

HERE, THERE, NOW

A Digital Storytelling Collaboration
BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE | LONDON, UK

Newsletter #3
AUGUST 2021

While production is in progress ...

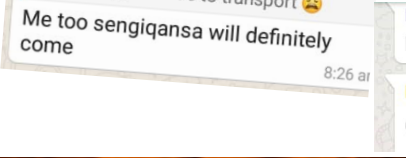
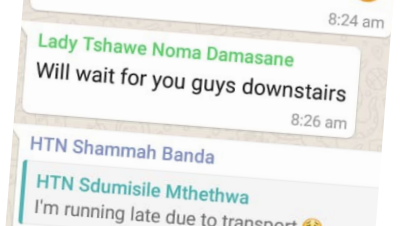
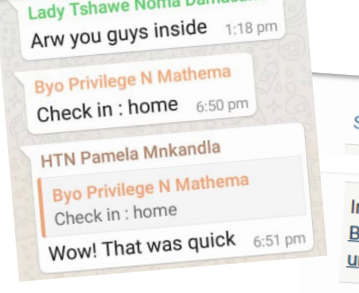
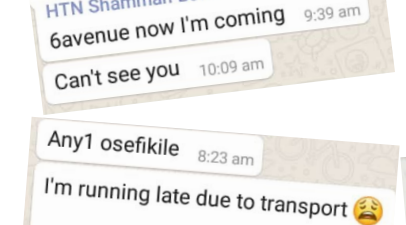
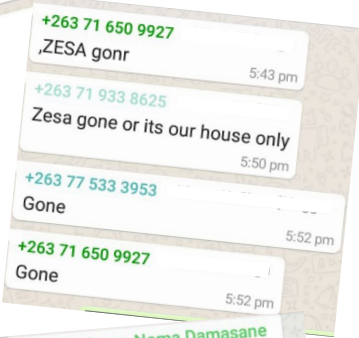
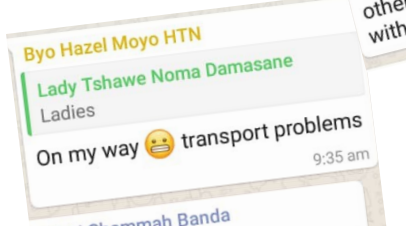
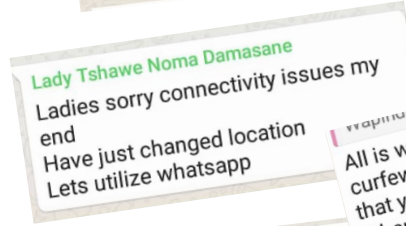
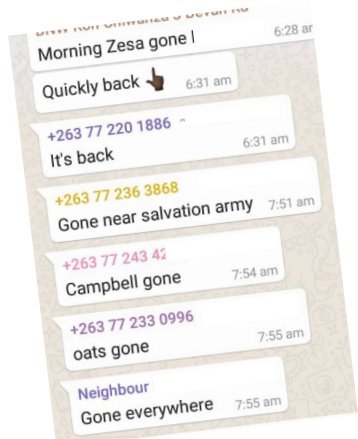
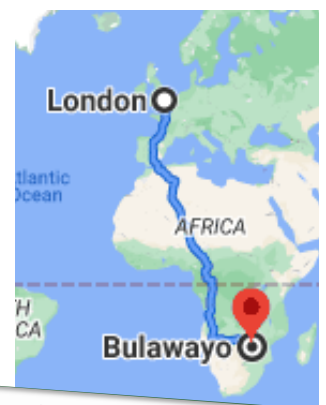
While the exchange of footage is taking place between London and Bulawayo, and as the digital storytelling production goes into high gear, incredible events are unfolding across the world stage and life is challenging for everyone. But - The show goes on.

Looking in from the sidelines, and feeling the pressures of Life pressed hard in Zimbabwe, behind-the-scenes Penny Yon pondered about Here and There, and how the playing field is even with so many commonalities, but steeply slanted in other ways. In a recent project blog she wrote:

HERE in Bulawayo. Behind the Scenes. To be Honest.

“The thing is, with us Africans, we always want you to be happy, comfortable. When you ask us, we will tell you what is pleasant and polite. Everything is fine. We will strive, meet and exceed the requirements. We will maintain our dignity by not mentioning the struggle that is our daily grind. Power-outs for hours or days on end (‘ZESA gone’). Severe lockdowns within the city, movements restricted, personal safety. Difficult access to WiFi, and poor connectivity playing hell with online meetings. Transport uncertainties. Hauling water in plastic containers. Rocketing cost of living. The terrors of Covid-19 in our part of the world.

But we are strong African women and we know what we have to do. We will do it with enthusiasm and passion, working hard and smiling!

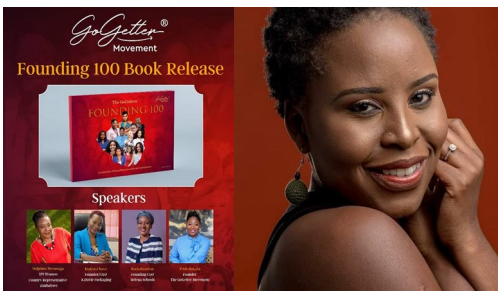


| STAT | United Kingdom | Zimbabwe |
|---|--|--|
| Internet > Broadband 6Mbps, uncapped data | \$31.97 Ranked 99th. | \$55.00 Ranked 40th. 72% more than United Kingdom |
| Local purchasing power | 90.99 Ranked 20th. 4 times more than Zimbabwe | 24.87 Ranked 107th. |

In other news ...

Artists of the Here, There, Now collaboration are not standing still while waiting; they have been busy.

Lady Tshawe | FOUNDING 100



The Zimbabwe director Lady Tshawe was profiled alongside 99 other young women who were carefully chosen to be honoured and celebrated in the 'GoGetters' Founding 100' Book by @gogetter_movement. The Founding 100 book is a compilation of 100 amazing stories of outstanding young Zimbabwean women, and the phenomenal work they are doing in and outside Zimbabwe. The book was released on 5 August 2021, livestreamed on the GoGetter Movement Facebook page.

Thandy Dhlana | 'SONGS OF LOZIKEYI'



At the recent Bulawayo Arts Festival 2021, Thandy Dhlana performed in a lead role with a collaboration of over 20 acclaimed artists in Bulawayo, the musical production '*Songs of Lozikeyi*' - featuring highly rated artists of Bulawayo – which stole the show at the annual festival in 'the City of Kings' in Zimbabwe, and is now headed to the studio. An initiative of Nhimbe Trust, *Songs of Lozikeyi* celebrates the powerful Queen Lozikeyi Dlodlo, senior wife of the great King Lobengula, and later Queen Regent of the Ndebele people; warrior queen of the 1896 Anglo-Ndebele war, champi-

on of women and justice. Guided by the writings of acclaimed Bulawayo historian Pathisa Nyathi in *Lozikeyi Dlodlo: Queen of the Ndebele* and other research, the production was written by Noma Damasane ('Lady Tshawe', our Zim Director) and Thabani H Moyo, conceptualised and directed by Phiri, with Josh Nyapimbi, Executive Director of Nhimbe Trust as executive producer. Thandy Dhlana said: "I'm so humbled to be one of those chosen to be part of this initiative. It is indeed an honour. It opened my eyes to the power that women hold, as well as their responsibility in protecting their families, communities and nation. We should all know about this".

The Songs of Lozikeyi are now in the studio. Another HTN participant, Laura Ngwenya joins the studio recording as backing vocalist.

WATCH the stage show at the Bulawayo Arts Festival Facebook page <https://fb.watch/v/F9yyETPZ/>

>>> Getrude Munhamo ...

Getrude Munhamo | THROUGH THE EYES OF ZIMBABWE



In August Getrude Munhamo launched the storytelling project *Through the Eyes of Zimbabwe*, a creative initiative bringing African stories to life in a series of 13 stories in Shona, Ndebele, Shangani, Venda and English, in the ancient tradition of storytelling in Africa.

In African tradition from time immemorial, stories have been passed down from generation to generation – typically under a tree where people gather, or around a fire in the homestead when grandparents would tell their stories. Stories for entertainment, warnings, wisdom, teachings of *Ubuntu*, good manners, life lessons. In this project the setting has moved from the knee of the elders to the screens of modern day children and adults, in Zimbabwe – and everywhere, bringing an ancient art into the New World.

A strong participant of Here, There, Now - Getrude is an actor, writer, linguist and life coach. The Dendere Arts Trust, which she founded, used the lockdowns of the Covid-19 pandemic to conceptualize, research, interview elders, engage the storytellers and develop both ancient and modern stories for the series, which will be released on various social media platforms and media houses.

Read an article on the project at <http://gemnation.co.zw/2021/07/23/through-the-eyes-of-zimbabwe-storytelling-initiative-starts-august-1/>

Shammah Banda | AMPLIFYING GIRLS' VOICES



Shammah is also currently involved in a project by Bulawayo's annual Intwasa Arts Festival, *Amplifying Girls'Voices through Digital Arts* – which includes 22 young women and is aimed at providing a platform for girls and young women to talk about issues affecting them.

The project is digital – magazine, podcast and film – and the objective is to create a fun, exciting and educative virtual hub which will help empower young girls and women against any form of abuse through the creation of relevant content - telling their stories through the three media. It serves as a sequel to the inaugural *100 Girls 100 Voices* project which used poetry as a medium for advocacy for ending child marriages, sexual harassment of girls and enforcing of laws that protect girls and young women.

Find INTWASA ARTS FESTIVAL here: <http://www.intwasa.co.zw/>, <https://www.facebook.com/intwasa>
https://amplify.co.zw/team_member/shammah-r-n-banda/

>>> Our Partners ...

Our Partners

The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, London



The Lyric Hammersmith Theatre is one of London's leading producing theatres. For a hundred and twenty five years, they have welcomed some of the world's finest writers, directors, actors and theatre companies to their stage. From Harold Pinter to Tanika Gupta; Sir John Gielgud to Sheila Hancock; Complicite to Frantic Assembly.

Right in the heart of Hammersmith, they **produce bold and relevant world-class theatre**, committed to being vital to, and representative of, their local community and to being a major force in London and UK theatre. They develop and nurture the next generation of talent, and provide opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to discover the power of creativity.

<https://lyric.co.uk/here-there-now-international-digital-storytelling-project-announced/>

Rob Lehmann of Lyric Hammersmith Theatre, and Director of Young Lyric, said: "Here, There, Now is a new and exciting opportunity within the Young Lyric offer that connects young people from West London internationally with their peers to acquire a local, national and international perspective on the world through the use of theatre and creativity. We are delighted to be working with both local and international collaborators and look forward to developing a partnership with Nhimbe Trust who have a track record of artistic excellence with young people."

Nhimbe Trust, Bulawayo

Based in the city of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, Nhimbe Trust is an arts education organisation and a leader in cultural policy research, training, advocacy and defending freedom of creative expression.



Nhimbe's *Women in Theatre and Television (WITT)* programme provides vocational training and resources to emerging women writers, actresses, directors and producers. WITT regularly presents the work of these women and empowers women's voices on stage. The programme has grown through the support of Africalia, Belgium over a number of years.

www.nhimbe.org

The British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. They build connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and other countries through arts and culture, education and the English language. Last year they reached over 80 million people directly and 791 million people overall including online, and through broadcasts and publications. Founded in 1934 The British Council are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body.



www.britishcouncil.org