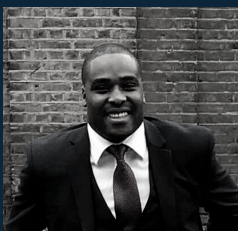
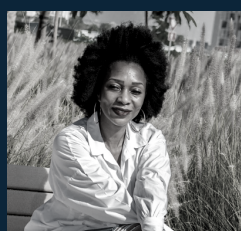
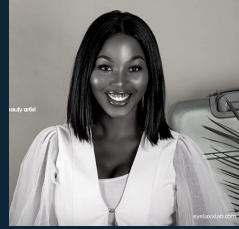




The AFREPRENEUR

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN TALENT



2021 FIRST QUARTER EDITION

Celebrating African Talent

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EDITOR'S NOTE



HELLO...

Welcome to the 2021 first quarter edition of the Afrepreneur magazine. The journey of celebrating and telling the stories of African talent continues. This issue showcases the stories of twenty-one gifted Afrepreneurs from across Ghana, Zimbabwe and South Africa. I am confident you will enjoy each one.

A LITTLE MOTIVATION...

One thing I have learnt throughout my journey with the Afrepreneur thus far is that success is never an overnight achievement. It takes patience, hard work and commitment. Things do not always go according to plan and so being adaptable makes all the difference. So, no matter what happens, remember to stick to your lane; similar to vehicles on the road, our destinations differ. Every good and responsible driver stays focused on their lane instead of competing with other motorists. Likewise, in a nutshell, be you and do you. Don't stop moving because others have arrived at their destination. Push on until you hit your mark. Just because your journey is taking a little longer doesn't mean that you will not make it. The beauty of success is that it is sweet every single time, whether delayed or on time. So do yourself a favour and keep moving!

AS I WRAP IT UP...

Over the last few months, many people have been inquiring about being featured, and so, I am excited to inform you that the Afrepreneur website now has a 'Get Featured' section. If you have a story that inspires, encourages or motivates and want to be featured, head on to the website and submit your request. There is more to come in the next few months so stay connected through our social media pages, and you can also subscribe through the website to receive email notifications.



Grace Marunga
Editor & Designer



BRIDGETTE NYAHUNZVI
Image Consultant

Tell me about yourself, i.e., line of work, education, and career?

I am a certified Image Consultant and founder of Lush Consulting, an image consulting company. My mission is to inspire, educate, empower, and motivate my clients (corporate professionals & entrepreneurs) to elevate their image and style to achieve their life goals and become the best version of themselves inside & outside. I trained at Colourworks International Image Consultant Training Academy and, I am also a certified makeup artist from Lisof Fashion Academy. Before pursuing the Image industry, I worked in the Procurement and Supply industry. It is from this experience working in the corporate world that, decided to join the image industry.

What inspired you to become an Image Consultant, and how much work did it take for you to get where you are now?

I have always loved dressing up and seeing everyone around me looking good as well. During my corporate days, I noticed that lots of people did not understand the art of dressing up. I would always get goosebumps when I saw people showing up at work wearing tracksuits, 3/4 shorts or slippers. It made me see the need for educating people about the importance of projecting the right image and how clothing choices can impact how others perceive you. In turn, it also affects the kind of opportunities that come your way.

My passion for creating the right image resulted in friends consulting me whenever they went shopping or needed help with their wardrobe. After some time, I decided to acquire proper training and make it my full-time career. I felt that image consulting was where I could make a mark for myself in the world.

To be where I am now, it took a lot of time and finances to acquire all the necessary training and setting up the business.

Often I would burn the midnight oil attending workshops and webinars due to the time difference between the USA and South Africa, where I am based. I have also surrounded myself with business-minded people and Image consultants from all over the world. These help me to understand the business and bounce off ideas.

Every journey has its share of challenges; what were yours? Did you ever feel like giving up? If so, what kept you going?

There is a general misconception with our African people that “Image Consultants are for the politicians, the rich & famous only”, but this not true. Some believe that taking care of your appearance is being superficial, but that is also incorrect. These myths greatly affected the flow of clients in the beginning. To overcome this, I engaged in social media marketing campaigns educating people on image development. I started from the basics, i.e., what image consulting is all about, the importance and different elements that make up an individual’s image and so on. This helped me make mileage, and so, I continue to provide my followers with educational tips.

I generally thrive on challenges, and so I have never felt like giving up since I started. If something is not working out for me, I don’t leave it to chance. I always ask myself how I can make it work?

I love what I do, and despite the challenges I sometimes face along the journey, I am right where I am supposed to be. Giving up this baby of mine will never be an option for me. It gives me so much joy seeing my clients walk away with a newly found self-confidence after our sessions. There is no better feeling than to make my clients feel more confident about their appearance. It is truly fulfilling.

Any notable milestones you would like to share?

My first online magazine feature with KickAss Boss Lady magazine 2020. It served as confirmation that someone was paying attention and I was going in the right direction. I believe there are many milestones to come so, watch this space.



Interesting Fact about you: I am obsessed with the colour gold. You will see it appearing a lot in my wardrobe, my home, and my business. I also a bag and shoe addict, I spend more on them than I do on clothes.

I generally thrive on challenges, and so I have never felt like giving up since I started. If something is not working out for me, I don't leave it to chance.

What is the big picture, i.e., where to from here?

I want to grow my business and make Lush Consulting the first-choice provider of image development and personal branding solutions in Southern Africa.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

Whoever you are, whether you are heading up the corporate ladder, a public figure, or taking on the challenge of entrepreneurship, keep in mind that a confident, authentic image is the foundation of your success. Your career, your business and your progress depend on it. You need to pay special attention to it. It can set you apart from your competition, open doors, break down barriers, fill you with confidence and help you achieve your life goals.

The impact is real. But for your image to be beneficial, it must show off your tastes, personality, values, goals and work with your lifestyle. Refuse the temptation to copy & paste (imitating/mimicking other people). I know it is not easy to get that right look if fashion is not your strength, so don't struggle alone. That is why professionals like me are there to help you figure out the look that's perfect for you.



LEATILE SEEMULE
Architect and Property Developer

Tell me about yourself, line of work, education, and career?

I am an artist who has innovated his craft to architecture, property and recently added construction to the portfolio. An architect by profession, I have also expanded my knowledge through pursuing several other certifications in the real estate industry including a postgraduate in property development and management, a UCT property entrepreneurship program and currently Green Building Council South Africa (candidate) and Certified Property Manager USA (candidate). My passion lies in drawing and solving complex issues in society, and the built environment. After completing my master's in architecture and gaining work experience in various countries I founded ati + the studio, a multidisciplinary firm that is positioning itself as a real estate hub.

What inspired you and, to be an architect?

Drawing and art were always an area of passion for me growing up, so my mother identified this gifting in me and inspired me to make a career out of it. Since coming into the trade, I have designed more than 50 buildings: from offices, apartment blocks, urban design schemes and developments. Once I felt that I had the adequate experience I decided to go out on my own and thus left my job and started my own firm. I also saw the need to provide affordable housing for people in Africa, because having a clean and safe place to sleep brings a lot of peace of mind, so this is one area of speciality that is close to my heart.

Every journey has its share of challenges; what were yours?

Yes, at times I felt like giving up. I sometimes struggled with doubt and fear of the unknown when trying out new projects however I always remind myself that unless I try,

I will never know if I can. Another challenge was balancing studies and a full-time job that had its own fair share of challenges including access to study leave. This meant I often had to burn the midnight oil and work through weekends to meet assignment deadlines. Through it all, I persevered and graduated with my property degree at Wits University. Lastly, it was not always easy to get support from some people, as is usually the case when the vision is still young many tend to brush you off and only appear once they see the vision fully manifested.

What is the big picture i.e., where to from here?

Well, currently my partners and I are working to establish our firm in South Africa but with a focus on other African countries. Currently, we have several proposals we are pursuing in southern Africa and surrounding countries. The vision is to grow ati + the studio, architects & property development consultants into a pan-African premium firm offering an assortment of services that are not limited to the real estate sector. We intend to grow strategically with our partners and continue to be innovative in our line of work, and currently trying to innovate through our subsidiary called AfriProperty Capital & Co. to grow in the online real estate commerce space.

What word of advice would you give to others?

Follow your passion and do not be afraid to do something new. And if others cannot join you, just move and you will find other people with similar interests where you go. Always innovate and be willing to learn from others, be it from a street vendor or industry leaders. It's not only the highly educated and wealthy people that you can learn from. Be open minded and remember life is not a competition. Run your own race.


ENVISION IT, AND WE WILL DELIVER IT!

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MENDY LUSABA

Social entrepreneur and decent work advocate

Tell me about yourself i.e., line of work, education, and career?

I am a social entrepreneur and a decent work advocate with a particular interest in domestic work, with over 10 years of experience in Human Resources Management. My special interest lies in Labour Law. I am the founder of Chris&Geo Executive Domestic Placements, a recruitment and placement agency for domestic workers and the Domestic Workers Association of Zimbabwe.

The vision behind these two organisations was to formalize and professionalise the domestic-worker sector. I write and speak on domestic work has also written a manual for domestic workers. My hope is for a social democratic society that frowns heavily upon the oppression of the minority.



What inspired you to pursue this particular path and how much work did it take for you to get where you are now?

As a nursing mother, having gone through the experience of needing a domestic worker but failing to get one; Chris&Geo was birthed to fill in this gap. I had problems getting a good domestic worker each time, I needed one and this opened my eyes to the huge service gap. I was not alone in my struggle; many other working mothers faced the same challenge. I decided to seize the opportunity by establishing a service agency to close the gap between women looking for a domestic worker and those looking for employment as domestic workers; thereby killing two birds with one stone.

The Domestic Workers Association of Zimbabwe (DWAZ) is a membership-based network of Zimbabwean domestic workers based locally or in the diaspora. The plight of domestic workers is one that has received very little attention and intervention. The fact that no custom-tailored interventions had been developed and implemented in the domestic work sector stands as evidence of the marginalization and exclusion of this important group of workers across the globe. ILO estimates that in 2015, the total number of domestic workers was around 67.1 million worldwide.

Domestic work itself accounts for 1.7 per cent of total employment worldwide and some 3.6 per cent of all wage employment. According to the same ILO report, throughout the African region, 5.2 million domestic workers are employed of whom 3.8 million are women and 1.4 million men. As DWAZ we are motivated to make a sustainable difference by doing everything we can to respond to and try to address the myriad of challenges facing domestic workers in Zimbabwe.

Every journey has its share of challenges; what were yours? Did you ever feel like giving up? If so, what kept you going?

There is very little literature for and on domestic work. This presents a huge challenge as you are working on everything from scratch. Donor and other project supporters often want challenges quantified in terms of statistics which, in the case of domestic work is not available and it is frustrating when you lose out simply because you don't have the evidence to present regarding a challenge that you are in the process of solving. However, I have managed to publish a book, titled 'A Guide for Domestic Workers'. I also write and blog in my spare time as part of my efforts to have as much literature about domestic work as possible floating around. Although I have done some research on domestic work, I hope to publish more articles as there is little content on domestic workers, let alone the statistics.

Support is also one of the challenges you face as a vision bearer. People are usually reluctant to jump into fields which they either do not really understand or appreciate, or projects they feel might influence the status quo. A simple example is an employer who has a domestic worker at homecoming across a piece of information saying let us fight for enforcement of decent wages and work conditions for domestic workers. Immediately, most people may feel threatened because they fear once such change happens, they may be forced to pay higher wages to their employees. This is the kind of tension you find within the industry as you strive for change and it is just one of many examples. Even corporates and other government extensions which share common interest and mandate, sometimes they are not most enthusiastic about not so popular work. I am however grateful that thus far, I have received progressive support from my family, friends, government, and various institutions.

Resources are another major hurdle. My greater vision is to build and open a vocational training centre specifically for domestic workers. In as much as we are making progress, both financial and other kinds of necessary resources are hardly adequate to pick up the pace on realization of the ultimate goals. One can however appreciate that there is promising and growing positive development in terms of the possibility of eventually securing enough resources for the vision and greater good.

Policy enforcement. I wish and work every day for even greater government policy adjustments with regards to domestic work but the rate at which we are forced to move is very slow. You will realize that legislations and documented provisions in the constitution and other relevant national policy frameworks do recognize domestic work and domestic workers. The challenge comes at enforcement. A simple example, the ILO and many governments including Zimbabwe have a policy that stipulates that ALL workers should have contractual agreements before commencing work but unfortunately, it is not happening on the ground.

More so, adjustment and revision of policy for domestic work are rather ineffective. For example, the wages for domestic workers were last reviewed in 2020 and remains at 10USD minimum, but with current monetary rates and all the changes taking place, this is not a practical figure. Other professions have had countless upward salary reviews and adjustments, but nothing has been done for domestic workers, this is a sad state of affairs and it breaks one's spirit but these are, after all, the issues for which I wake up every day to face and try to influence a change for the better.

Any notable milestones/achievements you would like to share?

I have quite a number of achievements which I can mention. First, one being the recent winning of the International Labour Organisation Skills Mismatch Challenge which offered us our biggest leap yet towards the realization of our vision. This is one achievement I am thankful for and very proud of. It was a huge win as I beat everyone in the world, as I love to say! The ILO Skills Challenge was about providing solutions to skills challenge. My winning proposal involved setting up a Domestic Worker Center in Zimbabwe and developing a domestic work curriculum accredited by the government. This would therefore formalize and professionalize the sector as has always been my vision. We have already started working on the DWC and the curriculum.

Both Chris & Geo and DWAZ are functional achievements that are and continue to make a positive impact in so many people`s lives.

Also being a Mandela Washington Fellow in the 2018 selection where I attended the Civic track training at Drexel, Philadelphia in the USA. It was after my training that I was able to grow DWAZ regionally and expanded into SADC. This has been a great personal achievement as it opened my mind to get me where I am today.

Rallying together domestic workers despite all the hurdles and holding the first-ever Domestic Workers Convention in 2017 is also something I am very proud of.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

My advice to someone there working on anything is "Just Do It". Nike was and is right.

What is the big picture i.e., where to from here?

Given the massive work we have with domestic work and domestic workers, the bigger picture is to acquire land and build our very own Center where we will be able to fulfil our mission and goals. The Center is designed to be a one-stop Center for training and skills development as well as house all our services including recruitment and placement under one roof. Here we will be able to provide a safe haven for domestic workers who may find themselves in tight situations at any point for any reason.

We already have a space that we are currently using, thanks to ILO through the Skills Mismatch Challenge. However, we want to expand to be able to cater for as many domestic workers as may need help. We want to expand across the region and beyond, replicating this model in other countries so as to really be able to make a difference without geographical restrictions.

We are also working on a curriculum for domestic workers which we want to be approved and accredited by HEXCO and the Ministry of Education to be offered as a course in all vocational training centres in Zimbabwe. We also want to be able to complete and replicate the same in Botswana and South Africa since we have established our brand and services in these countries significantly, and eventually expand beyond.





EVERSON K CHIEZA
Actor/Film Maker

Tell me about yourself i.e., line of work, education, and career etc?

I am an actor best known for being the lead actor in the 2020 online series Wadiwa Wepamoyo. The series first episode currently has over 639k views on youtube making it one of the most viewed online shows in Zimbabwe. Besides acting, I also wear several other hats namely photographer, scriptwriter, director, videographer, model, and influencer. I am by nature a creative person who is always on the lookout for an opportunity to learn new skills. I graduated from Midlands State University, Zimbabwe with a degree in Film and Theatre.

Growing up I was an introvert and spent most of my time reading psychology books trying to figure out how I could improve my personality to be more outgoing and outspoken. My breakthrough came after studying and analysing A Midsummer's Night Dream in my literature class during Highschool; when I realised that I could connect and inspire people through storytelling. This gave birth to my outspoken outer ego that has helped me excel in my acting career. Art gave me a voice and the power to express myself not just as an actor but also in my personal life. My outlook of the world around me completely changed and in every role, my goal is always to inspire and bring joy to people's lives.

What inspired you to pursue a career as an actor and how much work did it take for you to get where you are now?

It is easy to judge a book by its cover and admire one's success without knowing the story behind it. I started acting in 2015 when I did a short film by Derby Bheta, "GateWay", then went on to feature in several short films after that. Most of these projects were self-financed by the participating team, I included in the hope that we would be recognised and become superstars.

However, despite all the hard work and effort, I remained in the shadows while continuing to watch others soar above the skies. Some days I would wonder if there was light at the end of the tunnel or was, just chasing after shadows that would yield nothing in the end. Despite it all, I never gave up and kept pushing believing that one day my big break would come.

Looking back, I can only say those days of unpaid effort were preparing me for something greater. In 2020 my team and I gave it another shot with Wadiwa Wepa Moyo and little did we know that finally, our hard work was about to pay off. Finally, people took notice within and outside the borders of Zimbabwe. Now I have finally come out from the shadows and I am on my way to building my legacy in the world of film and drama. A journey of many miles starts with one, this is just but the beginning for me. My dream is to leave my mark in the African film and entertainment industry. I know with patience, compromise, and hard work pays I will make it. I am forever grateful to the viewers and all those that believed in me; most importantly I give all glory to God Almighty, who made everything perfect in its own time.



Every journey has its share of challenges; what were yours? Did you ever feel like giving up? If so, what kept you going?

One of the major challenges I faced was dealing with the general misconception that choosing a career in acting was wasting my time. Some would even ask why I spent hours doing films that did not seem to yield anything and my name remained unknown in the industry. I lost some close friends that I thought would always be in my corner; but even when I found my circle shrinking, I did not give up. The dream was mine to keep and pursue no matter what. One thing I have learnt in my twenty-five years is that success does not happen by chance you must work for it. It may tarry but with commitment and dedication, it will eventually happen.

Any notable milestones/achievement you would like to share?

I am grateful for finally being recognized as an actor. Some of my achievements include being nominated in several awards, including the ZimStars Best Actor Award which I won in 2021. I have also had the honour of working on various projects with big brands like FC Platinum, Push Athletics, Zol Network and Carling Black Label S.A.

What is the big picture i.e., where to from here?

My vision is to bring hope and be a living testimony to the African child with a dream to become an actor. I come from a society where being an actor is considered more of a hobby than a lucrative career path. However, if anything the growth of platforms like social media have shown that the film industry can be a very rewarding career path. Perhaps in the days gone by when the only platforms were TV and the big screen, opportunities were for a selected few. Now everyone has almost an equal chance to succeed in this industry, all you need is your talent, creativity, hard work, commitment.

A good network of people is also key to success. I also want to expand my acting portfolio to films, theatre and even the big screen someday, within and outside of the African continent. In the future, I plan to work on a project to create a platform for mentoring upcoming actors and help them to connect with other like-minded creatives professionally.

Who are some of the people that inspire you as an actor?

I have been inspired by many people throughout my career but at the top of the list is Daniel Kaluuya, Lakeith Stanfield and our very own Tongai Chirisa. These gentlemen and their stories give me hope that I too can make it. I would love to one day grace the screens alongside these talented men.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and be curious, wonder about what makes the universe exist. No matter how tough life gets, never give up. Instead, follow your heart until you excel at that which you are passionate about. I followed my heart and still at it. The path before me in long as unknown adventure awaits me, so I soldier on in hope and faith. Do the same and let's catch up when we meet at the top!





YVONNE C MTENGWA

Publicist, Communications Strategist, and Author

Tell me about yourself i.e., line of work, education, and career?

I like to consider myself as one who wears many hats. My profession lies in PR and Communications with a keen focus on promoting destinations. I am a Publicist, Communications Strategist, International Speaker, and an author of three books, one of which is an Amazon best-selling title.

I am a holder of an MSc in Marketing Degree from Roehampton University in the UK, and currently live and work in Dubai. Three years ago, I established Narratives PR, a boutique communications consultancy that offers PR strategy to small business owners; after I felt it was time to contribute my expertise to the pan-African landscape. Throughout my career in the Middle East, I have been fortunate to be a part of several unique high-profile events, projects, and marketing campaigns; leveraging my experience obtained from working in the United States and Southern Africa.

What inspired you to pursue this particular path and how much effort did it take for you to get where you are now?

My educational and training background was in marketing, and I kicked off my career in the US retail industry in 2002. Two years later, and driven by my passion for real estate, I decided to pursue a certification that enabled me to transition into the world of property marketing and sales. I always thought it would be cool to sell houses so that shift was largely driven by my interest in the field and a need to make more money than I was making working in retail.

After several years I moved back to Zimbabwe however I quickly realised that the real estate market there was quite different from my previous experience. It simply was not as fast-paced as I was used to, so I decided to pursue a career in the travel industry as it enabled me to still move around and not be stuck behind a desk all day.

I landed a job in Victoria Falls with one of the major hospitality chains in Zimbabwe and this began my journey in destination marketing.

During my tenure in Southern Africa, I worked with various brands which helped to expand my knowledge of the. Relocating to the UAE further catapulted me to another level completely as I found myself working with some industry giants such as the Department of Tourism & Culture – Abu Dhabi, the UAE’s national Railway project Etihad Rail, on the UAE’s national air carrier Etihad Airways’ consumer PR remit, Reem Mall, real estate developments on Saadiyat Island, Doha based hospitality group Katara Hospitality to name but a few. Another notable career milestone was when I led the PR and Communications function at Ferrari World Abu Dhabi and served as the PR Head for the iconic, red-roofed World’s Leading Theme Park for two years.

All in all, my journey has been nothing short of fulfilling and I have learnt a great deal about what it takes to build global brands and keep them in the front of the minds of consumers; given how competitive the regional and global landscape has become.

What are some of the challenges you faced along the way and did you ever feel like giving up?

I experienced most of my challenges navigating life outside my comfort zone. I left Zimbabwe at the age of eighteen to pursue my university education in Atlanta. Nothing could have prepared me for the culture shock of life in America, but that is also the place that birthed a greater resilience in me to survive and go hard after what I desire to see made manifest.

Moving back home in my mid-20s awakened me to the harsh reality of just how much I had evolved during my season in America.

I struggled to find my place after my return in 2007, as the country was so far removed from how I had left it. Everything was different and adapting to this new normal was a tough pill to swallow. The environment just didn't give me the warm and fuzzy welcome I imagined, but my family did a stellar job of supporting me through this very hectic transition.

I've lived outside Zimbabwe for half of my life now, and I'd say the greatest challenge lies with proving yourself in an environment where you are the minority. I had never viewed the notion of nationality or race as part of the judging criteria until I navigated life in the diaspora. With all the lessons that stemmed from the challenges and the wins along the way, I credit my faith in GOD and love from family and friends for keeping me going. I love GOD and believe He wants the best for me. I also believe He would never put me in a situation where He hasn't already created a triumph on the other side of any trials. So, prayer, my faith, and the incredible relationships I am blessed with, keep me going. Those are what I lean on to be able to juggle the many responsibilities I carry.

Any notable milestones/achievement you would like to share?

I was named one of the 2020 Global Top 100 Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) Under 40 in a ceremony that took place in New York City in October 2020. The ceremony was part of MIPAD's annual Recognition Week, following the opening of the 75th United Nations General Assembly.

It was humbling to be recognized for my contributions in the media and culture space alongside greats such as Nigerian artist Burna Boy, American travel entrepreneur Cherae Robinson, the musician behind the global phenomenon Jerusalema Master KG and Miss Universe South Africa Zozi Tunzi.

What is the big picture i.e., where to from here?

Growing Travel Essence Magazine! Produced by my consultancy Narratives PR, Travel Essence Magazine was a personal call to action to support African brands and business owners in the continent's travel, tourism, lifestyle, and entertainment space; especially considering the impact of COVID-19. I wanted to create a dedicated platform that curates content on the beauty of Africa and her people. To have successfully launched the magazine during the peak of the global pandemic and border closures, and see it so well received by expat travellers and adventurers across Africa and the Middle East is exciting! We genuinely love the creative process, and every new Issue is something my team and I are thrilled to see come to life.

Beyond the magazine project, my goal is to be a voice for amplifying the African narrative, which is why I titled my business, Narratives PR. If it's a positive story about Africa and her people, I want to be counted as one of the media representatives that are doing their part in telling our stories our way. I believe it is time Africans and people of African descent played an active role in showcasing the vast wealth that our continent offers.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

Have faith, stay prayed up and believe in GOD's plan for you. Be authentic in your pursuits. Listen to your heart, build, and nurture healthy relationships because this life is indeed short. Work hard. Winning requires sacrifice, nothing good comes without a bit of fight and lots of heart. Also understand the principle of sowing and reaping. We get what we give out; so always be on the right side of giving and exercise resilience as you wait for the rewards.



ARTHUR GARANDE

Agriprenuer

Tell me about yourself and how you started your journey in farming?

I am a high school teacher in Harare who has seen great opportunities for farming in rural Zimbabwe. I started planning my farming journey in 2017 because of layman's market research. While waiting in the parking lot at my daughter's school a fruit vendor tried to sell me papaya at \$6 for a punnet that would barely exceed 1kg which seemed overpriced. This led me to actively look for papaya at Mbare and in the supermarkets. I made two observations, one, when available the papaya was expensive but overall, it was hard to find in the market. A little online research revealed that elsewhere in the world people have plantations where they grow papayas. Further research led to finding the many varieties of the same and their benefits. I then remembered that we once had three plants at our home as a youth and so I decided to grow some.

The next challenge was to negotiate with my family about the land. The first person to converse with was my wife who started off as my biggest critic but has turned out to be my biggest supporter, sometimes even challenging me to set higher goals than I believe are possible. Next to be engaged was my mother and siblings for the use of a small portion of land that would ordinarily be used for maize. Being a portion that is secure, this would be where the earliest maize crop would go so it was a long conversation but eventually, they agreed. When these conversations were sealed the journey began. I bought seeds, nursed them at the back of my house and then transported them to the rural farm and planted them on what would be prime family land.

I launched out starting with growing pawpaws but many more possibilities later opened up. Last year we grew papaya which we continue to grow. One of the big attractions with papaya for me was the high yield and return on investment. This in turn led to generally working with figures when deciding which crop to grow. In the 2020-2021 growing season our crops included sweet potato which we intercropped with the papaya. As the norm for almost all rural households, maize and peanuts continue to be part of our household. This year we are also planning to try out some winter crops since we now have a good irrigation system in place.

We have drilled a borehole on-site for supplementary irrigation and now that we have invested so much, we are increasing efficiency by intercropping. This will be our model going forward. The secret to successful farming is water and fencing so we plan to fence off more and more of the land available and drill an additional borehole to ensure we can keep expanding.

What are some of the challenges you have faced in your journey since starting?

After planting I faced so many criticisms from people who basically “knew” that there is no market for such a huge quantity of fruit. Sadly, the first year was not as successful as had been projected because 2018-2019 was a drought year and the winter did not help. The following season (2019-2020) was looking good and there we had a bumper harvest, but Covid-19 restrictions meant that marketing logistics required us to beat lockdown and curfew to get the product to the market. For market penetration during the lockdown, we used social media and it was not easy. Still, the returns made it possible to reinvest. The logistical challenges led to exploring value-addition through drying. It turns out dried papaya also has a huge potential on the local market.

We are still exploring other areas for value addition such as jams, juices, teas, and other pharmaceutical products.

Another challenge which we thought we had solved by replacing barbed wire fence with diamond mesh wire was that of thieves. Biosecurity is an issue we had thought of but not yet pursued. Sadly, during harvest, we found a well-trodden path into the field and upon following the path we saw that someone had actually opened a hole in the fence which they were using regularly to access our farm areas. Theft from neighbours remains one of the serious challenges for rural farming, especially for high-value crops like papaya or indeed any other fruits. As such, we continue to look for ways to tighten security.

What are some of the lessons you have learnt along the way?

I have learnt many lessons on the journey so far one being that farming requires knowledge. In the case of fruit production, you need information on varieties, suitability of soils and climate as well as pest and disease management and post-harvest processing. I learnt all these on the go which was very exciting. Having access to the internet and to various forums, I have also decided to be at the forefront to try out different fruit species and when I succeed, I lead others into it.

Another lesson is to treat farming as a business and thus do the necessary planning, growing and marketing using best practices. I have openly shared my experiences and this has led to one of the organisations I am part of, ZBIN (Zimbabwe Business Ideas Network), recognising me as a farmer of the year 2019-2020. I cannot quantify these but I have inspired many people with access to rural land to consider using it for commercial purposes rather than leaving it idle as was the case with many.

Capital is often cited as a challenge for most ventures. We started our venture with the minimal capital outlay and along the way discovered there was a need for a proper investment. Though we made some good returns, re-investing needed significant capital injection. But now, with a track record, it is easier to mobilise funds to improve an already successful operation.

What is the big picture, where to from here?

My plan is to populate all available fields with fruit trees. This is in the wake of realising that Zimbabwe imports the bulk of the fruit on its supermarket shelves, yet our land and climate are quite suitable for growing them locally. My aspiration is to help Zimbabwe in import substitution by growing as much fruit locally as we can. Already there are many who are venturing into it because of having contacted me and that is satisfying.

By profession, I am a teacher and my journey in agripreneurship has been a good mix of both teaching and learning. I was warned about divulging too much information before I have made the money but for me, the fun is precisely in sharing that information and those experiences.

Growing papaya has opened my thinking to the general questions of conservation so at my school I have started a Club for students where we plant trees and learn about the various indigenous species. We hope to distribute seedlings as widely as possible to raise awareness as well as to restore and conserve indigenous tree species.

Define yourself in one/two sentences

I am a man who has had the privilege of various restarts in terms of life values and outlook. Upon starting out in fruit production in this way, I feel I am at the beginning of another re-launch as a person. In many respects, this is the most exciting to date.



I am a spiritual person who believes in a God who is active in human lives and I am to be available to be used by that God.

Any special message/word of encouragement to the readers?

In my spiritual journey, I have learnt that fears and procrastination can kill ideas before they are even born. The secret is to begin and correct as you go. Any pre-planning if done is a bonus. Do not let your fears stop you from starting. Also, many people advise you to keep your plans to yourself until they have succeeded. I disagree. I believe in letting others know your plans so they will correct you if you are mistaken about one or two aspects and also, so you have someone to compare notes with should they decide to copy.



COVER STORY
MARILYN WHITE RADEBE
ICT Entrepreneur

Tell me about yourself and how you started your tech career?

I'm the Founder and CEO of Soma-Solutions Group of Companies where we offer digitally-driven solutions to SMMEs and large corporates. We also launched two new online platforms in 2021; Edu-Supply, a platform designed to help schools and parents save time and money when shopping for stationery; and SmartSaver, an online goal-based saving platform created to inspire communities to save and achieve their short-term and long-term financial goals. Through these platforms, Soma-Solutions also aims to showcase the power of technology, and how it allows us to break into any industry.

I hold a BCom (IS) Information Systems from the University of Cape Town and a Management Advancement Diploma from Wits Business School. Prior to starting Soma Solutions in 2008, I worked in various corporate organisations.

What inspired you to venture into the route of entrepreneurship?

My older brother used to work in the ICT industry so he often took me along with him to some of the conferences he would attend and introduce me to some of the IT professionals he was working with. So through him, I got exposed to the world of ICT at a young age, and that's when I knew that this is what I wanted to study. Although, in all of my experience, one thing that stood out for me was that most of the companies I came across were not female-owned. This inspired me to one day start my own ICT company and fill in the gap.

To be where I am, took a lot of hard work and sacrifices. It has not been an easy journey; I've experienced so many difficulties that would have propelled me to quit but because I believed in my dream of making an impact through my business, I kept going.

Every journey has its share of challenges; what were yours?

Balancing life as a mother and businesswoman can be quite challenging, but I always work hard to find my balance. Also being in a male-dominated industry, that in itself requires thick skin.

Any notable milestones/achievement you would like to share?

As an entrepreneur, every day is a milestone because there can be a lot of challenges. Some of the notable milestones were, this year when I launched these two new digital platforms (Edu-supply and SmartSaver), a space where I never thought I would play in but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we started exploring new ways to harness the power of digital, to make businesses more sustainable and Covid-proof.

I also received an award for Innovator Trust Top Women-Owned Achiever (April to June) in 2020 and I was selected as a finalist at the 17th Annual Standard Bank Top Women Awards 2020.

What is the big picture i.e., where to from here?

I would like to see Soma-Solutions grow and expand from where it is now, especially in the digital platform economy. This means, expanding our digital transformation business offering and catering to not only the South African landscape but also the international market.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

Don't be afraid to breathe life into your ideas. The ideas you have are more than just ideas; they are dreams waiting to be realized, they have the power to revolutionize industries. Of course, this involves a process of making mistakes and learning, but nothing beats the joy of seeing your dreams come to life and knowing you worked very hard to make that happen.



TUSTIRAI JENJE
Brand Building Coach

Tell me about yourself and what you do?

I am a passionate and experienced brand building coach whose mission is to help individuals successfully build and launch brands that sell!

What inspired you to pursue this particular path, and how much work did it take for you to get where you are now?

My brother, Pathias Maigurira, inspired me. We both loved art, and through the world of graphic designing, we were able to express our creativity working with various brands. The journey to where I am now has taken twelve years of preparation working in the advertising and marketing industry. I started as a Junior Designer and held various positions until I finally became Creative Director, a post I held for six years. Currently, I run my own business as an online course creator, providing training services on Brand Building. Additionally, I am the co-founder of Artworks Advertising, a marketing agency established in partnership with my brother.

What are some of the challenges you encountered along the way and did you ever feel like giving up? If so, what kept you going?

My first challenge was when I left Uni in 2009 (do not calculate my age ha ha ha) to get into the industry. I quickly discovered that there were very few women pursuing graphic design as a career. As a result, I was often the only female in the room, making me feel lonely at times. Also, working in a predominantly male environment meant I frequently had to prove myself and my capability. Despite the challenges, I never gave up nor succumbed to the pressures. My aspiration to one day impact the lives of fellow Africans through my work kept me going.

I believe that Africa is rich in ideas; I am therefore on a mission to help companies and individuals tell their story through beautifully designed graphics and well-written content that speaks to clients.

Any notable milestones/achievement you would like to share?

In 2010 I represented Zimbabwe and Africa at the Safe Spaces Conference held in Doha, Qatar. The event reached out to graphic designers from across the world to create impactful graphics encouraging the provision of shelter for every child.

Last year I was awarded the 2020 Activation Freedom Award from The American Association of Female Entrepreneurs for outstanding business growth

What is the big picture, i.e., where to from here?

My goal is to be an inspiration and mentor to all desiring to step out of the ordinary and live a life that fully expresses their God-given gift.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

Don't give up! No matter how tough it gets, know that your future self is cheering you on. He/she is thanking you for every step you take, every good decision you make concerning your spiritual growth, relationships, career, finances, and every other area. In everything, remember that God created you in such a unique way that there is no one else like you. You have ideas that Africa needs to progress to the next level, so do not hold back!

Interesting Fact about you: I love and am good at singing. I also impersonate people for fun.



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ABOUT CLOUD VISION

Cloud Vision is a branding and advertising company that provides quality and reliable products and services. Our aim is to focus on client needs and a dedicated client service team is available to help you throughout the development and building of your brand.

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Tell me about yourself i.e., line of work, education, and career?

I am an academic, specialising in Manufacturing and Materials Technology. I obtained my PhD in Industrial Engineering from Stellenbosch University, focusing on improving the mechanical and form accuracy of 3D-printed metal parts. The need to manufacture products timeously, and with minimum waste, gave birth to an advanced manufacturing technology called additive manufacturing, also popularly referred to as 3D printing. Additive manufacturing, a process in which 3-dimensional objects are built layer by layer, allows for the design and manufacturing of complex geometries. However, the technology is severely hampered by the occurrence of residual stresses that compromise the strength, dimensional and form/shape accuracy of finished parts. My active research area, therefore, is in the development of strategies that minimise these stresses in order to enhance the in-service performance of finished components.

What inspired you to pursue an academic career path and what did it take for you to get where you are now?

My undergraduate final year advanced manufacturing technology module inspired me to look more into additive manufacturing and manufacturing processes in general. I knew pursuing postgraduate studies in these areas would solidify my knowledge, and, hopefully, result in a useful contribution to academia, manufacturing and humanity in general. The journey that moulded me was long, tiring, sometimes extremely lonely and often required foregoing luxuries normally enjoyed on a daily basis.

What is the big picture i.e., where to from here?

I'd like to contribute more to the field of advanced manufacturing and bring our continent up to speed with the traditional pace-setters.



DR LAMECK MUGWAGWA
Postdoctoral fellow

The idea is to be the 'best FOR my country, FOR my continent" through training, meaningful research, and innovation.

Every journey has its share of challenges; what were yours? Did you ever feel like giving up? If so, what kept you going?

I wanted to give up at the proposal stage of my PhD studies. That was the first time I asked myself: "Is it really worth it?". The bar for PhD was obviously very high, and I thought my mentors' expectations at the time were unbearable, almost ridiculous. To make it worse, I had to be in a foreign land, away from my wife and son for my entire first year. But somehow that gave me more determination, and my family kept me going. I was not going to accept going to hunt and returning empty-handed.

Any notable milestones/achievement you would like to share?

Attainment of PhD (Industrial Engineering – April 2019). I have also published my research in high ranking journals and conference proceedings. Furthermore, I have contributed significantly to the training of engineering professional at various levels both in Zimbabwe and South Africa over the years.



YEMURAYI CHINYANDE
Fintech Specialist

Tell me about yourself i.e., line of work, education, and career?

I am a Fintech Specialist, a software engineer by profession (BSc Computer Science, MSc Information Systems & MBA Global Finance). I develop and grow products that make digital financial services easy to access, easy to use and more affordable so that customers earn, make, grow, and spend their money with ease. Alongside this, I mentor and equip up and coming women in tech for thriving tech careers, through The Tech Career Masterclass.

What inspired you to choose a career in Fintech and how much work did it take for you to get where you are now?

I always like to share how my career in tech started off as what I thought was a huge "blunder." I had applied for a different program at University but to my demise was given Computer Science. In spite of my excellent high school grades and all my effort to negotiate a change of programs, they just would not allow it at the time. For a couple of years, I felt lost with no clue where this was taking me. However, one thing I have always committed to, in life, is applying myself wholly and practising excellence in what I do. Through this and God's grace, I found myself loving tech and its impact on the world, especially the world I was seeing around me.

I interned at a Bank, and seeing the impact of the work I did, on the thousands of customers we served, made me feel I was in the right place. I have worked on products that serve not just the entire country, but for some products, continental regions. Tech presents so many opportunities for improving the livelihoods of people, more so in emerging markets. Today, I am privileged to help build products that drive financial inclusion across the African continent, contributing to SDG 9 and consequentially SDG 1. I believe a financially empowered society is a progressing society and getting to help move this needle forward is an honour.

What challenges did you face on your path to where you are now and did you ever feel like giving up? If so, what kept you going?

The main challenge I faced earlier in my career was struggling to define my career path. Unlike other career paths that have tried and tested routes, for example, the road to becoming a Chartered Account, General Doctor or Pilot, the tech space is so broad and continuously evolving, new roles emerge every day, from Technical Writers to Quantam Machine Learning Engineers, Scrum Masters, Tech Lawyers, Gaming Program Managers, Cloud Architects, Professional Gamers, Ethical Hackers, Data Scientists, Art Directors, CTOs, CIOs (and yes it could be a Chief Information Officer or Chief Innovations Officer or Chief Intelligence Officer), CPO (Chief Product Officer), CSO Chief Security Officer. I could spend the whole day, most of which did not exist, or I was unaware of when I first studied Computer Science.

How I managed and my encouragement to those starting out in their tech careers is, Read Read Read, Network Network Network. That is how you discover what is out there and eventually find your place. Read books, read the news, subscribe to tech magazines (TechCrunch, Wired, TechZim etc.), effectively use LinkedIn, (if you don't know how visit techcareermasterclass.com). I made it through reading, networking, and committing to excelling where I was, even though I did not know what the future held and by being patient. When you excel where you are, doors open ahead.

Any notable milestones/achievement you would like to share?

Most recent – Mentor of the Year 2020 Finalist | WomenTech Global

What is the big picture i.e., where to from here?

I am passionate about developing and managing Digital Financial Services within Africa, leaving that space miles ahead from the time I started. There are so many opportunities to serve and impact our world and only one finite lifetime to do so. Alongside this, I will continue providing mentorship to up and coming women in tech and promoting diversity in the workplace.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

My encouragement goes out to young women who are starting off in their tech careers,

1. Always thrive to get better, in your technical & soft skills
2. Read, read, read! Readers are leaders
3. If you want to grow faster, find a mentor/coach, invest in yourself, at times it will take money to make 'the' money.

You are capable of anything if you put your mind to it. Fight for and protect your dreams and goals. Remember, the only way to predict your future is to create it. With God, nothing is impossible.

One/two interesting facts about you

I love reading, writing & jigsaw puzzles.

"I believe a financially empowered society is a progressing society and getting to help move this needle forward is an honour."





EDWARD ASARE
Digital Marketing & Media Expert

Edward Asare is a multiple award-winning Ghanaian born, digital marketing/media expert and influencer passionate about helping individuals, brands and businesses communicate their value and build their online presence. He helps brands communicate with their target audience by leveraging effective digital media and communication strategies that increase brand awareness, visibility, and engagement.

Among his achievements, Edward was awarded the Digital Influencer of the Year 2020 at the Youth Excellence Awards, Ghana and received a nomination for Youth Blogger of the Year and Digital Marketer of the Year. Recently he was appointed as a Board Member and Marketing Committee Chair of Educational Communities Worldwide, a non-profit aimed at providing quality education through training and providing developmental opportunities for students across the globe. He is also a speaker who has presented at various seminars and events across Ghana.

Over the span of his five-year career, he has worked with several leading brands and businesses both locally and internationally. These include Stanbic Bank, Credence Microcredit, Peduase Valley Resort, Ankobra Beach Resort, Step Up Business School, among others. Currently, Asare is the Social Media Manager of YEN.com.gh, one of Ghana's leading digital entertainment and news platform. In this role, he is responsible for directing all the company's digital marketing efforts. Prior to joining YEN.com.gh, he held the same position at TV3, Ghana.

With competencies that span across several specialties namely, digital marketing, public relations, brand communications, project management, copywriting and blogging to name a few; Edward has established himself as an expert in his field. This positions him as a well sought after thought leader on a global and national front.



Edward is constantly looking for ways to drive business growth through digital marketing, branding, and communication strategies that increase the bottom line whilst also making a positive impact on the community. He is passionate about personal development, education, innovation, and youth development. He uses his website www.edwardasare.com and social media platforms to spotlight young millennials, thought leaders and industry experts making a difference in their communities. His goal is to inspire both the young and old through sharing valuable knowledge and information with his ever-growing database of followers.

Asare holds a degree in Economics with Information Studies from the University of Ghana and like many his journey started with its own fair of challenges. He faced serious unemployment issues upon completing his studies, however, through investing in networking and learning new skills he was eventually able to overcome and build a career for himself.

DO YOU HAVE A STORY THAT INSPIRES, MOTIVATES AND ENCOURAGES?

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VISIT: <https://gracemavunga.com/get-featured/>

EMAIL: admin@gracemavunga.com

Tell me about yourself, i.e., line of work, education, and career?

I am a lecturer in accounting and finance, currently based in the United Kingdom who is passionate about knowledge sharing and knowledge transfer. I have more than 4 years of teaching in UK higher education. My interest research interests span all the areas of finance (asset pricing, corporate finance, corporate governance and macro-finance) and also include other elements in development finance, in particular SME financing, microfinance and financial inclusion. However, prior to a career in education, I worked in a central bank, first as an economist and later as a bank examiner.

My academic qualifications include the following: Bcom in Banking (Hons) degree from NUST, MSc in Finance and PhD in Finance from the University of Manchester, Postgraduate certificate in Higher education from Coventry University (PgCert). I also hold other professional qualifications and designations which include the Financial Risk Manager (FRM) certification, FHEA certification, Associate of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments accreditation, and currently, I have partially completed the CFA programme.

What inspired you to pursue you to switch from a career in banking to academics and how much work did it take for you to get where you are now?

My career started in banking, first as an intern at an asset management company and then later as an intern at a central bank in the economics department. Upon the completion of my internship, I was later employed by the bank as an economist, a role I held for almost 2 years before moving on to the bank supervision department where I assumed the role of bank examiner. After a six-year stint in central banking, I left the bank for further education. It was during my time as a PhD student at the University of Manchester where I also served as



DR TINASHE BVIRINDI, PHD.
FRM. ACISI. FHEA.
Lecturer

a part-time teaching assistant (associate lecturer), that I started to consider a career in higher education. At a deeper level, academia provided me with an opportunity to work on research projects that I had an interest in, to actively participate in knowledge production and knowledge transfer as well as to meaningfully contribute to society. These experiences allowed me to fulfil some higher-order needs and naturally drew me towards higher education. So I believe my transition into higher education was more of a natural progression, partially driven by changes in circumstances and later shaped by experiences in the field of higher education, than a need to cure an internal itch or inspiration.

My journey into higher education has been long and arduous, needing a lot of hard work, sacrifice and dedication. Taking this path has been hard, mostly because it meant sacrificing another career that had great promise, and leaving my home country and all I had known to set up a new life in a new country.

However, the journey has been enriching and has allowed me to meet new people, establish new relationships, forge new alliances, and most of all, a fortuitous self-discovery. I must say that I have not taken this journey alone. I have had a supportive network of people that consistently encouraged me to keep pushing and pursuing my goals, helped nurture my mind, shielded me from the mental health breakdowns that are often experienced by a number of PhD students. To get to where I am I have benefited from the help of both friends and strangers, the timely intervention of the heavens, and a bit of hard work.

Every journey has its share of challenges; what were yours? Did you ever feel like giving up? If so, what kept you going?

As is common with a number of kids that are not born into privilege, one of my main challenges was that of finance, particularly for my higher education. However, I managed to obtain a number of scholarships that allowed me to pursue higher education. I am a beneficiary of the Chevening Scholarship and the University of Manchester President's Doctoral Scholars Award. These two scholarships opened the doors for me.

Apart from the common challenges of funding, other problems associated with moving to a foreign country and leaving one's home were binding constraints. There were times I felt like giving up due to life-changing situations that competed for my resources, time, and energy. The hardest challenges included weighing trade-offs associated with quitting higher education to try and bridge some of life's immediate and short term needs and the uncertain long-term benefits of higher education. This meant giving up other opportunities, missing out on key life events, giving up on relationships, losing friends among other things.

What kept me going was a consciousness of my circumstances and the fact that I wanted to create a better life for my family and myself. Chief among those was a desire to give my children the opportunities that I did not have access to growing up.

Any notable milestones/achievement you would like to share?

Some of my notable achievements include:

- Completion of my PhD in Finance, and other professional qualifications.

Receiving awards such as:

- British Chevening scholarship award,
- University of Manchester President's Doctoral Scholars award,
- Mefmi Fellows award, and

Being made the University of Manchester President's Doctoral Scholars ambassador.

In addition to the above, I have also completed a number of other projects such as the development of a Fraud Risk Assessment course with the UK Cabinet Office and City of London Police. As well as help the university obtain test centre accreditation with a number of professional bodies.

What is the big picture, i.e., where to from here?

In future, my desire is to help students from underprivileged backgrounds who have constrained access to education.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

Chase after knowledge and education because they provide you with a path to rise above your circumstances and to grow.



TANAKA I. TAVA
Media Entrepreneur

Tell me about yourself i.e., line of work, education, and career?

I am a first-generation Zimbabwean-American. My family emigrated to the United States in 1997 and I was born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1999. I am a final year student at Baylor University studying Theatre Arts & Entrepreneurship. My purpose is to be a servant of Yahweh and demonstrates the gospel. In a practical sense, I am a media entrepreneur utilizing public speaking, podcasting, acting, and writing to inspire people to do more and be more. I started Tava Multimedia Group – an internet production company dedicated to creating inspirational and engaging content for those who want to move into action. I am also the Co-Founder and Chief Information Officer for Vidello, LLC. Vidello is an upcoming social network dedicated to blending search and social like never before; using technology to heal, bridge the gap and live again.

What inspired you to choose this path and line of work?

As you can see from my line of work, I am all about inspiring and connecting people. I realized that my purpose is to be a connector of ideas, lives and how we operate. I am only 22 years old, and I started Tava Multimedia Group in response to not being able to get hired at the companies I applied which include Google, Netflix, HBO, Facebook, Instagram, NBC, BBC, Warner Bros, Viacom, Nike, Twitter, Puma, Adidas. I had no choice, but to create my own hustle to launch my desired career. It was a moment of hardship and desperation so I opened my laptop and started working on what I know I could control. It's been a highly demanding journey and I still have a long way to go till I reach my desired destination.

I faced many challenges along the way such as being constantly rejected, disqualified because of age, and not having the opportunity or space to actually create at a high level.

Any notable milestones/achievement you would like to share?

Yes, I have been blessed with the honour to speak at a TED Conference (TEDxCSUF) presenting “The Highlight Effect” in February 2021. I also had my podcast Campus Cuts reach over 700,000 downloads this past year.

TED Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDF7GZ7L-Go>

So, what's next for you as you continue your journey?

The big picture is to always inspire. All I want to do is be three things and I currently am doing it. Being an entrepreneur, artist and steward (pastor – one day). To inspire people and let them know that you can use the vehicle of media and entertainment to minister to people.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

The best thing that any aspiring creator can do is to go all-in on your dream. No one can beat you at being yourself. If you can be yourself and not worry about the competition you already won. Most people in life are too busy trying to be someone else and the market exposes that. So be yourself, go all in and don't give up.

My purpose is to be a servant of Yahweh and demonstrates the gospel. In a practical sense, I am a media entrepreneur utilizing public speaking, podcasting, acting, and writing to inspire



CHRISTINE MUDAVANHU

Real Estate Professional

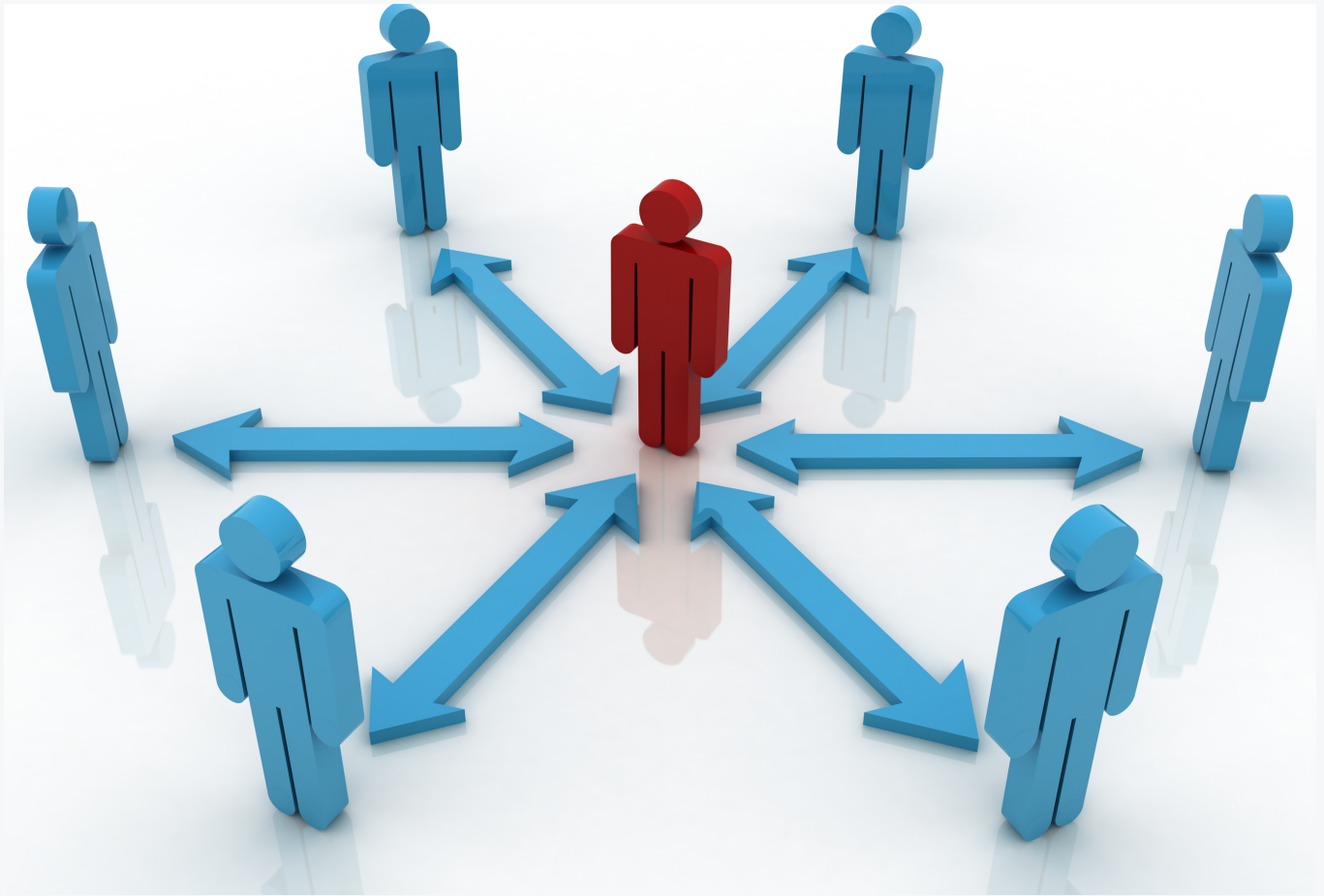
I am a real estate mogul in the making, wife and mother. I studied marketing with the Chartered Institute of Marketers in Zimbabwe and completed my post-grad in South Africa with Rissik Business School. My goal at the time was to one day open an advertising Agency, but God had a better plan for me. Soon after, I applied for my first job at Mac Homes Real Estate, intending to test the waters in the real estate space, and fell in love with it. Property has become my speciality and I predominantly sell properties in the Northern suburbs of Harare. My role is to manage client portfolios and help them grow by identifying suitable investments that give a good return.

Thus far, my marketing studies have proved to be an asset when it comes to navigating the industry and identifying new potential leads.

I have been in the industry for over a decade, and I am motivated by success; that is ensuring the closure of every sale while helping people find their ideal property of choice. The market in Zimbabwe is constantly changing because of the continuous shift in the political and economic environment. To stay ahead of the game, one must adjust and adapt to these changes through constant learning and studying of the market trends. The situation right now is a buyers market which means, buyers have greater bargaining power over suppliers. However, as an agent, my goal is always to deliver a win-win scenario for both parties. Striking that balance has proved to be essential when it comes to thriving in this space. Experience has also taught me the value of developing and maintaining good relationships with all stakeholders because, in business, it is easier to keep an existing customer than to acquire a new one. When customers are happy and satisfied with your service, they are more likely to refer more business your way. Word of mouth from happy clients has definitely brought a lot of business my way.

To be successful in life, I believe you need to have mentors; people who have walked the same path before you who can help you avoid repeating the same mistakes they made. Such people will also stretch your knowledge as long as you are a willing student. My mentors have taught me a lot from both a personal and career perspective; they continue to push me to aim higher and dream big. At the moment, I am working on acquiring my real estate license via Reiz, and my vision is to eventually expand and be one of the leading women in property development.

People Centered Leadership



To be a leader means you have people looking up to you for direction and guidance. Therefore having a heart for those very people is what defines exceptional leadership (in my books anyway).

There is no leadership without people to lead, just as there is no head without the body. At the end of the day, history remembers not what a leader achieved for own benefit but how his/her action impacted the lives of those under his/her authority.

As a leader always ask yourself this: How can I be of service to those I lead? Can I teach, mentor, equip, direct, demonstrate, motivate, inspire or compliment?

You might be a CEO with a hundred workers beneath you, but you can still serve a janitor by simply greeting them by name and appreciating the role they play in your organisation. Simple acts of kindness that can touch lives.

Where your heart is there your treasure is. Its difficult to be unjust to people whom you lead with a heart of service. Lastly remember that 'Loyalty is birthed from Service.'



FARAI MUTIWANYUKA

Social Entrepreneur & Digital Transformation Architect

Tell me about yourself and your career?

I am an award-winning business leader, digital transformation strategist, corporate and personal brand building advisor and thought-provoking writer. I have over 18 years of experience developing award-winning marketing strategies (digital, eCommerce, branding, public relations) for various Fortune 500 and global brands to expand market territories and stimulate revenue growth while positively impacting businesses and communities across the African continent.

I have extensive expertise in building and maintaining strong business relationships in the B-2-C, B-2-B and B-2-G environment across a number of African countries, in various industries such as Insurance, FMCG, IT and Digital, Entertainment/Broadcasting, Travel Risk Mitigation and NGO. In my corporate leadership roles, I built a knack for launching and leading efficient and cost-effective IMC strategies and public relations campaigns with proven brand growth and strengthening of organisation brand reputation, across the African continent.

Based in Johannesburg, I own one of the fastest-growing digital marketing and online reputation agencies in Africa, called Sprouting Tree Group with a client base in London, Atlanta, Lagos and Johannesburg. As the Chief Digital Transformation Architect for the group, I lead the design, building and implementation of digital transformation strategies for the group. I help organisations, brands and solo-preneurs to define and deliver digital transformation journeys, by connecting the power of new digital economies and technologies, through a collaborative and relationship-based approach.

Working with business founders, CEO's and board members, the agency's main thrust is to design and deliver smart, sustainable, innovative digital automation and transformation models, frameworks and implementation strategies for our key global clients conducting business across Africa. We also help SMME's and entrepreneurs to digitise and automate their businesses.

Secondly, through activities such as business coaching, mentoring, LinkedIn profile rebranding, delivering transformative digital and branding workshops, the agency also helps professional and entrepreneurial women across Africa, to increase their visibility at work or in their business so that they can get clients, speaking gigs and media features. With the now limited physical networking interactions, the aim is to build a powerful online presence for its clients. I help to bring out the smart, confident woman in you!

I am a writer and occasionally get invited to moderate or speak at various global platforms on topics relating to digital automation and transformation, and in my capacity as Founder of *Destiny With Purpose*, on various motivational topics for women including my experiences as an entrepreneur.

I currently serve as an international Board Member for the Bologna Support Foundation, based in Italy. The foundation is a unique international non-profit organisation committed to fundraising to support rural children under the age of sixteen suffering from dire medical conditions that require urgent life-altering surgical operations. Rural African populations face a wide range of health care issues rooted in social, economic, and political determinants.

I am a member of the Marketing Association of South Africa (MASA), and currently pursuing an MBA in strategic digital management. I hold a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Informatics and Business Management, a Post Grad Diploma in Digital Marketing, a Certification in French language studies and completed a Professional Management Development programme at GIBS, where I graduated with an award for the Best ALP (Thesis Project) in 2016.

At what point did you decide to venture into entrepreneurship and how has been the journey thus far?

The entrepreneurial road has been paved with tears, courage, ups and downs, which have helped to strengthen my resolve. My journey to where I am now was simply by staying focused and putting in the hard work.

My line of work and leap into the entrepreneurial world was inspired by two things:

One my passion for all things technology. I describe myself as a digital junkie with a high “figure-it-out” quotient. I have personally seen how digital technology has led to the growth of African SMME’s and ultimately contributed positively to economies. The importance of innovating in these times of acceleration and digital transformation cannot be articulated enough, innovation or innovative thinking is no longer a prerogative for big organisations, it’s a priority for ALL businesses, the day and age we live in is driven by constant change and as such businesses must innovate not just technically but also in the way they do business.

Secondly, I consider myself a social entrepreneur, it is my purpose and calling. The deck is stacked against black women in tech and I want to be part of the solution. Women remain under-represented in emerging tech, but more so are black women. The systemic foundation of how women are perceived and how power is defined is being challenged. However, there is still a bit of an existential crisis, the world we live in doesn’t prepare us for black women to take leaps, to be risky, to be ambitious, to dream big, to take the path towards a bigger vision in our lives. As such I want to use my technological know-how and digital expertise to help leverage technology to bring critical solutions to under-served communities.

In so doing to demonstrate possibility in the seemingly impossible, that being an African woman means that I am smart enough, strong enough, beautiful enough and simply more than enough and can achieve anything I put my mind to. Failing and re-building, low self-esteem and confidence are issues I am all too familiar with and through my courage and successes, I seek to encourage and motivate other women to find the confidence and clarity they need to grow. Also, to help women entrepreneurs who are ready to stop getting stuck and overwhelmed on the tech stuff and start focusing on their zone of genius to build a thriving business doing what they do best.

When did you embark on the entrepreneurial route and what inspired the move?

The corporate world was a natural progression from university, you see back then entrepreneurship was never presented or seen as a career option. I spent the first part of my 18 years very happy as I was doing what I loved at the time, but soon the entrepreneurial bug which I believe I inherited from my parents, began to bite, and I knew I had to answer the call, but fear of the unknown, knocked-up self-esteem and the safety net of a monthly salary held me back. My courage came simply from God. For His word says “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”. You see when God calls you for something, He equips you. He will never give you a project that He Himself doesn’t “fund”. I didn’t just come to this realisation though, in an instant, it came through many days and nights of prayer and seeking God’s wisdom and direction.

The now looks pretty blessed! I have never been this happy, and mind you happy does not mean I don’t have challenges, I do. It just means my mindset is different. I believe in myself more, I have rebuilt my shattered self-esteem and found myself again.

I am confident in who I am in Christ and I am in a place where, because I trust Him, I have peace that surpasses all understanding.

Your story is inspiring, what are some of the notable achievements you have had thus far?

I have garnered several personal and career awards such as The National Advertising Awards – Best Radio Advert (Heinz baked beans) and The Hospitality Awards – Top Supplier (Heinz), an award for the Best ALP (Thesis Project) in 2016, among others.

So where to from here?

I am extremely passionate about the growth of Africa, our continent remains the only one whose digital gender gap has widened since 2013. Meeting the vision of digital transformation across the African continent, where women are leaders in innovation, tech and industry is still a long way from being realised. This is the time for black female entrepreneurs to re-think their business strategy and offerings so that their business models are agile enough to adapt to the digital transformation and the business landscape post-covid-19. Bearing in mind that empowered women make significant contributions to leadership, job creation, economic growth and poverty alleviation around the world. Essentially, when women are self-sufficient there’s a ripple positive effect on health, education and economies because of their purchasing power.

Sprouting Tree Group is working on projects to develop a coordinated strategy in ensuring the inclusion of females in the continent’s digital transformation agenda, to contribute towards triggering a new wave of innovation from women in digital.

Secondly, our business is not just about transforming our clients' businesses physically; it is about convincing and transforming our clients and prospects' mindsets about the fact that digital is the future, and that it is the only way to future-proof their brands and position them for growth and expansion. As a result, more frequently than not, we find ourselves crossing over into the change management space, a space that I have worked in, I have experience in, but I am not a true expert in. So that's a challenge for us as a business and we are in the process of implementing a change management component to our services.

What's your advice to others reading your story?

I would like to give some encouragement to that someone who is double-minded about taking that leap into entrepreneurship especially in such uncertain times. Let nothing stop or hinder you because certain lives are tied to the fulfilment of your purpose. Go all out on your purpose, be unapologetic about it and if you haven't found it yet, make it your purpose to find your purpose!

FACT: The right time is not in the future; the right time is and always will be NOW.

You are your own money-maker, only YOU have the power to shape your future.

The last thing you want to do is live with regrets, you are here NOW so JUST DO IT... and ask questions later!

Interesting Facts about you

In response to the challenges many have faced (in various spheres of life and business) because of this pandemic, I host a weekly podcast called The Purpose Cafe. Our current challenge has truly cemented in me even more that one can no longer get frivolous about life, that purpose is and will play a big part in how we get through it.



Born out of the need to inspire a modicum of normalcy, to bring hope, instil or re-instil a sense of purpose, and hopefully inspire many with my guests and topics around purpose, by analysing life issues and pulling out inferences as lessons learnt in real-time. Each week guests give us a peek into their purpose-driven lives through candid conversations and authentic dialogue, as they discuss everything from the best lessons they've learnt, how they apply Godly and African values such as love and ubuntu, in their everyday life, African proverbs to Africans who have inspired them and everything in between.

Secondly, My first love is music! Music in any form... I absolutely love to sing, I am currently learning how to play the guitar, and although my career has not led me in that direction, I STILL have dreams of one day holding that Grammy (wink, wink).



MATHAPELO PITSE
Entrepreneur

Tell me about yourself and what you do?

My name is Mathapelo Pitse, Founder & CEO of J'adore D'amour a luxury women's shoe brand. J'adore was established in 2017 for audacious women who love to consistently step in style & conquer the world in timeless & trendy heels.

I have 13 years of corporate & luxury retail experience, with an entrepreneurial passion for the fashion footwear industry. My hope through J'adore is to pave the way for female excellence in the footwear industry, one stiletto at a time.

What inspired you to be an entrepreneur and launch your own shoe line?

The need or urge to live a fully authentic and happy life. Following my passion and having a feeling of being content with my life. I started my journey after realizing that many women admired my taste in shoes, and I saw an opportunity to make a business out of it.



Every journey has its share of challenges; what were yours?

Learning to be resourceful to fund my business was a challenge, especially without tertiary education. I had to rely on my passion and creativity to sell the vision to the masses no matter how small it was.

Any notable milestones you would like to share?

I am super excited that my brand now has a team of five women who are supporting me to build and grow the vision. Together we have successfully rebranded the way we visioned the brand should be and keep evolving for the better.

What is the big picture i.e., where to from here?

I am looking forward to the growth of my business particularly in these challenging times, as well as going into other business ventures which I am currently researching. My long-term goal is to venture into projects that feed my happiness and creative aspirations.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

I would like to encourage visionaries to be brave and start their businesses. Begin at a small scale and grow, slowly it will pay off in the long run. Build brands with a purpose, bigger than the owner's vision, which encourages sustainability and giving back to their communities.

Interesting facts about you: I love dogs and I am an avid traveller.



MELLISA MUNGONI
Fashion Designer

Tell me about yourself, i.e., line of work, education, and career?

I am a twenty-four-year-old fashion designer and co-founder of La Couture-MM, which specialises in making custom-designed clothes. I am an electrical engineering graduate and recently started pursuing my master's degree. I am also a poet and freelance writer, running a blog called justthosocerebrumhiccupmoments. On the blog, I share my 'cerebrum hiccup moments' (thoughts and life lessons). I love encouraging and inspiring people through my words.

What inspired you to venture into fashion designing and, how much work did it take for you to get where you are now?

I guess it's safe to say I stumbled upon the world of fashion designing. It was some years back when I saw a dress that I wanted for my birthday; however, at the time, I did not have the money to buy it. So, I took a picture and decided to DIY the dress. I shared some photos with friends and family, who gave me a lot of positive feedback and, that is how my journey started. Soon after I, realised that being in a Muslim country meant that most of the fashion, whilst lovely, did not incorporate some of the styles found back home in Zimbabwe. Together with my partner, we decided to take advantage of this niche and have not looked back since then. I have always prided myself as someone who, once I set my mind on, something; I push until I get the desired results. While we still have a long way to go, I am proud of what we have managed to accomplish thus far.

Did you ever feel like giving up?

Yes, there have been times I have felt like throwing in the ropes. Some days, balancing schoolwork and meeting client deadlines has sometimes been a hurdle for my business partner and myself.

However, planning helps us maintain that balance, and if need be, we communicate to clients when we encounter any delays so that we keep them informed.

Another big challenge is our market in Algeria is somewhat limited, it being a Muslim-Arabic country and issues like cultural differences and language barriers are at play. This makes it difficult for us to market to the locals and leaves us with a limited market. To overcome this, we also advertise our products online, using various platforms and, this has helped us get several clients beyond the Algerian borders. Although shipping remains a hurdle as it is often expensive depending on the destination.

What is the big picture, i.e. where to from here?

The goal is to expand our brand back home and be established as a well-known fashion house that gives our clients outfits tailor-made to match their unique style and personality. Beyond that, my partner and I would also like to establish a fashion academy to teach design and tailoring. I believe we have many talented designers in Zimbabwe, who only need a platform to promote and grow their talent. Therefore, in the future, one of our goals as La Couture-MM is to provide this kind of platform for other fellow designers and help support the fashion industry in Zimbabwe.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

Believe in everything you put your mind to do. Be on the lookout for spaces you can fill and have an entrepreneurial mindset that identifies problems and comes up with solutions. Be eager to learn and experience new things for often in them we meet purpose and passion. Above all, let God be your guide and put your trust in Him always. I love God and love speaking about Him to everyone really, He never disappoints.



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CHESTER MAKWANYA

Entrepreneur

Chester Makwanya is an astute entrepreneur who has been an all-rounder in business, establishing several start-ups. He is the owner of a travel and tours firm, Makchester Tours and Travel, based in UAE. Makwanya additionally sits as the Board Chairman and Director of Generational Legacy Investments, a consortium he co-founded that is also based in the Middle East. Recently he added farming onto his ever-growing business portfolio as he continues his quest to build transgenerational wealth.

An experienced and calculated risk-taker passionate about entrepreneurship, investments, and personal development; Makwanya has built a reputation for developing winning business strategies, incubating new business models, and building out channel programs geared towards business growth. This persistent drive for entrepreneurship makes him one of the top-ranked influential people amongst the Zimbabwean community in the UAE.

He has built a reputation for developing winning business strategies, incubating new business models, and building out channel programs geared towards business growth.

In addition to the many hats he wears, Makwanya is in addition a passionate philanthropist at heart. In 2019 he was part of a UAE based group of entrepreneurs that provided financial and logistical support to Cyclone Idai victims in the eastern region of Zimbabwe. Through his companies and influence, he furthermore provides basic commodities and tuition fees to several underprivileged families in Zimbabwe and the UAE. Makwanya also sits as the vice-chairperson of the African Christian Business Fellowship, Abu Dhabi; a Christian board that assists new expatriates to settle in the UAE.

Born and raised in Zimbabwe, his entrepreneurship journey began at the tender age of nine when he started participating in fundraising activities for Jairos Jiri Children Home. Upon completing high school, he went on to work for the City of Harare before relocating to South Africa in 2008. During his tenure at City-of-Harare; he sold hardware materials to various companies as a side hustle. In South Africa, he continued his entrepreneurship journey, supplying electrical gadgets locally and importing to Zimbabwe while also holding down a fulltime job. Today, after almost a decade in the UAE, he is a strong advocate for entrepreneurship initiatives amongst the expatriate community and provides mentoring and financial support to many young entrepreneurs.



DR LINDLEEN R. MUGWAGA
Postdoctoral fellow, Stellenbosch University

Tell me about yourself?

I am a PhD graduate and researcher in the field of Chemical Engineering. My research focus is on the development of processes for recovering value-added products from agricultural waste and utilising these products to develop active food packaging material. In this context active food packaging is a material capable of releasing antioxidants into packaged food in response to changes in food storage conditions in a bid to minimise agents responsible for food spoilage, thereby, increasing food shelf life. In other words, biodegradable eco-friendly packaging that has the ability to increase food shelf life.

The academic field has always been an area of passion for me; so soon after completion of my undergrad degree in Chemical Engineering, I pursued a Master's in Manufacturing Systems and Operations Management. I suppose some may say I have always been a bookworm.

What inspired you to pursue a Phd and how much work did it take for you to get where you are now?

During my undergrad studies, I undertook research and design projects that fascinated me to the point of inspiring me to delve more into areas of scientific research and innovation. I specifically enjoyed reading new articles and formulating my own research. Although a career in industry was more appealing soon after college, I felt that furthering my studies and establishing myself as an academic expert in the field was something I needed to pursue first. This was the beginning of a long journey punctuated with many sleepless nights, little social life, a lot of hard work and perseverance.

Every journey has its share of challenges; what were yours? Did you ever feel like giving up? If so, what kept you going?

The major challenge I faced was balancing my research work and family life considering my two other permanent roles as a wife and mother. Despite the challenges, I made time for my family and also took a few personal moments to refresh and relax. At times I felt overwhelmed, but I thank God for the strong support system I have; my husband and kids being at the top of the list.

In comparison to my previous studies, my PhD research was more demanding and it consumed a significant amount of my time. I had to sacrifice a lot of things so I could put in the hours, in the end, my efforts paid off. Sometimes we must inconvenience ourselves a little so that we can realise greater rewards in the future.

Any notable milestones that you would like to share?

My greatest achievement to date is probably successfully accomplishing my PhD. This is a milestone that I know my late parents would have been so proud of, knowing how much my parents valued education.



Dr Lameck and Lindleen Mugwagwa

I have also managed to publish a book chapter and five research articles in high-ranking journals.

What is the big picture i.e., where to from here?

My goal is to continue contributing to research in the field of Chemical Engineering; in particular, biowaste biorefinery and the development of renewable and biodegradable food packaging material. I also wish to use my knowledge to support the industry.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

My advice to others is that you are the master of your own destiny and you can achieve anything if you put your mind to it.

An interesting fact about you

One thing about me is I don't give up even when there is a small chance of excelling. That small chance is mine, I grab it and run.

Do not despise what you know, what you have and who you are. Instead use it to figure out your purpose in life; noone else can do this for you. The best others can do is cheer you on from the sidelines.

Grace Mavunga



DJ MOX
Radio DJ and Presenter

Tell me about yourself and what you do?

I am a radio DJ and presenter on one of Zimbabwe's leading radio stations, Star FM. I started off my career in the media fraternity as a voice artist, then a tv presenter with the national broadcaster prior to joining Star FM in 2012.

What inspired you to pursue a career in media and entertainment and how much work did it take for you to get where you are now?

I was actually discovered, to be honest, and built my career from there. I cannot say by who yet, but I am forever grateful for the opportunity they gave me. To be where I am right now, took a lot of work and guidance from mentors who had been in the game for much longer. These include the likes of Innocent Tshuma, Tich Mataz, Leander Kandiero and Admire Taderera.

Every journey has its share of challenges; what were yours? Did you ever feel like giving up? If so, what kept you going?

I experienced personal loss and that was my greatest challenge. There were hard days and less hectic ones. What kept me on track much of the time was a great support system from my family, Church, mentors, friends, and my supportive workmates.

Any notable milestones/achievement you would like to share?

Being part of Connecting Africa in 2017 and 2018 was a great achievement having been selected to hang with some of the best from other countries. I am grateful for the radio and hip-hop awards plus nominations too that have come along the way. It feels good to be appreciated and very humbling.

So where to from here?

I think it is time to switch things up a little. I cannot give much detail as of now given the various partnerships I have forged to see it through and work in progress still going on in the background. The radio experience also will be a little different as we do some tweaking in-house.

What word of advice would you like to give to others reading your story?

Never give up. Pay more attention to your ambition than to the picture that everyone has of you. It's a given you will struggle to achieve your goals, but it will all be worth it if you apply yourself and keep moving forward.





RURAMISO MASHUMBA

Trailblazing and Award Winning Farmer

Ruramiso is a young female farmer from Marondera, Zimbabwe and founder of Mnandi Africa, an organization that helps rural women combat poverty and malnutrition. She holds a BA Degree in Agriculture Business Management from the University of West England (UWE). After completing her degree, Ruramiso worked for one of the United Kingdom's leading agriculture equipment companies. It was during that time Ruramiso realized how the use of equipment and technology could transform agriculture. She returned to Zimbabwe with a vision to change the image of agriculture in Zimbabwe.

In 2012 she relocated to the farm she inherited from her parents and began her journey as a farmer. The farm was bare, with no equipment, but today it is filled with tractors, planting equipment, centre pivot and crop protection equipment.

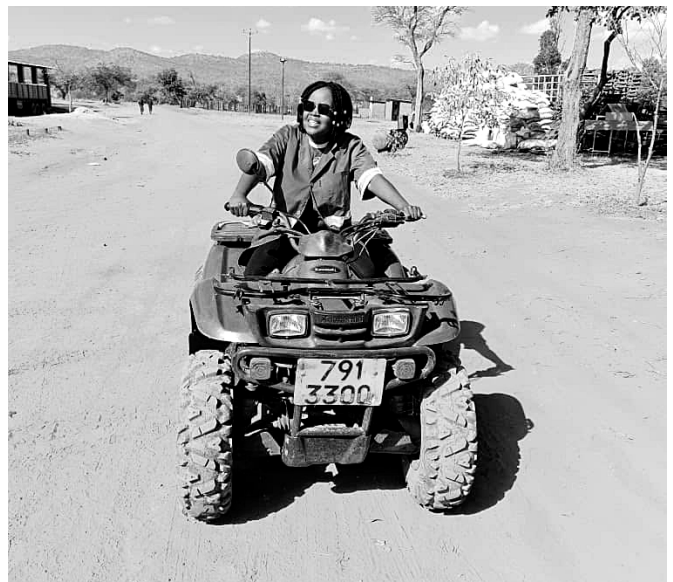
Named one of the 40 under 40 Most Influential Young Leaders in Zimbabwe by the Institute of Corporate Directors Zimbabwe.

In 2013 she decided to venture into horticulture crops for export to the European Union and Africa. The following year saw her partnering with Sustainable Afforestation Association to address deforestation in her community by planting one hundred hectares of gum trees. She later expanded into farming a variety of horticulture crops and indigenous organic grains. She milled the grains into flour under the brand Mnandi organic and traditional brown rice and commercial maize. In 2017 Mashumba received a fifty-hectare contract to grow seed for Seed Co, an industry leader whose mandate is to breed, produce, process and market hybrid crop seeds.

Through Mnandi Africa, Ruramiso is empowering and equipping women with skills and knowledge in agriculture, nutrition, markets, and technology. The organization also assists them to access affordable and effective agro-technology through an input-sharing program. Thereby helps them to collectively purchase and sell their goods and services. In 2017, she pitched her organization to Echoing Green in New York and won their fellowship that offers support and seed funding to start-ups. Her application was one of the thirty that won out of a pool of three thousand globally. Mnandi Africa aims to, ultimately, end hunger and poverty in Zimbabwe.

The trailblazing farmer holds several accolades and achievements to her name that is testimony to the outstanding work she is doing in the Zimbabwean agricultural sector:

- In 2014 she was elected the National chairperson of the Zimbabwe Farmers Union making her the first woman to hold the post.
- The following year she got recognition from AGCO and was invited to attend their Africa Summit in Berlin. Her story earned her an award for influence and leading woman toward mechanization in Africa.
- In 2016, Ruramiso participated in the Mandela Washington Fellowship, the flagship program of Barak Obama's, Young African Leaders Initiative.
- She was also appointed as a panellist at the World Food Prize in Iowa and gave input on the importance of nutrition in Africa.
- She also became a member of the global farmer network in 2016 and was nominated for the Zimbabwe businesswoman award.
- The talented farmer graced the cover of the Zimbabwean Farmer magazine, and the New Alliance for Food and Nutrition publication, which is endorsed by the African Union.
- She was also selected as vice-chairperson for the Southern African Confederation of Agriculture Unions youth ambassadors for the region.
- In 2018 she won the iconic African award for farming and agriculture. She went on to attend the CRSIPcon, in Boston organized by the broad institute of technology (MIT) and Harvard to give input on what access to technology would mean to small scale farmers. The same year she hosted the African Development Bank at her farm.
- 2019 she was selected for the Cornell Alliance for science fellowship
- She won the JCI top 10 young person award
- In 2020 she won the Women In Africa award which recognizes top women in Africa
- and overall agriculture award and was featured on TV 5 in Paris



- She was also named Kleckner recipient by the Global farmer Network
- In 2019 she addressed heads of states at the United Nations headquarters in New York
- She is a member of the FAO Rome based council for young people in agriculture
- She has spoken several times at the World food prize and FAO headquarters on issues to do with access to food for all and supporting women farmers.
- In 2019 she Co-founded women who farm Africa, a leadership development program for women farmers with her co-founders based in Zambia and Ghana. In 2020 they launched their first workshops on Maize productions their target was to empower the very marginalized rural women farmers
- In 2020 she was named one of the top 1000 entrepreneurs in Africa
- She also won Overall Women Young Farmer in Zimbabwe and was recognized by the Ministry of Agriculture in Zimbabwe.
- This 2021 she was named one of the 40 under 40 Most Influential Young Leaders in Zimbabwe by the Institute of Corporate Directors Zimbabwe
- She is a member of the executive businesswoman network organized by the USA, UK and Australian Embassy in Zimbabwe



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