not ones to gossip, so you didn’t hear this from us, but a certain female cleric from Nigeria has been trending for the past few days now for awkward reasons.

Word on the web is that Pastor Mrs Veronica, the General Overseer of Life of Faith and Prosperity Ministry in Asaba, Delta State somehow claimed that God sent her to heal men of their infertility problems by sleeping with them. Sigh!

Allegations are that the woman of the Word made an open call on Facebook that any man that makes love to her will be healed of his fertility problem. It was also said that she even gave out her phone number so that any man with such a problem can contact her for a session.

“God gave me an anointed v*agina, you only have to sleep with me and get healed of all your fertility problems. Men have gone through a lot in this generation, and God has sent me to liberate them. You can chose (sic) to believe my anointing or leave it but it remains true,” reports claimed that she wrote this on her Facebook platform.

But when Hallelujahmag.com researched on the source of the post and the existence of a “Pastor Mrs Veronica” page, the team found nothing.

So, is that a red flag for fake news or an internet joke?

It could be, but Pastor Mrs Veronica is not a jest. She actually exists. In fact, we've been hearing increasing buzz about some juicier bits of her life which will astonish you.

For one, she is really the General Overseer of Life of Faith and Prosperity Ministry in Asaba, Delta in Nigeria, a Christian denomination that reportedly boasts of over 500 members and 3 other associate pastors.

The cleric is not married and is about 38 years. She is from Awka in Anambra State and reports suggest that she disconnected herself from her family and claimed she belongs to everyone.

And, concerning the "men's fertility" thing, the folks at Browngh.com said that she really made those statements and claimed, "she is the angel sent to liberate men by whatever means possible". The tabloid claim that she said she will never stop helping any man that comes her way and has fertility problem but insist each person must carry out a health test to be conducted by her own medical doctor.



PASTOR VERONICA / GHBASE.COM



Would Your Family Let You Be Cremated Even if it were a Dying Wish?

By Hazel Lifa/Enthusemag.com

Death is something most of us don't like to think about, it's a morbid thought that can't possibly bring any good. Yet, as Africans we all know the rules that come with the territory of passing on, things have to be done a certain way because, for us, death is not the end. It is the beginning of one's spiritual journey to our ancestors to join them.

Ancestors, Culture, Customs... these are strong pillars of our African identity, so strong they affect our passing.

According to our African descent, being able to join one's ancestors is a crucial part of life and to attain this, proper burial customs have to be followed.

The death of Ugandan music icon, Geoffrey Oryema brought not only sadness to his family and friends but brought about a controversy regarding his burial. Oryema's funeral evolved into a legal battle between his wife and his Family. Oryema's wife wished to honour his request to be cremated

cremated while his family insisted on burying the late musician.

The real issue here is less about a proper burial but what Oryema wanted which was expressed in his will.

The musician wanted some of his ashes scattered at Oryema's ancestral family home and some scattered in his town of birth. This did not sit well with the Acholi Paramount Chief of the Nwoya district; he wrote a letter to the Oryema family warning that human cremation is an abomination in Acholi custom and would not be tolerated.

Based on most African cultures and religions, cremation is not the favourite way to go. The journey to our Ancestors requires one's body to be fully intact and not burnt to a crisp. This very common understanding is also why one finds organ donation in Africa very unpopular.

After all, how can one make their spiritual journey with missing parts of themselves?

The Zulu people are an example of a cultural group that fully believes this.

In addition, some cultures go as far as adding the deceased's personal belongings in their graves so they can be used in their next life.

Optional means of being laid to rest exist for practical reasons too.

At present, burial land is running out in many an African country. Public cemeteries are at full capacity. Whether we like it or not Africa, at some point we are going to have to opt for cremation not out of choice but necessity!

Here in Zimbabwe cremation is popular with our white population though we face challenges as such was reported last week, there was no gas to fire the only crematorium in Harare. Despite this option being more economical, the fact still remains the majority of the country like its fellow African counterparts would rather bury their deceased.

If one states in their Will they wish to be cremated, is this wish going to be respected or will culture take precedent?

Oryema wished to be cremated and scattered over places like his ancestral family home which shows he still very much had an attachment to his roots. Can't a common ground be reached in situations such as these where one's wishes might clash with culture yet still pay homage to that very culture?!

[Visit Enthusemag.com](https://www.enthusemag.com), to read the full story

Factionalism To Hinder Reform Efforts In Zimbabwe: Analyst

By Ian Mapira / Bhizimusi.com

Current factionalism in Zimbabwe's political realm is likely to hinder the progress of reform efforts the country is embarking on, an economic analyst said.

Reforms are a key measure for the removal of sanctions and for international funders to consider offering funds to Zimbabwe.

Fitch Solutions, analysing Zimbabwe, expects political tensions between and within political parties to present headwinds to policy formation over the coming quarters of 2020.

The tensions will arise both between opposition groups and ZANU-PF and within the ruling party itself, notwithstanding efforts by President Emmerson Mnangagwa to increase his control according to the analyst.

"Amid inter- and intra-party divisions, and a continued focus on short-term political requirements, we expect the government to make little substantive progress on reform over 2020," the analyst said.

"The IMF continues to stress the need for reforms to restore stability, improve foreign-exchange policies and the monetary policy framework, and contain

fiscal spending. However, the authorities have struggled to stabilise the currency, and efforts to placate striking public-sector workers are constraining efforts to reduce expenditure.”

This week Zimbabwe witnessed a conflict between government officials Deputy Minister of Information Energy Mutodi and Foreign Affairs minister Sibusiso Moyo exposing the divisions within the country’s ruling party. Mutodi has been expelled as a result.

Mutodi and Moyo clashed with the musician criticising Tanzanian President John Magufuli’s handling of COVID-19 outbreak in East Africa.

Moyo distanced the government from Mutodi’s remarks in response to the musician’s Tweet.

Such developments have raised questions on whether the public clashes of top official were a tip on an iceberg on the deep-rooted divisions within the ruling party.

The largest opposition party in Zimbabwe MDC is also battling on the succession of the late Morgen Tsvangirai, with the supreme court declaring Nelson Chamisa as an illegitimate leader and compelling the movement to hold an extraordinary congress.

The division has resulted in Speaker of Parliament Jacob Mudenda sanctioning the expulsion of four pro-Chamisa legislators Chalton Hwende, Thabhitha



The division has resulted in Speaker of Parliament Jacob Mudenda sanctioning the expulsion of four pro-Chamisa legislators Chalton Hwende, Thabhitha Khumalo, Prosper Mutseyami and Lilian Timveous on the basis that the quartet were no longer members of the MDC-T.

But, Chamisa argues that he leads MDC Alliance which is different from MDC T led by Thokhozani Khupe, therefore the Supreme court ruling should not have an effect on the cleric’s political group.

Besides MDC’s constitutional clashes, opposition parties hold divergent views with some being part of the government’s negotiation forum known as POLAD, while other groups remain clear, off the negotiation table claiming that such a dialogue is captured by the ruling party.

Factionalism in former Robert Mugabe’s administration and the ZANU-PF party is blamed for stalling progress, with politicians on internal battles rather than Zimbabwe’s economy...

[Visit Bhizimusi.com for the full story...](https://www.bhizimusi.com)

Prophet Bushiri Takes on the Generational Intricacy of Miracles

By Chris Charamba/Hallelujahmag.com

Many but not all the religions of the world have as part of their traditions claims of Miracles and they have different forms and play different roles within each religion.

The Miracles have served as the foundation for the historical proof of the existence of the God of the western religions. The leadership of the religions of the West do not want a miracle taken lightly and do not want false claims of miracles. These religions will often be the first to investigate claims of miraculous events in order to disprove them!

The concern is that if people come to accept the claim of a miracle and it later turns out to be disproved, then those who believed in it might come not only to stop believing in that particular “miracle” that had been disproved but in all other such claims and thus might come to lose their faith altogether.

The fear is that people would think something similar to this: “If I could be fooled into thinking this recent event was a miracle, then what about those people long ago who reported experiencing a miracle? Could it be possible that they too were deceived? Or mistaken?”

Thus, what exactly makes up a miracle is and was for generations a matter for careful consideration, given the importance of the

A miracle (from the Latin *mirari*, to wonder), at a first and very rough approximation, is an event that is not explicable by natural causes alone. A reported miracle excites wonder because it appears to require, as its cause, something beyond the reach of human action and natural causes.

Historically, the appeal to miracles has formed one of the primary lines of argument in favour of specific forms of theism, the argument typically being that the event in question can best (or can only) be explained as the act of a particular deity.

Some miracles found in the Scripture are the burning bush, plagues of locusts and frogs, Nile from blue to red, death of children of the Egyptians, parting of the “Red” sea, virgin birth, wedding feast-water into wine, walking on water, cures of the blind, deaf, lepers, multiplication of the loaves and the fishes, raising the dead-Lazarus and the Resurrection.

A common approach is to define a miracle as an interruption of the order or course of nature (Sherlock 1843: 57).

Some stable background is, in fact, presupposed by the use of the term, as William Adams (1767: 15) notes: “An experienced uniformity in the course of nature hath been always thought necessary to the belief and use of miracles. These are indeed relative ideas. There must be an ordinary regular course of nature, before there can be any thing extraordinary. A river must flow, before its stream can be interrupted.”

But, as it stands, this definition leaves us wanting a more precise conception of what is meant by the order or course of nature.

We might, therefore, try to tighten the definition by saying that a miracle is an event that exceeds the productive power of nature (St. Thomas Aquinas, SCG 3.103; ST 1.110, art. 4), where “nature” is construed broadly enough to include ourselves and any other creatures substantially like ourselves.

Variations on this include the idea that a miracle is an event that would have happened only given the intervention of an agent not wholly bound by nature (Larmer 1988: 9) and that a miracle is an event that would have happened only if there were a violation of the causal closure of the physical world.”

David Hume (Hume 1748/2000) famously defined a miracle as “a violation of the laws of nature,” and this definition has been the focus of lively discussion ever since. He evidently means to denote something beyond mere changes in the regular course of nature, raising the bar higher for something beyond mere changes in the regular course of nature, raising the bar higher for something to qualify as a miracle but also raising the potential epistemic significance of such an event if it could be authenticated.

Yet bringing the concept of natural laws into the definition of “miracle” is problematic and for a variety of reasons many writers (Brown 1822: 219–33; Beard 1845: 35; Lias 1890: 5–7; Huxley 1894:154–58; Hesse 1965; Montgomery 1978) have found it untenable.

Tapping into the mainstream conversation, leader of the Enlightened Christian Gathering (ECG) church Prophet Shepherd Bushiri has chimed in, to try to explain the generation-long question of whether miracles interrupt or complement nature.



In a post published on his Facebook page, the South-African based preacher and theologian said that while the modern world thinks of miracles as the “suspension of the natural order”, Jesus meant them to be the restoration of the natural order.

“The Bible tells us that God did not originally make the world to have disease, hunger, and death in it. Jesus has come to redeem where it is wrong and heal the world where it is broken.

His miracles are not just proofs that he has power but also wonderful foretastes of what he is going to do with that power. Jesus’ miracles are not just a challenge to our minds, but a promise to our hearts, that the world we all want is coming if we believe,” wrote the Major 1, as he is affectionately known...



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ZIE KHOZA

We Tried Zie Khoza's New Neo-soul Single "Ndamuwana" & You Should Too

By Chris Charamba/Enthusemag.com

When everything else fails—relationships, technology, the government—it's true that music is the ultimate salve. Humanity turns to a good drink and soul food, a bunch of excellent vocals, titillating synths, hard bass, wierdass arpeggios and all the good rhythms as a virtual refuge from the mess that is the real world.

Windhoek-based Zimbabwean emerging singer/songwriter Ndabezinhle "Zie" Khoza's recently released neo-soul single which comes in the shape of "Ndamuwana" kinda serves the world with an ultimate lullaby of the good life and hopeful romance that we all been yearning for since that problematic coronavirus became part of our existence.

The song, the musician said, is a pure love story. As the title self-explains, it is one about finding the ONE. Finally meeting that person that ticks all the right boxes, and now that you have found her, she completely blows you away that you can't wait to introduce her to your mum and

family. Oh yes, and being an African, introducing a girl to your mum is a big deal of sort.

"A special lady inspired this song, and it's purely an expression of my personal experience. Whether that experience is current or not, I like to keep people guessing," he confirmed to us in a phone interview.

The single, probably Zie's debut attempt at secular music (he has been doing gospel music), is a refreshing return to a time when men would sing to the women they loved with so much soul that it sounded like tearful begging. His vocal range is vast and his lush instrumentation is varied enough for his music to have the sort of genre-blending that has made so many neo-soul classics timeless. That makes his lyrical prowess central to her music's enjoyment, something seldom found in much of today's popular R&B.

By comparison, he has a singular voice that cuts through the monotony of mainstream R&B and it makes his love musings too visceral to be matched by many others.

Inherently, we wouldn't have anticipated it to be any less as the muso's filiation with the industry of instruments and words first manifested when he was at Prince Edward School and played in the Jazz Band.

Why it took him this long to take the Ndamuwana detour we will never know. Maybe it is because he spends "a lot of time plotting than he executes". Paralyzing perfectionism, you know the drill. But what we know for sure is there's more music like this coming.

"I am working on new stuff. You can anticipate more music definitely. And because I am not limiting myself to just music of this nature, expect different kinds of music as well," said Zie.

"Ndamuwana" is available for free streaming on YouTube. Check it out.

How Long Are Your Pastor's Sermons?

By Chrispen Charamba / Enthusemag.com

Evangelicals ministers were found likely to preach for 39 minutes while historically black Protestants could go as far as 54 minutes, according to a 2019 Pew Research Centre report.

Catholics and mainline Protestants were not so far behind, as they preached for 14 and 25 minutes, respectively.

The Pew, based in the United States, analysed nearly 50,000 sermons posted

online by 6,431 churches this year to find out how long Christian clergy preach and the words they use that distinguish them from one another. They analysed audio, video and word count of sermons to estimate the length of sermons in different denominations.

The average length of a sermon, researchers found, is 37 minutes but there are "striking differences" across traditions as highlighted above.

Long-time evangelical pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, Rev. Tim Keller, told Washington Post that several pastors face pressure to keep trimming the length of sermons to fit people's minimal attention spans.

"I don't think most evangelical pastors are good enough for a 39-minute sermon. That needs to shorten," Keller said.

Keller said when he started preaching 40 years ago, regular church attendance meant someone was in the pew three out of four Sundays. That number has dropped; now, a regular churchgoer appears maybe 1.75 out of four Sundays. He wonders whether that's because many are listening to sermons via podcast or online streaming as a fall back to showing up for a service.

"If I preach a good sermon, if you're in the midst of other people, you're going to remember it more and be shaped by it than if you pick up in a podcast somewhere," he said.

“If it’s totally supplemental, then it’s fine. If, on the other hand, if it undermines the times you’re in Christian community, it’s disastrous.”

The presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, Rev. Michael Curry -who preached perhaps the most popular message of the year at the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan in about 13 minutes – said in that particular message he focused on love because it was a universal theme.

“I was very aware in the sermon I was preaching that I couldn’t default to Christian vocabulary,” he said.

He said he learned to preach to a broad range of people when he was a minister in southern Ohio, preaching to someone who did domestic work and another person with a doctorate.

Rev. Curry said he prepares his sermons throughout the week by tapping notes on his iPhone, usually telling a story with one takeaway instead of several.

“A pitfall is to explain a story too much,” Curry said. “If you start explaining a story, you’re messing it up. Your job is to paint the picture, tell the story.”

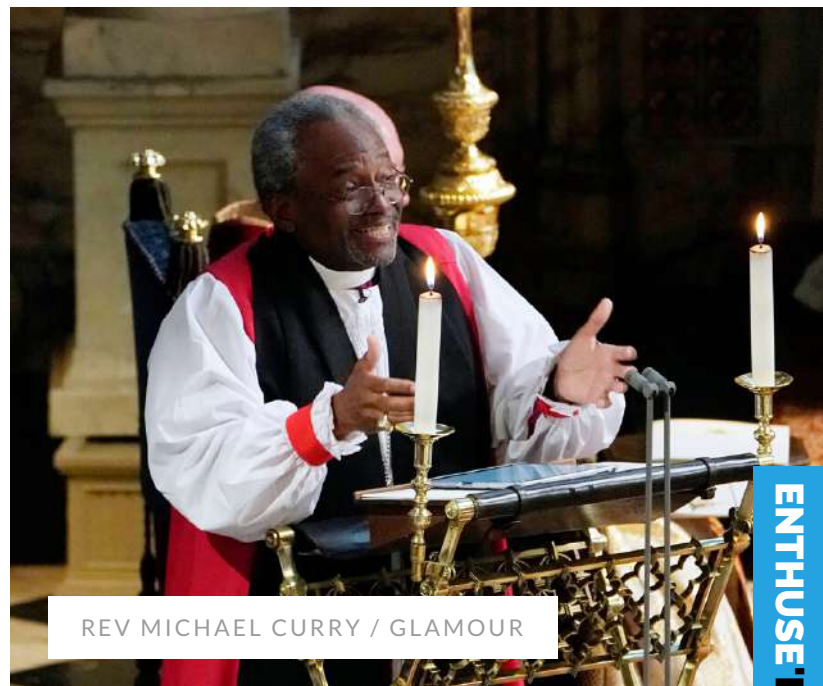
Suzan Johnson Cook, who has served as a pastor for the past 30 years, submitted that historically black Protestant churches have been at the centre of many black Americans’ lives, but more black pastors are trimming their services to adapt to people’s attention spans.

“One day a week for one hour a week, we deposit not just scripture but history and the application,” said Cook, who was the ambassador for international religious freedom under President Barack Obama. “You have a lot to cover, including social issues.”

The average Catholic priest spends two hours preparing for a sermon, devoting the rest of the week to managing the parish or other ministry needs, such as visiting people in the hospital, estimates Rev. John Baldovin, a Jesuit priest.

“I won’t preach more than 10 minutes on a Sunday. You can tell when people are ready for you to land a plane. There’s nothing worse than listening to a plane come into the runway and take off again,” added Baldovin.

The Pew Research Centre’s survey also found that certain words and phrases are used more frequently in the sermons of some Christian groups.



Know Your Worth, Stay In Your Lane!

By Audrey Murenzvi / Bhizimusi.com

Here's my individual opinion on perfecting your trade.

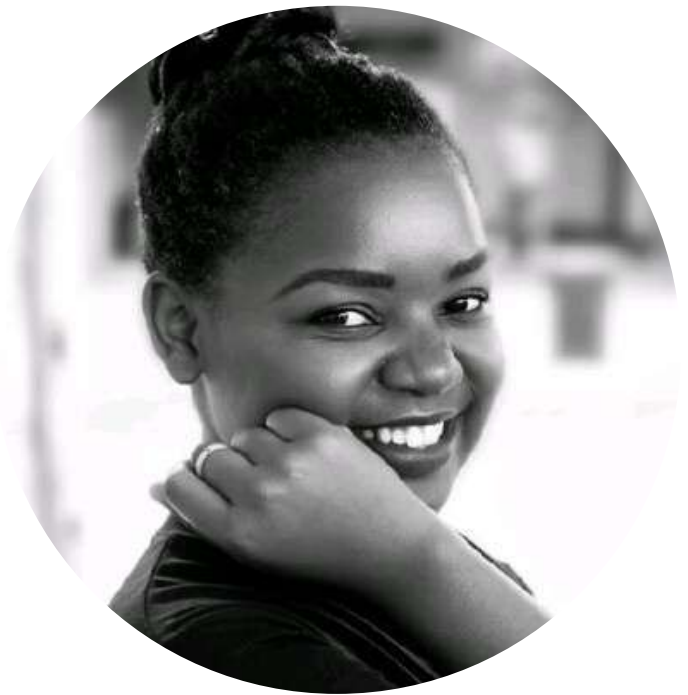
I have figured we all want to be told what to do. "It would make things much easier," we say. So we reach. For every 10 ways to do this and how to be the best at this.

What if I told you that we spend so much time looking too far away? I mean it. Being the next Steve Jobs or a black Bill Gates shouldn't be an aim for us. I'm not undermining their success or relevance, but perhaps you are undermining your own...

The best people at anything never really took anything from anyone. Maybe advice and conceptions here and there, but they were led by their own adamant voice in the winning donkey carrot act. At most, they are arrogant resolute.

Point? You need to look deep into yourself. Know yourself so well that you are able to tell which parts of you you should It's as simple as that.

When you realize what your dream is, either something you're good at or are seeking to be the best in, the next step is



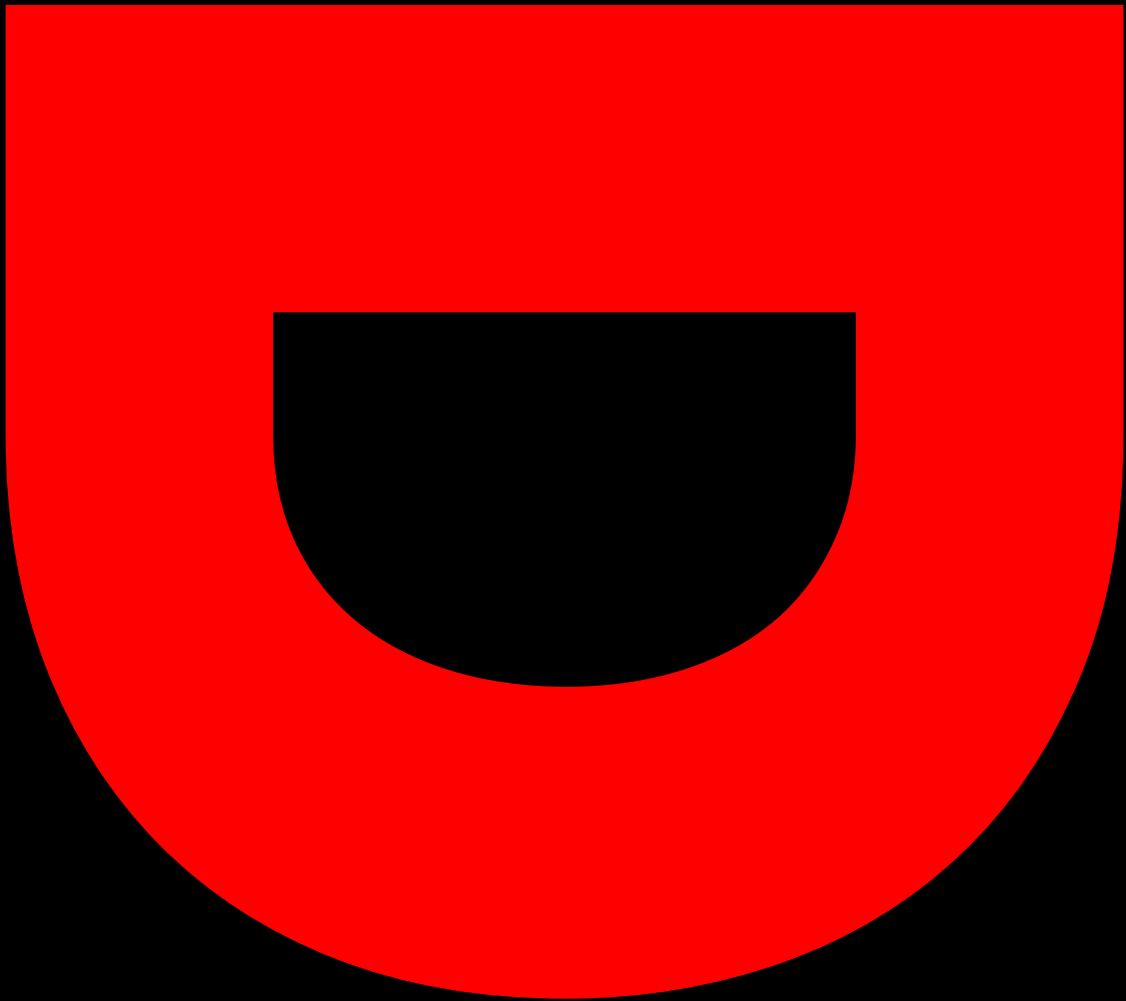
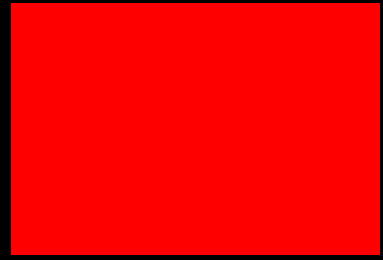
pretty simple, invest your time and resources in perfecting that aspect.

Become a continuous work in progress. Stay hungry, foolish and be determined and NEVER take no for an answer. Find out why you are given a no and get to work.

We all have an extent of mental imbalance... I'm not joking! There are really weird things we do. Some of them help us to achieve what we need, and well others just stand in the way of our road map.

As such we should know what to discourage from the onset. A simple guide that allows you to flourish is by at starting with the bigger picture of where you want to go, or who you want to be and work backwards in time to what you require to do now. Start where you are, and with what you have. Know your worth and stay in your lane!

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