

SPECIAL EDITION, ISSUE 88

# arise

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# POWER TO BECOME

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## FEATURED COUNTRIES

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Welcome to the **Power to Become** Edition of ARISE Africa Magazine, an edition exploring what becomes possible when Africans recognise their capacity to shape their own futures and the future of our continent. Across Africa, a generation is challenging inherited limitations, building enterprises, advancing technology, transforming communities and redefining leadership.

Africa has never been without potential. Our opportunity is to turn that potential into meaningful progress. The continent's greatest resource is not simply what lies beneath its soil, but the intelligence, creativity, resilience and ambition of its people. Across our communities, Africans are proving that transformation begins when possibility is matched with purpose and action.

Power to Become is therefore more than personal ambition. It is about growing into our capabilities and using them to create opportunity for others, while becoming the leaders, institutions, businesses and communities capable of carrying Africa into its next chapter.

The stories in this edition celebrate people who are doing exactly that. Their journeys remind us that becoming requires courage, discipline, learning and the willingness to build even when the path ahead is uncertain. Every transformation begins when someone decides that what exists is not enough and chooses to create what could be.

As you turn these pages, consider your place in Africa's unfolding story. What are you capable of becoming, and what could Africa become because of it?

Africa is becoming. The question is: what will you become?

**David Ntalasha Chisha**  
Founder & Editor-in-Chief



# BECOME

## FROM INHERITING AFRICA TO REIMAGINING AFRICA

Every generation inherits a version of Africa. The question is whether it simply manages what it receives or has the courage to build what comes next. For decades, Africa's global economic position has been shaped by commodity exports, limited industrial capacity and fragmented markets. The continent is rich in resources, yet much of the value generated from those resources is realised elsewhere. Africa accounts for only about 3.3 percent of global merchandise exports, while intra African trade remains below its potential. Yet in 2024, trade between African countries grew by 12.4 percent to US\$220.3 billion, showing what greater continental integration could unlock. The challenge is no longer simply to inherit Africa's resources and history, but to reimagine what those assets can produce.

### THE LEGACY WE INHERITED

Africa's present cannot be separated from its history. Colonial rule reshaped political boundaries, economic systems and trade patterns, while many post independence economies remained heavily dependent on commodities and external markets. But history cannot become an excuse for permanent stagnation. Reimagining Africa means moving from an economy that predominantly extracts to one that increasingly processes, manufactures, innovates and exports value. It means strengthening education and skills, building capable institutions and creating economies in which African talent and capital generate greater African wealth. This is not about withdrawing from the world. It is about entering it with greater capability, ownership and bargaining power.

### THE POWER OF A YOUNG CONTINENT

Africa's most consequential asset may not be mineral wealth. It is its people. The continent has the world's youngest population, creating enormous economic potential if young Africans can access quality education, productive employment, technology, finance and opportunity. Demography alone, however, does not create a dividend. A young population becomes an economic advantage only when countries build systems that allow people to participate productively. This is where the builder generation matters. Across Lagos, Nairobi, Kigali, Lusaka, Accra, Johannesburg and countless smaller cities, African entrepreneurs, engineers, farmers, creatives and technology professionals are building businesses and solutions for markets previous generations could barely imagine. The opportunity now is to scale that energy.

### FROM NATIONAL MARKETS TO A CONTINENTAL ECONOMY

One of Africa's greatest economic disadvantages has been fragmentation. The African Continental Free Trade Area offers an opportunity to change that equation by connecting 55 countries, about 1.3 billion people and a combined GDP of roughly US\$3.4 trillion into a single continental market. The World Bank estimates that effective implementation could significantly increase trade and investment while lifting millions of people out of extreme poverty. But a market of this scale matters only if Africans can produce for it. That requires better infrastructure, reliable energy, efficient ports, interoperable digital systems, accessible trade finance and predictable regulations. It also requires businesses capable of expanding beyond national borders. Pan Africanism, in the 21st century, is therefore not only a political ideal. It is an economic project.



### **FROM RAW MATERIALS TO AFRICAN VALUE**

Africa's mineral wealth illustrates the choice particularly well. The continent holds around 30 percent of the world's proven energy transition mineral reserves, including major deposits of cobalt, copper, manganese, graphite and platinum group metals. Yet many African economies continue to export these resources with limited processing. The opportunity is not simply to mine more. It is to build more around what Africa mines. Processing plants. Manufacturing capacity. Battery components. Skilled jobs. African suppliers. Research institutions. Technology companies. Industrial corridors. The builder generation must think beyond extraction to value creation.

### **REIMAGINING THE AFRICAN IMAGINATION**

Economic transformation is only part of the story. Africa must also become more confident in defining itself. African music, fashion, film, literature and design are already influencing global culture. This cultural momentum demonstrates that African creativity can travel far beyond national borders. Cultural confidence does not require romanticising the past. It means drawing from African histories, languages, philosophies and experiences while creating something contemporary and globally relevant. The goal is not to retreat from the world. It is to meet the world on our own terms.

### **THE BUILDER'S MANDATE**

Reimagining Africa cannot be left to presidents, policymakers or international institutions alone. Governments establish frameworks, but entrepreneurs create businesses, scientists generate knowledge, artists shape identity, educators develop capability and communities turn ideas into reality. That is the responsibility of the builder generation. We inherit challenges, but we also inherit resources, markets, technology, talent and an unprecedented opportunity for continental cooperation. The choice is whether these remain disconnected possibilities or become the foundations of something greater. Africa does not need another generation defined only by what it inherited. It needs a generation defined by what it built. The measure of our time will not be how eloquently we described Africa's potential, but how courageously we converted that potential into industries, opportunity, innovation and lasting progress. Africa is still becoming. So are we.



THE ARISE QUOTE

**“DO NOT MEASURE YOURSELF  
ONLY BY WHERE YOU ARE.  
MEASURE YOURSELF BY WHAT  
YOU ARE BECOMING.”**





# FROM POTENTIAL TO POWER: THE AFRICAN YOUTH MANDATE

Potential is one of the most celebrated words in conversations about young people. Yet potential means little when it remains unused. Talent needs opportunity, ambition needs competence, and ideas need execution. The real question is whether young Africans can convert potential into knowledge, enterprise, innovation, leadership and measurable impact. With Africa's population among the youngest in the world, what this generation learns, builds and leads will shape the continent's next chapter. Potential is possibility. Power is possibility put to work.

## **BUILD WHAT YOU WISH EXISTED**

Across the continent, young filmmakers are taking African stories to global audiences, designers are turning cultural identity into brands, developers are creating digital solutions and social entrepreneurs are tackling persistent challenges. What connects these builders is agency. They are choosing to create value rather than wait for opportunity. Every unresolved problem presents a possibility for someone willing to ask: What can I build that makes this better?

## **MAKE COMPETENCE YOUR ADVANTAGE**

Ambition needs capability behind it. The builder generation must continuously develop technical, digital, financial, creative and leadership skills. A young person mastering artificial intelligence, engineering, healthcare, finance or creative production is expanding not only personal opportunity, but what their community and economy can achieve. In a connected world, excellence travels. The ability to solve valuable problems can open doors far beyond geography.

## **THINK BEYOND YOUR IMMEDIATE CIRCLE**

Technology has changed the boundaries of possibility. An entrepreneur in Lusaka can learn from Nairobi, collaborate with Accra and reach customers thousands of kilometres away. The opportunity is to turn connectivity into collaboration. Build relationships across cities, countries and industries. Africa's next breakthrough may come from people who would never previously have had the opportunity to build together.

## **TURN FRUSTRATION INTO ACTION**

The challenges facing young people are real, but describing them does not solve them. A teacher can improve learning, an engineer can redesign a system, an entrepreneur can create employment, a researcher can discover solutions and a creative can reshape perceptions. Not every problem requires a billion dollar solution. Progress begins when someone decides to make something work better.

## **THE BUILDER GENERATION**

Young people are often told they are the future. The more important question is what they are building today. The mandate is to transform talent into competence, competence into action and action into impact. Build businesses that employ, ideas that travel, institutions that endure and solutions that improve lives.

**Potential is only the beginning. What we do with it determines what comes next. Will we wait for the future we imagine, or become the people capable of building it?**



# BERRY HEART: THE POWER TO BECOME.

## From Creative Voice to African Builder of Brands, Ideas and Influence

Berry Heart began as a name on a creative stage. Today, it sits at the intersection of fashion, entrepreneurship, intellectual property, advocacy, authorship and public leadership. Born Keotshepile Motseonageng, the Botswana entrepreneur has built a career defined by continuous reinvention. Her journey has moved from poetry and performance into fashion and business, from business into intellectual property, and from creative advocacy into public policy and political leadership. What connects these chapters is an evolving understanding of influence, ownership and legacy. Berry Heart has repeatedly taken what she learned in one arena and carried it into the next, building an identity far beyond where it began.

### FROM KEOTSHPILE TO BERRY HEART

Long before Berry Heart became an established brand, Keotshepile was a young woman whose early life exposed her to hardship, resilience and the realities experienced by ordinary African families. Those experiences would later influence her thinking about enterprise, influence and legacy. Creativity became one of her earliest vehicles for expression. As a poet, musician, performer and writer, she developed a distinctive identity in Botswana's creative sector, bringing together spoken word, music, performance, fashion and social commentary. Her work eventually took her beyond Botswana, connecting her with African and international cultural platforms. The creative stage gave her visibility, but it also taught her that a name could become more than an identity. It could become a platform.

### WHEN CREATIVITY BECAME COMMERCE

Berry Heart began deliberately transforming her artistic identity into a commercial brand. Berry Heart Creations developed into a fashion and lifestyle business offering clothing, premium fashion pieces, corporate apparel and creative services.



Her approach combined African creativity with elegance, storytelling and commercial strategy. The portfolio expanded through Baby Amari Clothing Apparel, Maison de Nala and BrandShield, alongside interests in investment. The significance of this expansion lies beyond the number of ventures. It reflects a shift in how she viewed creativity. Talent could attract attention, but building a recognisable and commercially viable brand required strategy, ownership and the discipline to think beyond individual projects. She was no longer simply creating. She was building.

### **THE DECISION TO UNDERSTAND OWNERSHIP**

The next stage of her development took her into intellectual property, adding a new dimension to her understanding of African enterprise. Her academic journey has been as multidimensional as her career, spanning English, languages, business administration and intellectual property, culminating in a Masters of Law in Intellectual Property programme associated with Africa University, the World Intellectual Property Organization and the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization. Her research examined the protection of Etsha women's handwoven baskets through Geographical Indications, connecting heritage, indigenous knowledge, creativity and economic value. Her engagement with WIPO and ARIPO further strengthened her advocacy for greater intellectual property awareness among African entrepreneurs and creatives. Her position is clear: Africans must learn not only to create, but to own, protect, commercialise and transfer what they create.

### **FROM BRAND TO ADVOCACY**

Her influence has also moved beyond business. Through creative advocacy and engagements connected to international development spaces, Berry Heart has used poetry, music, fashion and public communication to address gender based violence, women's empowerment, children's rights and social development. Women and children have remained recurring themes in her work. Her creative project Children of Mawa used music as a platform for social contribution, while her mentorship of younger creatives, particularly women and girls, has extended her influence beyond her own career. The underlying belief is simple: achievement becomes more meaningful when knowledge and opportunity are transferred to others.

### **MOTHERHOOD AND THE MEANING OF LEGACY**

Motherhood introduced another dimension to her understanding of building. The birth of her first son, Amari, during the COVID 19 period shifted her perspective on vulnerability, business and legacy. From that experience came Baby Amari Clothing Apparel, transforming a deeply personal chapter into another commercial venture. More importantly, motherhood strengthened her belief that entrepreneurship should create assets, institutions and opportunities capable of outliving the entrepreneur. That idea is central to the way she now approaches legacy. Building something matters, but building something that can continue to create value after you are gone matters more.

### **WHEN INFLUENCE ENTERS PUBLIC LIFE**

Politics represents a newer chapter in Berry Heart's public journey, but it is connected to the themes that have defined her career. Her longstanding involvement with the Botswana Democratic Party developed into more visible political participation, including support for women candidates and advocacy for greater female participation in leadership. Her emerging political ambitions bring together entrepreneurship, women's empowerment, mentorship, fundraising, branding and public policy. Her political philosophy places particular emphasis on economic empowerment. She believes women's political structures should help women gain business opportunities, leadership skills, networks and economic independence. Her campaign philosophy is captured in three words: Empower. Unite. Deliver. The move into politics therefore represents more than a change of profession. It marks a movement from influencing conversations around institutions to seeking influence within them.





### **THE BUSINESS OF INFLUENCE**

The experiences accumulated across creativity, entrepreneurship, motherhood, intellectual property, advocacy and public life eventually found expression in her book, *The Business of Influence: How to Turn Your Brand to Business*. The book brings together ideas that have shaped her evolution: personal branding, entrepreneurship, intellectual property, adversity, motherhood, reputation and the responsibility that comes with building something capable of lasting beyond popularity. At its centre is an Influence Philosophy built around four stages: Influence. Integrity. Impact. Legacy. It is a framework that closely mirrors her own trajectory. Influence created visibility. Enterprise created value. Intellectual property introduced ownership. Advocacy expanded the purpose of that influence. Leadership now raises the question of what that influence can achieve institutionally.

### **A WOMAN WHO REFUSES TO BE ONE THING**

Berry Heart is increasingly difficult to place within a single category. She is an artist who became an entrepreneur, an entrepreneur who became an intellectual property strategist, a creative who entered advocacy, an author who entered public leadership. Her career demonstrates that reinvention does not mean abandoning who you were. It can mean carrying what you have learned into new spaces and allowing each chapter to expand your capacity. The poet did not disappear when the entrepreneur emerged. The entrepreneur did not disappear when intellectual property became part of the story. The advocate did not disappear when politics entered the picture. Each version remains part of the whole.

### **WHAT COMES NEXT**

The next chapter of Berry Heart's story is still being written. But the direction is increasingly clear. She is moving beyond visibility towards ownership, institution building, economic empowerment and legacy. Her ambition increasingly involves building brands, businesses, knowledge, intellectual property and pathways that others can inherit. That is where her story meets the central question of **POWER TO BECOME**. Becoming is not about discovering one final identity and remaining there. It is about recognising when your capacity has expanded and having the courage to step into what comes next. Berry Heart's journey began with a creative voice. That voice became a brand. The brand became enterprise. Enterprise led to questions of ownership. Ownership expanded into advocacy, authorship and public leadership. The journey is still unfolding. She started by finding her voice. She is now building what that voice can leave behind.



THE LEGACY QUOTE

**“A TITLE CAN DEFINE YOUR  
POSITION, BUT IT SHOULD NEVER  
DEFINE THE LIMITS OF WHO YOU  
CAN BECOME.”**

**WAKONYO GICUHI IGERIA**





# WHEN THE TITLE ENDS, WHO DO YOU BECOME?

## Wakonyo Gicuhi Igeria and the Courage to Reinvent

For 34 years, Wakonyo Gicuhi Igeria built a distinguished career in law, corporate governance and banking. Then, at 58, she made a decision that many professionals struggle to make: she walked away from the title. A law graduate of the University of Dar es Salaam and an advocate since 1991, Wakonyo's career moved from legal practice into the power sector and eventually two decades in banking. At Consolidated Bank of Kenya, she served as Company Secretary and Head of Legal Services, providing governance leadership across the bank and its subsidiaries while also mentoring staff and supporting organisational change. But when the corporate chapter ended, Wakonyo discovered that leaving a position can force a deeper question than what comes next professionally: Who are you when the title no longer introduces you?

### THE WOMAN BEHIND THE TITLE

For years, seniority had shaped how people encountered her. Then suddenly, the calls from senior corporate circles became fewer. The recognition attached to her position began to fade. Rather than retreat, Wakonyo began to redefine what the next chapter could look like. She describes it as “retyrement”, not retirement, a deliberate shift in direction rather than an ending. Her decision opened space to pursue interests that had been developing alongside her corporate career, including coaching, mediation, governance, writing and mentorship. The change required courage because reinvention often means stepping into spaces where your previous credentials are no longer enough to tell the whole story.

### EXPERIENCE WAS NOT THE END

Wakonyo did not retire from learning. Her professional development expanded into governance auditing, executive coaching, mediation and training. She became a Certified Professional Coach, Certified Professional Mediator, Certified Mediation Trainer and Governance Auditor, adding new tools to decades of professional experience. The significance is not simply the collection of qualifications. It is what they reveal about her mindset. Experience can create authority, but continued learning creates relevance. Instead of asking what she had already achieved, Wakonyo began asking what else her experience could become.

### FROM CAREER TO CALLING

Her commitment to developing people did not begin after corporate life. Earlier in her journey, she established Grow House Foundation, a mentorship initiative focused on helping young adults develop life skills, confidence, relationships, career direction and purpose. That history makes her current work feel less like a career change and more like a purpose that has been waiting for greater room. Today, through Liviters Company Limited, where she serves as CEO and Lead Consultant, she brings together governance, executive coaching, mediation, mentorship and leadership development. Her work is focused on helping leaders and organisations become stronger, more accountable and more sustainable. The corporate leader has become a developer of leaders.

## **A SECOND ACT WITH A DIFFERENT VOICE**

Perhaps the most unexpected part of Wakonyo's reinvention is where she has chosen to take her voice. She has embraced authorship, speaking and digital content creation, using contemporary platforms to discuss life, identity, grief, reinvention and the lessons accumulated over decades. Her transition into digital storytelling demonstrates that reinvention does not require abandoning experience. It requires finding new ways to make experience useful. Her books, *Pieces of Whole: Hope Has a Colour* and *Hope Has a Story* and *A Fallen Ring*, further reflect this evolution from professional authority to storyteller and guide. At a stage of life when many people are encouraged to slow down, Wakonyo has chosen to expand the ways in which she contributes.

## **WHAT WE OWE THE NEXT GENERATION**

There is another thread running through her story: transfer. Wakonyo's work in mentorship, coaching and leadership development reflects a belief that experience should not end with the person who acquired it. It should become knowledge that equips someone else. Her professional offerings now include board training, executive coaching, mentorship, mediation, governance and leadership development. This may ultimately be the difference between having a successful career and having a meaningful one. A career can accumulate titles. A life of purpose accumulates people who are stronger because of what you gave them.

## **THE POWER TO BECOME**

Wakonyo Gicuhi Igeria's story is not really about retirement. It is about refusing to retire from becoming. The lawyer became a corporate leader. The corporate leader became a governance specialist. The experienced executive became a coach, mediator, mentor, author and storyteller. Each chapter did not erase the one before it. It gave it new meaning. That is the lesson her journey offers anyone standing at a crossroads, whether at 30, 50 or 70: your previous chapter does not have to determine the limits of your next one. You can learn again. You can begin again. You can change direction. You can discover abilities that your previous career never required you to use. And perhaps the greatest freedom comes when you stop asking, "What position comes next?" and begin asking, "What purpose can I serve next?"

**Wakonyo's title may have changed. Her capacity did not. Her career may have entered a new chapter. Her contribution continues. Because becoming does not retire.**







## THE POWER OF REDIRECTION

### When Rejection Becomes the Road to Purpose

Rejection is usually understood as a verdict. For Glorine Maloupe, it became a direction. With qualifications in banking, finance and business administration, Maloupe had set her sights on financial analysis. But interview after interview ended without an offer. What could have become a story of frustration instead became a period of reflection.

Rather than allowing rejection to define her capabilities, she began questioning the path itself. Was she being denied an opportunity, or redirected towards one she had not yet imagined? The answer emerged through an unexpected opportunity in human resources.

What began as a career detour revealed a different strength. Maloupe discovered that her ability to recognise, develop and support people was perhaps more significant than the career she had originally envisioned. Recruitment became an opportunity to identify potential, while leadership became a way to help people grow.

Over the years, she built expertise across recruitment, payroll, employee relations, onboarding, outsourcing and organisational development, establishing a successful HR career that might never have existed had the original plan worked. But professional achievement alone did not satisfy the larger purpose she was discovering.

As she encountered young people facing unemployment, uncertainty and limited opportunities, Maloupe saw a need beyond the workplace. Her response was Youth Ambassadors, a platform focused on mentorship, leadership development and connecting young people with opportunities.

The initiative reflected a central belief: success becomes more meaningful when it creates room for others to succeed. That philosophy extends into her advocacy for mental health, gender equality, education and community empowerment. One encounter particularly reinforced her conviction. Seeing a woman unable to withdraw her own money without assistance brought into sharp focus the importance of dignity, knowledge and independence.

For Maloupe, empowerment is not simply giving people opportunities. It is equipping them with the confidence, knowledge and agency to use them. Her journey challenges a familiar understanding of career success. The question is not always whether we reach the destination we originally chose. Sometimes it is whether we remain open to what the unexpected journey is revealing about us.

Maloupe wanted to become a financial analyst. Instead, she became an HR leader, youth mentor and social impact advocate. The rejection that once appeared to stand between her and ambition ultimately placed her on a path where her influence could reach far beyond a job title. Not every closed door represents failure. Some create space for abilities we might never have discovered. Sometimes the opportunity we lose makes room for a purpose we could not yet see.

She did not become who she had originally planned to be. She became someone her original plan had never allowed her to discover. That is the power of redirection.



## THE PERSON YOU HAVE NOT YET BECOME: THE HIDDEN COST OF STAYING THE SAME

Some of life's greatest losses are almost invisible. They are the businesses never started, books never written, ideas never pursued and opportunities abandoned before they were given a chance. Nothing dramatic happens. Life simply continues while a part of what could have been quietly disappears. Staying the same can feel safe because it asks so little of us. But comfort becomes costly when it keeps us from discovering what we could become. The question is not only what you gain by remaining where you are, but what you sacrifice by refusing to move.

### 1. THE AUDIT OF COMFORT

Comfort is not the enemy. It becomes dangerous when familiarity begins to feel like fulfilment. There will always be reasons to postpone the difficult decision: not enough money, experience, confidence or the right circumstances. Sometimes those limitations are real. Sometimes they are simply reasons to keep waiting. Ask yourself instead: What would become possible if I tried?

### 2. THE COST OF INACTION

Time does not simply pass. It changes the consequences of our choices. Skills left undeveloped become opportunities missed. Ideas left unexplored never reveal what they could have become. Years spent waiting for the perfect moment can quietly become years that cannot be recovered. The cost of inaction rarely arrives dramatically. It accumulates through small decisions to delay, avoid and settle. Sometimes the greatest risk is not failure. It is never discovering what you were capable of.

### 3. MEETING YOUR UNREALISED POTENTIAL

Imagine meeting the person you could have become if you had taken more chances, developed your abilities and pursued the opportunities that frightened you. Perhaps you could have built the company, written the book, changed careers, started the organisation or led the initiative. Not every possibility deserves to become reality. But some deserve an honest attempt before they are dismissed. Potential becomes meaningful only when given a chance to become real.

### 4. MAKE THE DECISION

Becoming does not require reinventing your life overnight. It can begin with one decision that changes the direction of the next one. Start the project. Learn the skill. Apply for the opportunity. Make the call. Take the first serious step. You may not feel ready. Most people do not. Readiness is often developed by beginning.

### THE CHOICE IS YOURS

A meaningful life is measured not only by what we accomplish, but by what we were willing to attempt. The future version of you will inherit the consequences of the choices you make today. Do not spend your life protecting a version of yourself you have already outgrown. There is still something to learn, create, contribute and become. The person you have not yet become is not waiting for permission. They are waiting for a decision.



## BOOKS OF THE WEEK

Becoming requires a willingness to challenge what you believe about yourself, develop the courage to act and build the capacity to create meaningful change. These three books offer powerful perspectives for anyone ready to grow beyond their current limitations.

### **THE COURAGE TO BE DISLIKED**

Ichiro Kishimi & Fumitake Koga

A thought provoking exploration of freedom, self acceptance and the courage to stop living according to other people's expectations.

### **THE OBSTACLE IS THE WAY**

Ryan Holiday

Learn how to turn adversity into opportunity, develop resilience and use difficult circumstances as fuel for progress.

### **THE ALTER EGO EFFECT**

Todd Herman

Discover how creating an empowered identity can help you overcome self doubt, perform with greater confidence and step into the person you are capable of becoming.

READ DEEPLY. THINK BOLDLY. BECOME.

## THE ARISE CHALLENGE

For the next 7 days, choose one thing you have been postponing because of fear, doubt or comfort, and take one deliberate step toward it each day. Start the project. Learn the skill. Apply for the opportunity. Make the call. Build the idea.

At the end of each day, ask yourself:

"Did I become more of the person I want to be today?"

### **Did You Know?**

Lasting change is built through repeated action. Small, consistent choices can strengthen new behaviours and reshape the patterns that define our lives.

Your future is shaped by what you practise today.  
Stop waiting to become. Start becoming.

## TOOLBOX

### **THIS WEEK'S TOOL: OBSIDIAN**

Build a second brain with Obsidian, a powerful knowledge management tool that helps you connect ideas, organise your thinking and turn scattered notes into a personal knowledge system. Capture what you learn, develop ideas, map connections and build a library of knowledge that grows with you.

### **Why It Matters:**

Becoming begins with how you think. The ability to capture, connect and revisit knowledge can sharpen your thinking, deepen your understanding and help you turn learning into better decisions. Your mind is your greatest asset, and what you consistently feed and develop can shape what you ultimately become.

Think deeper. Learn continuously. Build your mind.

# THE ANGELINA GOVENDER PRINCIPLE

## HOW TO WALK THROUGH WHAT YOU DID NOT CHOOSE

Life does not always ask permission before changing everything. On 9 August 2024, Angelina Govender's world changed when her eldest son, Trey Reese, suffered a catastrophic spinal cord injury. What followed was emergency surgery, intensive care, rehabilitation, uncertainty and long periods away from home. It was a journey no parent would choose, yet one that demanded everything she had. Angelina could not control the accident or determine what came next. She could, however, choose how she would walk through it. That choice became the foundation of a journey shaped by faith, resilience and determination.

## ACCEPT WHAT YOU CANNOT CONTROL

Strength sometimes begins with accepting that circumstances have changed. Hospitals replaced familiar surroundings. Medical decisions became part of daily life, while the future became uncertain. Acceptance was not surrender. It was facing reality clearly enough to respond with courage.

## HOLD ON TO WHAT YOU BELIEVE

When certainty disappears, belief can become an anchor. For Angelina, faith became something practised in uncertainty. Through difficult days and long nights, she held on to the conviction that there was still purpose beyond what she could see. Faith did not remove the storm. It gave her a way through it.

## KEEP MOVING WHEN THE JOURNEY CHANGES

Life rarely follows the plan we create. While supporting her son through recovery, Angelina began writing between hospital rooms and hotel rooms in Greater Noida, India. Her writing became a way of processing the experience and finding meaning within it. Her memoir, *Navigating the Storms of Life: All Within a Year Learning to Walk Through Faith*, emerged from that season. Sometimes progress is simply refusing to stop.

## TURN PAIN INTO PURPOSE

Pain can leave us asking, "Why me?" Purpose asks, "What can come from this?" Angelina transformed a deeply personal experience into a story that could encourage others. Her journey shows that even within circumstances we would never choose, we can choose what we create from them.

## BECOME SOMEONE THE STORM CANNOT DESTROY

Becoming does not happen only when life is going well. Sometimes we discover our deepest strength when everything familiar is shaken. Angelina's circumstances changed her journey, but they did not define the limits of who she could become.

**That is the Angelina Govender Principle:** You may not choose the storm, but you can choose how you walk through it. The storm may change your plans. It may test your faith. It may take you somewhere you never expected to go. But it does not have to have the final word on who you become.





# WHO WILL BUILD THE AFRICA WE WANT?



The Africa we desire will not be built by ambition alone. It will require people of character who uphold what is right, capability that turns ideas into solutions, courage that confronts what must change, collaboration that brings people together, and stewardship that thinks beyond the present.

These qualities are not simply leadership traits. They are the foundation of progress.

**The Africa we want will emerge from the people we choose to become.**





## THE POWER BEYOND THE DIAGNOSIS

### HOW NOZIPHO HLOPHE TURNED A LIFE CHANGING DIAGNOSIS INTO A LIFE OF PURPOSE

There are moments when life divides itself into a before and an after. For Nozipho Hlophe, that moment came in 2015 when she was diagnosed with five autoimmune diseases. A life filled with plans and possibilities was suddenly confronted by hospital visits, physical limitations, uncertainty and a reality she had never anticipated. For two years, she lived on oxygen around the clock. What looked from the outside like the end of possibility became the beginning of a profound journey of faith, resilience and self discovery.

### WHEN LIFE CHANGES WITHOUT WARNING

Illness can change far more than the body. It can alter confidence, relationships, routines, ambitions and the way a person imagines tomorrow. Dreams that once seemed certain can suddenly feel distant. Nozipho experienced the loneliness, fear and emotional weight that can accompany chronic illness, but she also recognised that allowing illness to take away her sense of possibility would mean surrendering more than her health. Her response was not to deny her reality, but to face it with acceptance. That acceptance became a source of strength. She learned that resilience does not always mean fighting against circumstances. Sometimes it means acknowledging what has changed, adapting without losing yourself and finding the courage to continue.

### ACCEPTANCE AS A FORM OF STRENGTH

For Nozipho, acceptance never meant accepting limitation as destiny. It meant understanding her circumstances while refusing to allow them to define the boundaries of her life. Faith became an important part of that process, giving her an anchor through uncertainty and helping her find strength when the journey became difficult. Today, she is off oxygen, a powerful testimony to the possibility of healing.



Yet her transformation extends beyond physical recovery. Her journey has also involved rebuilding confidence, restoring hope and discovering a deeper sense of purpose. She has learned that healing can take place within the body, the mind and the spirit.

### **YOU ARE MORE THAN WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU**

At the heart of Nozipho's message is a simple truth: you are not your diagnosis. A medical condition may describe what is happening within the body, but it cannot describe the entirety of a woman. It cannot erase her intelligence, beauty, ambition, creativity or capacity to love and contribute. That conviction shapes the message she now shares with women living with chronic illness. She encourages them not to place their entire lives on hold because illness interrupted their plans. She reminds them that they can continue building businesses, pursuing careers, nurturing relationships, caring for themselves and finding reasons to smile. The diagnosis may have changed the journey, but it does not have to determine the destination.

### **DO NOT LOOK LIKE YOUR CHALLENGES**

Nozipho often tells women, "Do not look like your challenges. Look like your victory." The statement captures the philosophy behind her work. Victory does not mean pretending that pain does not exist or trying to appear untouched by hardship. It means refusing to allow hardship to become your identity. A woman can acknowledge her pain and still choose joy. She can live with limitations and still pursue ambition. She can have difficult days and still believe that her life has meaning. Strength is not always looking unbreakable. Sometimes it is simply choosing to rise and participate in life again.

### **TURNING PAIN INTO PURPOSE**

Nozipho could have kept her experience private, but instead she chose to make it useful. Her journey has become a source of encouragement for women navigating chronic illness and the emotional battles that often remain invisible to others. Through her platform, she speaks about acceptance, confidence, self worth and the importance of continuing to live fully. Her influence therefore extends beyond personal testimony. She is helping women see possibility where illness may have taught them to see limitation. In turning her own struggle into encouragement, she demonstrates how purpose can emerge from experiences we would never have chosen.

### **A LIFE THAT STILL HAS MORE TO GIVE**

Nozipho's story challenges the belief that a difficult diagnosis marks the end of possibility. Sometimes life changes dramatically without becoming meaningless. Sometimes the body requires a different pace while the spirit discovers a deeper strength. Sometimes the chapter we never would have chosen becomes the chapter that reveals who we truly are. Her journey from living on oxygen for two years to becoming a voice of encouragement for women is not simply a story of physical progress. It is a story of reclaiming identity, choosing hope and finding purpose in circumstances she never asked for. That is why her story belongs in POWER TO BECOME. Becoming does not happen only when everything is going right. It happens through disruption, uncertainty, disappointment and change. It happens when life forces us to rebuild our understanding of ourselves. Nozipho Hlophe refused to let illness become the final definition of her life. She chose to become beyond it.

**You are not your diagnosis. You are not your hardest season. You are not the limitations placed before you. There is still life to live, purpose to pursue and beauty to discover. Sometimes becoming begins with one courageous decision: I will not allow what happened to me to decide who I become.**

# THE PSYCHOLOGY OF BECOMING

**Every significant achievement, cultural shift and personal breakthrough begins in the same invisible place: the human mind. We celebrate visible results, the enterprise launched, the work published, the success achieved, but transformation begins long before anyone sees it. It begins when our understanding of who we are starts to change. Welcome to the psychology of becoming.**

## **1. From Doing to Being**

Much of personal development focuses on changing behaviour through habits, goals and willpower. Yet willpower is finite, and under pressure we often return to familiar patterns. Lasting change begins with identity. Instead of asking, "What should I do differently?" ask, "Who am I becoming?" When your self concept changes, your choices begin to reflect it. Discipline, confidence and consistency become expressions of identity rather than constant battles of will.

## **2. Embracing the Identity Gap**

Between who you are and who you aspire to become lies the identity gap, a space often marked by self doubt, impostor syndrome and the discomfort of outgrowing familiar habits, environments and expectations. The temptation is to retreat. Yet discomfort does not always mean you are on the wrong path. Sometimes it means you are moving beyond the familiar. Becoming requires the resilience to tolerate uncertainty while your new identity takes shape.

## **3. Rewriting the Narrative**

We do not simply experience our lives. We interpret them. The stories we tell ourselves about failure, ability and possibility influence what we attempt and what we believe we can achieve. A fixed narrative says, "This is just who I am." A growth narrative asks, "What can I learn, change and build?" When failure becomes information rather than identity, it loses its power to define the future.

## **4. Designing Your Environment**

Becoming is not purely internal. Our environments shape our thinking, standards and behaviour. The people we spend time with, the content we consume and the spaces we inhabit can reinforce old patterns or support new ones. If you want to become different, examine what surrounds you. Environment is often the architecture of identity.

## **5. Becoming Through Practice**

Becoming is rarely one dramatic moment. It is built through repeated choices. Every decision aligned with the person you want to become strengthens that identity. You will stumble, and old patterns will return. That does not erase your progress. The goal is not perfection, but recovery, recognising when you have drifted, learning from it and choosing alignment again.

## **THE ULTIMATE QUESTION**

**The journey of becoming ultimately asks: Who must you become to create the life and impact you desire?**

The future does not belong to those who simply wish for change. It belongs to those willing to do the internal work, challenge inherited limitations and turn potential into action. Keep evolving. Keep building. Keep rising.





# A LOVE LETTER TO MY DAUGHTERS

My beautiful daughters, before the world ever had an opinion about you, God already knew you. He formed you with intention, knew you before you were born and placed purpose within you. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you." Jeremiah 1:5. Never allow the expectations of others to become louder than the voice of the One who created you.

You are becoming, and that journey will not always be easy. There will be uncertainty, disappointment, rejection and moments when you question whether you are enough. When those moments come, remember that you are "fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14. Your worth was never meant to depend on applause, achievement or approval.

You will make mistakes. Some seasons will not unfold as you imagined, and some prayers may seem unanswered. Trust that God can still be working when you cannot see the outcome. "In all things God works for the good of those who love him." Romans 8:28. Do not let a difficult chapter convince you that your story is over.

Be courageous women, but never believe that strength requires you to lose your tenderness. Stand for what is right, lead with humility and remember to serve. If you rise, reach back. If you are given influence, use it to create opportunities for others. Let your success become a blessing beyond yourself.

And when you stumble, give yourself grace. You are allowed to grow, change and begin again. "Though a righteous person falls seven times, they rise again." Proverbs 24:16. Falling does not disqualify you. Rise, learn and keep walking.

I want you to know that I am proud of you already. Not because of the degrees you may earn, the positions you may hold or the recognition you may receive, but because you are my daughters. Nothing you accomplish could make me love you more, and nothing you fail at could make me love you less.

One day, there will be roads you must walk without me. When that day comes, remember that you are never alone. "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:8. So become everything God has placed within you, but never become so consumed with becoming that you forget to live, love, laugh and be grateful for who you already are.

And if you ever wonder whether you made me proud, look at yourself. Before you became anything the world could celebrate, you were already the answer to a prayer I once whispered.

With all my love,  
**Ms Bupe M. Chisha**  
CEO, Arise Africa Magazine





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