



Merck Foundation First Ladies Initiative Summit – MFFLI



30th March - 1st April 2019 Dubai, UAE



Prof. Dr. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp

Chairman of the Executive Board and Family Board of E. Merck KG and Member of the Merck family, Chairman of Board of Trustees of Merck Foundation

Prof. Dr. Frank Stangenberg-Haverkamp, born in 1948 in Dorsten, Germany.

He is The Chairman of the Executive Board and Family Board of E. Merck KG and Member of the Merck family, Chairman of Board of Trustees of Merck Foundation.

Following his German University entrance qualification (Abitur) he served with the German Air Force, which he left as Lieutenant. At the University of Freiburg/Br, he studied economics and economic history.

After completing his studies, he worked at Commerzbank and the Investment Bank Baring Brothers and Hambros in London.

In 1984, he was elected to the Board of Partners of E. Merck KG and has been the Chairman of the Board since 2004.

In January 2014, he was elected as the Chairman of the Executive Board and the Family Board of E. Merck KG.



Merck Foundation First Ladies Initiative SUMMIT - MFFLI:

MFFLI - SUMMIT is a platform of **African First Ladies** and “**Merck More Than a Mother” Ambassadors** established by Merck Foundation with the aim to discuss challenges, define solutions, measure impact and share experience to ensure continuous improvement and exchange variable aspects of different cultures in order to localize and/or standardize specific messages that can raise awareness and create a culture shift across Africa **with regards to the below objectives:**

- **Breaking the Stigma around infertile couples in general and infertile women in particular.**
- **Empowering Girls and Women in Education in general and in STEM in particular.**
- **Improving access to quality & equitable healthcare solutions.**





Dr. Rasha Kelej

**CEO of Merck Foundation,
President of Merck More Than a Mother**

Chief Executive Officer of Merck Foundation, President of Merck More Than a Mother and Chairperson of Merck Africa Asia Luminary, Dr. Rasha Kelej was born in February 1972 and has 24 years of experience in International Pharmaceutical Industry. She joined Merck in 1996 and served as a Chief Social Officer and Head of the Global Social Responsibility & Market Development, SVP of Merck Healthcare from 2013 until June 2017. Dr. Kelej holds a degree in Pharmacy of Alexandria University and an MBA at Robert Gordon University, Scotland on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) integration with Business Strategy.

In this position, she defined a coherent and structured CSR agenda and led many impactful corporate responsibility initiatives that focused on building healthcare capacity and improving access to health in Africa and developing countries such as Merck Capacity Advancement program, Merck Cancer Access Program and Merck More Than A Mother.

Dr. Kelej has successfully established strong partnerships with Governments, Ministries of Health and Genders, Academia and global non-for profits organizations which contributed significantly to the success of Merck Foundation's programs.

Currently she is also a member of Human Resources Science and Technology Cluster of African Union (ECOSOCC).

Dr. Kelej has received many awards for women leadership excellence and for her contribution towards women empowerment from the International Federation of Business and Professional Women - BPW-Int.

These awards recognize her contribution through Merck Foundation towards empowering African women in the field of Research and Healthcare and empowering underprivileged women who live with infertility in Africa and developing countries.



MFFLI- SUMMIT GOALS:

1) Discuss and define both regional and local interventions with their detailed strategy and execution plans to :

A) Defining Partnership model /plan with media to explore and select different platforms to deliver the awareness messages through TV, Radio, Print and on-line.

Forms of partnership with media will be:

-Providing Regional and local Health Media Training for English, French and Portuguese speaking countries.

-Announcing the call for application for Regional **"Merck More Than a Mother Media Recognition Award"**.

B) Art has many popular forms in Africa and it can be a critical tool to influence communities and raise awareness about many sensitive topics, therefore different projects will be defined to cooperate with art in all forms such as creating songs, films, paintings, sculptures, and fashion designs.

Projects will be in the forms of:

1- The Launch of competitions in some countries in partnership with technical training institutions or universities to encourage young talents to create work to achieve our objective and deliver awareness messages that can empower infertile women and sensitize communities and families to break the infertility stigma.

- **Merck More Than a Mother Film Award**

- **Merck More Than a Mother Fashion Award**

- **Merck More Than a Mother ART Award**

2- Building capacity via providing training to educate the young talents and technical students in art, film making and fashion design on how to capitalize on their talent to employ art to sensitize their communities on cultural and health issues.

3- Creating local songs in English, French, Portuguese and local languages with popular song writers and singers from each country to address the youth in order to create a real culture shift and raise awareness.

4- Creating films in partnership with local film makers either documentary, docudrama or drama to deliver the messages of breaking the stigma of infertility and empowering girls in education.

5- Launch David's story; animation story has been created for children to emphasize on family values of love and respect from early age,

2) Defining interventions to build professional fertility care capacity in public sector to help improve access to equitable and quality solutions for fertile couples in partnership with Ministry of health through First ladies' offices.

3) Sharing best practices and pilot projects with each First Lady to ensure continues improvement and inform new partners.

4) Discussion of the agenda of First ladies (MFFLI) members at the new edition of Merck Africa Asia luminary in Ghana.

5) Discuss challenges and find solutions to ensure the program sustainability, continues improvement, better engagement and community involvement.

6) Streamlining and alignment to ensure consistency and coherent structured approach across the continent to achieve concrete and measurable impact.

7) Providing training for First Ladies' technical teams to enable them to achieve the agreed objectives and follow up on Merck Foundation's programs of providing training and fellowships in different sectors.

8) Creating social media and media kit/ campaign to ensure community involvement and engagement and ensure the visibility required to build advocacy for our cause at all levels across Africa and the rest of the world.





H.E. MADAM NEO JANE MASISI

The First Lady of the Republic of Botswana

Mrs Masisi is committed to the advancement of the girl child and rural women. In addition to her CIMA qualification, Mrs. Masisi holds an MBA from De Montfort University, a qualification she attained in 2004.

Mrs. Masisi was an active member of Junior Chamber Botswana, Jwaneng Chapter, becoming the National Treasurer in 1998. Besides work, Mrs. Masisi enjoys travelling, swimming, tennis, reading, helping others and spending quality time with family. She married Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi on 3rd January 2002 and are blessed with a twelve year old daughter, Atsile.

Mrs. Neo Jane Masisi, an accountant by profession has worked for leading organisations within the private sector in Botswana. Driven by her quest for international exposure, she further embarked on a career as an International Civil Servant with the United Nations, serving in three countries; United States of America, Ethiopia and Central African Republic.

Mrs. Masisi started her career in 1994 with Debswana Diamond Company after attaining her CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants) qualification. Mrs. Masisi worked at the world acclaimed mine, Jwaneng Mine from 1994 to 1999, where her job entailed budgetary control and management accounting for the mine's operations.

She decided to serve the mining industry from a different perspective by joining a related sector, Earthmoving Machinery, Barloworld Equipment – Botswana (BEMCO) from 1999 to 2001. From 2004 – 2001 Mrs. Masisi worked for Global Resorts Botswana (Grand Palm) and Kalahari Breweries Limited (KBL).

Mrs. Masisi began her United Nations career at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA from 2004 to 2010. During 2010, she relocated to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to join the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. In 2013, inspired by the need for change and new experiences she accepted an assignment with the Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), in Bangui.

This was during the height of conflict in war-torn Central African Republic. She cites this as one of her life changing experiences! Mrs. Masisi returned again to New York from 2016 – 2015 to be part of the Umoja Team, responsible for deployment of an ERP (EnterpriseResource Planning) Implementation project across the United Nations entities worldwide. Mrs Masisi has taken a break from her international service (since March 2018) to support her husband in his new role.





H.E. MADAM DENISE NKURUNZIZA

**The First Lady of the Republic of
Burundi**

S.E. Madame Denise BUCUMI NKURUNZIZA est la Première Dame de la République du Burundi. Elle a effectué sa scolarité à l'ENEFA (Ecole Normale d'Economie Familiale), puis à l'Université Espoir d'Afrique pour sa formation en Théologies. Elle a été ordonnée Révérend Pasteur en 2011. Mère de 5 enfants et de 12 enfants adoptifs, elle a créé en Décembre 2005, une organisation philanthropique dénommée "Fondation BUNTU" qui a pour mission de restaurer l'espoir et la promotion du fonctionnement social en faveur personnes déshéritées (personnes vivant avec le VIH, orphelins et autres enfants vulnérable, veuves, personnes âgées, personness vivant avec un handicap et autres groupes vulnérable, ce qui lui a valu le surnom de "Maman BUNTU". En plus des actions caritatives ponctuelles, Elle a mis en place un orphelinat dénommé « Umusamariya w'Imababazi » ou « Le Bon Samaritain » pour accueillir les bébés qui ont perdu leurs mamans. Actuellement, cet orphelinat abrite 40 bébés.

Engagée dans un plaidoyer continu auprès du Gouvernement, des Parlementaires, les partenaires techniques et financiers, des leaders administratifs, santaires, religieux et communautaires, ses interventions ont permis d'atteindre des performances dans différents domaines au Burundi.

Ses actions sont articulées autour des axes suivants: i) La lutte contre le VIH/SIDA avec un accent sur l'élimination de la transmission du VIH de la mere à l'enfant et la prise en charge pédiatrique du VIH. ii) La réduction de la mortalité maternelle et infantile. S.E. Denise BUCUMI NKURUNZIZA déploie également son énergie dans des actions en rapport avec réduction de la mortalité maternelle et infantile. Alors que jadis, les aspects de santé maternelle et infantile étaient une question dont la gestion était considérée comme une responsabilité de la femme seule selon la culture burundaise, la Première Dame a su impliquer les hommes ; iii) La lutte contre le cancer du col de l'utérus à travers les campagne de mobilisation communautaire des femmes leaders et des jeunes filles de toutes les provinces du pays sur la prévention, le diagnostic précoce et les options de traitement du cancer du col de l'utérus ; iv) La mobilisation des ressources : S.E.

Madame Denise BUCUMI NKURUNZIZA s'implique activement dans la mobilisation des financements pour le Burundi. Ainsi, Elle a mobilisé pour la première fois, 30.000 tests DUO-Syphilis-VIH amenant ainsi le Fonds Mondial et l'UNICEF à commander des stocks additionnels. Elle fournit un soutien nutritionnel (lait thérapeutique) aux nourrissons en situation de grande vulnérabilité car nés de mères séropositives démunies à travers un consortium de 8 structures associatives et publiques qui les prennent en charge. V) Le développement communautaire.

Afin de mener des actions à haut impact et accès sur les résultats, la philosophie de S.E. la Première Dame est d'oeuvrer en synergie avec les autres partenaires tant nationaux qu'internationaux en vue d'une complémentarité dans l'action. Ces partenaires sont principalement le Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Lutte contre le Sida, l'ONUSIDA, l'UNFPA, l'UNICEF, les autres acteurs de la Société Civile engagées dans la santé en general et la lutte contre le VIH/Sida en particulier.





H.E. MADAM BRIGITTE TOUADERA

**The First Lady of Central African
Republic**

Titulaire d'une Licence en Lettres Anglaises, Madame Brigitte TOUADERA a travaillé comme Assistante Administrative Bilingue au Cabinet de renommée internationale PriceWaterhouseCoopers Centrafrique. Elle s'est ensuite engagée dans le domaine de la santé de la reproduction en affirmant son leadership comme Secrétaire Générale de l'Alliance du Ruban Blanc de Centrafrique », une coalition mondiale de lutte pour une maternité sans risque, soutenue par le Fonds des Nations Unies pour la Population (UNFPA).

Dans ce cadre, elle a étroitement collaboré avec les autorités nationales, provinciales et locales pour leur implication dans la dynamique de la lutte contre la mortalité maternelle et néo-natale, notamment à travers la Campagne pour l'Accélération de la Réduction de la Mortalité Maternelle (CARMA). Par ailleurs, son désir de porter assistance aux populations vulnérables, l'a conduite à travailler comme bénévole au Secours Catholique Caritas international d'Angers en France.

L'engagement de Madame Brigitte TOUADERA, Première Dame de Centrafrique, dans le domaine de l'assistance aux femmes en général et de la santé de la reproduction en particulier est resté constant. Ce qui explique son intérêt à soutenir la Campagne «MERCK plus qu'une mère» en faveur des femmes victimes de violences physiques et psychologique de son pays.

C'est à ce titre, qu'elle a été désignée lors de la réunion de haut niveau de MERCK, à Abidjan en Côte d'Ivoire en octobre 2016 comme Ambassadrice de la Campagne «MERCK plus qu'une Mère» dans les seize pays africains francophones.

Il est important de souligner que depuis le mois de mai 2016, elle a créé une fondation dénommée « Cri de Cœur d'une Mère » qui œuvre avec beaucoup de réussites dans les domaines de :

- la lutte contre la VIH et le Sida ;
- la santé de la reproduction ;
- les violences basées sur le genre ;
- la lutte contre la drépanocytose.

Quelques actions réalisées :

En octobre 2017, elle a parrainé le lancement du Plan d'Accélération de la prise en charge du VIH chez l'enfant et l'adolescent.

En août 2018, elle a procédé au lancement de la campagne « Santé pour Tous » avec pour slogan « Un corps Sain dans un Esprit Sain ».

Toujours en 2018, avec l'appui financier de l'OIT, la Première Dame à travers sa Fondation a organisé une formation en entrepreneuriat à l'intention des femmes vulnérables aussi bien de la capitale et que de ses villes périphériques.





H.E. MADAM ANTOINETTE SASSOU-NGUESSO

The First Lady of the Republic of the Congo

Ancienne élève de l'Ecole Normale des jeunes filles de Mouyondzi au Congo, Madame Antoinette SASSOU N'GUESSO est Enseignante de formation. Personnalité attachante et passionnante, cette Dame de cœur a hérité notamment de sa mère, la passion du prochain. Lorsque son époux accède à la magistrature suprême du Congo et de ce fait ne pouvant plus exercer son métier, elle laisse son penchant naturel s'exprimer au profit des plus démunis de notre société. En 1984 naît la Fondation Congo Assistance, navire amiral de son action sociale auprès des personnes vulnérables du Congo. Que ce soit en direction des personnes vivant avec handicap, des jeunes filles déscolarisées, des veuves abandonnées ou des enfants en difficulté scolaire, la Fondation Congo Assistance que préside avec maestria madame Antoinette SASSOU N'GUESSO, a su redonner un peu de chaleur et des sourires.

Depuis 2000, elle a fait de la lutte contre les grandes pandémies notamment le VIH et le SIDA, l'un des axes majeurs de son action. Elle a été parmi l'une des Premières Dames en Afrique, en 2001 précisément, a lancé le projet de lutte contre la transmission du virus de la mère à l'enfant pendant l'accouchement. Membre fondatrice de l'Organisation des Premières Dames d'Afrique contre le Sida (OPDAS), elle a contribué activement aux différents succès de cet organisme et à sa crédibilité auprès de différents partenaires.

En 2003, en compagnie de Madame Viviane WADE, elle s'est lancée dans un grand plaidoyer mondial pour sortir la drépanocytose, première maladie génétique au monde de son anonymat. De Paris à Bruxelles, de New Delhi à Dakar, partout où elle pouvait faire passer ce message, sa voix a résonné avec conviction. Le 22 décembre 2008, ses efforts sont couronnés par l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies faisant de la drépanocytose un problème de santé publique et consacrant le 19 juin comme journée mondiale de sensibilisation à la drépanocytose. Dans la foulée elle a fait construire à Brazzaville, le centre sous régional de lutte et de recherche sur la drépanocytose.

Ces succès, ont poussé ses compatriotes à faire d'elle, la Marraine de plusieurs autres combats notamment : les cancers du col de l'utérus et du sein, la réduction de la mortalité maternelle et infantile et la prise en charge des personnes du troisième âge. Pour ce dernier combat, elle a construit par le biais de sa Fondation, la première Maison des Séniors du Congo qui fait la fierté des Brazzavillois.

Ces actions ont conduit les pouvoirs publics congolais à faire de la Fondation Congo Assistance, la première ONG congolaise reconnue d'utilité publique. Depuis 2006, sa fondation a le statut consultatif auprès de l'ECOSOC ONU.

C'est donc à ce titre qu'elle a reçu différentes distinctions honorifiques notamment :

- Commandeur dans l'Ordre du Mérite Congolais
- Commandeur dans l'Ordre de la Solidarité de la Côte d'Ivoire
- Lauréate du Prix Pio Manzu pour la Paix du Président de la République Italienne
- Certificat d'honneur de la Société Africaine d'Hématologie.
- Diplôme d'honneur des Liges Africaines contre les cancers





H.E. MADAM FATOUMATTA BAH-BARROW

**The First Lady of the Republic of
The Gambia**

The First Lady of the Republic of The Gambia, Her Excellency Fatoumatta Bah Barrow was born on 5th August 1974 in Banjul. Her father, Abdoulie Bah, was a local business man, whereas her mother, Isatou Jallow, was mostly known amongst the community for her compassion and generosity towards the poor and the needy.

From 2000 to 2001, the Her Excellency First Lady worked as a Sales Marketing Agent at an oil company called Elton, and then later worked at a local GSM company named Africell from 2001 to 2008. From 2009, the First Lady was occasionally involved in small business activities and also helped her spouse in his political career debut. As the 2016 presidential elections drew nearer, the First Lady became actively involved in a door to door campaign, seeking support from citizens to vote for her husband, at a time when many feared change, due to circumstances under the former regime.

Such courage and determination for change clearly demonstrated by the First Lady, is a trait that makes her distinct from many others. In an attempt to fulfill the promises made during the vigorous campaign trail, the First Lady wishes to ensure that the people of The Gambia do experience the change that was often envisaged in certain domains.

Therefore, as the First Lady of the Republic, Her Excellency Fatoumatta Bah Barrow instantly became engaged in various humanitarian/charitable organization and activities targeted at the most vulnerable groups of society, women and children. The public role she assumed predominantly focuses on providing assistance to all Gambians, with a particular focus on women and children to help enhance their lives by ensuring that they have access to quality education, health and social services.

For this reason, the First Lady makes frequent visits to the country's main referral hospital, the Edward Francis Small Teaching Hospital, making donation of medical equipment and helping facilitate life-saving surgery for newborn babies amongst other. In her determination to address certain challenges, the First Lady also creates linkages with the private sector and foreign partners by encouraging them to invest in the area of health, education and women's empowerment. With such an all-inclusive approach, it is hoped that major improvement will be made in these areas.



Where women are concerned, the First Lady wishes to promote gender equality to naturally empower women and girls through education. In her efforts in the area of education, the First Lady visited several schools including those where school feeding programmes have been introduced which she hopes would be widely practiced in all schools in the near future. It is her fervent desire to encourage more children especially girls to enroll in schools to attain formal education.

Her Excellency the First Lady dynamically engaged in addressing peculiar challenges women in The Gambia and other parts of the world face, in an effort to raise awareness and mobilize support necessary for the inclusion of such women in society. She collaborates with various organizations to help break barriers and create opportunities for all women. It is therefore hoped that the areas of health and education amongst others get the support required in terms of medical equipment, training of health personnel, consumables/drugs and all other required materials are obtained.

In the national response to AIDS, the First Lady wishes to embark upon a vigorous advocacy campaign by providing the necessary support and commitment to ensure that the main challenges faced by health workers, HIV patients and adolescents are addressed or significantly reduced. This will bring about positive change and to instill a sense of a spirit of solidarity and partnership amongst key partners in the national commitment and fight against HIV and AIDS.

In view of the above, in May 2017 the First Lady initiated her foundation entitled 'Fatoumatta Bah-Barrow Foundation – FaBB', in order to pursue her desire to not only bring about change, but to also help save and improve the lives of vulnerable groups of society throughout the country.

Her Excellency the First Lady in August 2018 launched 'Safe Motherhood in the Gambia' and will work with UNFPA and relevant partners as Champion, to restore the dignity of women by promoting their rights sexual and reproductive health by supporting advocacy to government and partners to demonstrate commitment to improving women and girls' health by addressing maternal mortality and other issues affecting women such as obstetric fistula, breast and cervical cancer, Gender-Based Violence, including Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage in The Gambia. In the same month, she launched the UNICEF Regional project on 'Protection of Children on the Move' and committed to champion and advocate for government and relevant partners to put in place measures for increased protection of children. These measures include supporting awareness and communication activities through dedicated campaigns and the commemoration of the statutory days on the promotion of children rights and child protection, raising awareness among public authorities and populations on child protection, urge stakeholders to take into account the notion of light work or socializing work and strengthen child labour observation and monitoring systems in The Gambia.





H.E. MADAM REBECCA AKUFO-ADDO

**The First Lady of the Republic of
Ghana**

Born on the 12th of March 1951 to Justice Jacob Hackenburg Griffiths-Randolph, Speaker of Parliament in the Third Republic of Ghana and Frances Phillipina Griffiths-Randolph (nee Mann), Rebecca Naa Okaikor Akufo-Addo spent her formative years in Accra, Ghana. She attended Achimota Primary School and Wesley Grammar School in Accra. She continued her education at the Government Secretarial School and subsequently started her career at the Merchant Bank of Ghana. She relocated to the United Kingdom and pursued further education, becoming a legal secretary and going on to work for several prominent multinational law firms, including Clifford Chance and Ashurst Morris Crisp.

She is a passionate philanthropist with a keen interest in issues that impact women and children. She co-founded the charity, Infanta Malaria Prevention Foundation in 2005 to support the national effort to reduce malarial infections in infants and young children. Since 2017, the charity has added the eradication of malnutrition to its scope of work, having recognized the inter-relation between malaria and malnutrition, particularly in children. She has also donated generously to several other causes.

As First Lady she has established The Rebecca Foundation with a focus on the well-being of Ghanaian women and children through the implementation of sustainable, collaborative and high impact strategies. Education of children, the health of women and children and economic empowerment of women are the three main intervention areas under the Rebecca Foundation.

In response to avoidable deaths of women and children as a result of lack of space and inadequate equipment, the First Lady raised funds to construct a mother and baby and Paediatric Intensive Care unit at the second Tertiary health institution in Ghana- the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital, in her first year as First Lady. The Rebecca Foundation is also constructing a Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and helping to finance the construction of a hostel for parents of children on cancer treatment at Ghana's premier hospital, the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, in the capital Accra.

Mrs Rebecca Akufo-Addo is the premier ambassador for HIV/AIDS, in Ghana with a focus on elimination of mother to child transmission and actively works with the Ghana Aids Commission and other partners to ensure Ghana meets all its HIV/AIDS targets. As the West African Chair of the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV/AIDS (OAFLLA), she is a strong advocate for sound adolescent reproductive health and elimination of practices that affect the well-being of adolescents. She is also a patron of the Schools for the Blind and Deaf, Cancer Voices, a coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations against all cancers and is championing interventions to support childhood cancer sufferers and their families.

She is married to the President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo and they have five daughters and five grandchildren. She loves floristry and also enjoys interior decoration.





H.E. MADAM CONDE DJENE

**The First Lady of the Republic
of Guinea**

Madame Conde Djènè, aujourd'hui Première Dame de la République de Guinée, est née dans la ville sainte de Kankan connue sous le nom de Nabaya.

Elle fit ses études primaires avec brio à l'école Dramé Oumar de Kankan.

Après son admission au CEP, elle prit la route du Collège Almamy Samory Touré devenu aujourd'hui lycée Almamy Samory Touré pour ses études secondaires.

Son admission au BEPC lui donna encore le goût de poursuivre ses études. Ainsi elle se retrouvera successivement au Lycée 2 Août et 1er Mars à Conakry où elle décrocha le Baccalauréat.

Assidue et brillante, elle fera son entrée à la Faculté des Sciences Sociales et de la Nature (FASSONA) de Donka, avant de gagner Paris en 1984 pour décrocher d'abord une licence en Sociologie générale à la prestigieuse Université Jussieu de Paris 7 puis une maîtrise en Sociologie option « Information-Communication » avec mention.

A Paris 7, elle soutient sa thèse de mémoire sur le thème : Racisme dans la Presse Française une étude comparative des trois grands quotidiens à savoir Le Monde, Le Figaro et Libération.

Immédiatement après ses études universitaires et post universitaires elle commença à travailler à l'Agence de la coopération culturelle et Technique (ACCT) maintenant devenue Agence de la Francophonie, à Paris durant 8 ans sous différentes responsabilités :

D'abord Chargée de la publication d'un bulletin d'information technique du suivi des activités des Chefs d'Etat aux Sommets de la Francophonie (Rédaction et diffusion dans les pays membres) ;

Assistante du Directeur de la Communication où elle s'occupait de la synthèse et rédaction des fiches et rapport de mission ; préparation et tenue d'un dossier de presse;

Gestionnaire informatique; gestion et encodage des données de dossiers des Ressources Humaines, puis elle assumait les fonctions de Conseillère à l'Emploi au sein de l'Organisation (Francophonie)

Après de loyaux services rendus à la Francophonie, elle quitte cette Institution en 2001 au profit de l'Agence Nationale pour l'Emploi (ANPE) de Paris où elle occupera les fonctions suivantes jusqu'en Avril 2010 date à laquelle elle rentre définitivement au pays pour s'engager dans la lutte politique à côté de son époux :

- Conseillère à l'emploi à l'Agence Nationale pour l'emploi (ANPE) maintenant dénommée « Pol Emplois à Paris ». A cette Agence, Madame Condé Djènè s'occupait essentiellement du recrutement, de la mise en relation (intermédiation entre l'offre et la demande), mise en œuvre des méthodologies de recherches d'emplois et du bilan des acquis personnels et professionnels.

Depuis Avril 2010, en patriote convaincue et soucieuse de l'avènement du changement tant souhaité par le peuple de Guinée, Madame Condé Djènè s'est investie et continue de s'investir corps et âme, dans la Campagne Présidentielle en Guinée à côté de son époux.

Après les réalités constatées au cours de la campagne, elle jette les bases de la fondation PROSMI. Cependant, elle reste convaincue que le défi reste entier tant le pays est en souffrance dans tous les domaines. Elle promet avec conviction de rester aux côtés du professeur Alpha CONDE pour accomplir et conduire la Guinée vers le changement.

Suite à l'élection de son époux, Pr. Alpha Condé en 2010, qui lui confère le statut de Première Dame, Madame Djenè Condé a pris le temps de l'écoute, en allant à la rencontre des citoyens guinéens, à travers tout le pays. Elle a enregistré leurs préoccupations et surtout leur espoir. Elle a alors acquis la conviction, qu'ensemble nous avons le pouvoir d'agir et de bâtir auprès du gouvernement, la Guinée de demain. C'est pourquoi Madame Djenè CONDE a décidé de créer la FONDATION PROSMI en mars 2011.

En plus de son programme phare, la PTME, la Fondation concentre ses activités sur quelques domaines essentiels au développement d'une société unie et prospère : La santé, l'éducation, l'environnement, la Promotion de la Paix et de l'Unité et les Actions Humanitaires.

- Présidente de la Fondation PROSNI
- Ambassadrice africaine de bonne volonté pour l'eau et l'assainissement, récompensé par CREPA
- Ambassadrice de l'UNICEF pour la Nutrition.





H. E. MADAM CLAR MARIE WEAH

**The First Lady of the Republic
of Liberia**

First Lady Clar Marie Duncan-Weah, the wife of Liberia's 24th President, H. E. George Manneh Weah, is a nurse by profession, a successful business woman and a humanitarian.

Early Life and Education:

Clar, born in Kingston, Jamaica, is the youngest of seven siblings. In her early teens, she migrated along with her family to the United States of America. She earns a Nursing license and a Bachelor degree in Health Sciences from the City University of New York.

Personal Life:

Clar met George Weah, then a soccer super star, in the early 90's at Chase Manhattan Bank in New York while serving as a customer representative. They married on June ,26 1993, and are blessed with three children – Martha, George Weah, Jr., and Timothy.

Career

First Lady Weah worked as a customer representative at the Citi Bank and Chase Manhattan Bank in New York. She established and managed several businesses including two successful and renowned restaurants in New York, Jamaica Breeze.

As a nurse, Clar Weah worked at Jamaica Hospital, she led a humanitarian mission to cater for hundreds of disadvantaged children through from various boys and girls homes in Jamaica.

Clar also spent her spare time helping as a youth soccer coach with the main purpose to keep the children off the streets.

Following the election of her husband as President of Liberia, Clar embraced her new role as First Lady of the Republic of Liberia.

She has since devoted her services to programs and social projects aimed at improving the lives of the disadvantaged people of Liberia. These include orphans, street children, the elderly, women and girls and the rural women among others.

Clar Hope Foundation:

Ambassador Clar M. Weah is the founder of Clar Hope Foundation, established in February 2018. The Foundation's goal is to create an equitable society in Liberia where women and children are healthy, educated and fully empowered to have a prosperous life.

Titles:

Ambassador of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and Women Soccer in Africa





H.E. MADAM KEÏTA AMINATA MAÏGA

**The First Lady of the Republic of
Mali**

Madame KEÏTA Aminata MAÏGA, Première Dame du Mali depuis Septembre 2013, a travaillé en qualité d'Assistante du Secrétaire Général du Groupe des Etats d'Afrique, des Caraïbes et du Pacifique à Bruxelles (1983-1974) et à UNICEF Mali comme Administrateur Adjoint chargée de l'Administration et du Personnel (1993-1984).

Elle est :

- Présidente de l'ONG « AGIR pour l'Environnement et la Qualité de la Vie », Membre fondateur de « Opération SOS ZOO » en 1994 devenue Association AGIR pour l'Environnement et la Qualité de la Vie en 1997 puis ONG en juin 2003.
- Présidente de l'Académie Nationale Olympique et membre du Comité National Olympique et Sportif du Mali (CNOSM) ;
- Membre Fondateur et Vice Présidente de l'Association des Académies Nationales Olympiques de l'Afrique
- Membre Fondateur et Vice-présidente de l'Association Francophone des Académies Olympiques ;
- Présidente de la Fédération Nationale de « Bras de Fer ».
- Membre de Inner Weel.

Madame KEÏTA Aminata MAÏGA a reçu trois distinctions :

- Diplôme d'Honneur de Soroptimist International pour son engagement pour environnement.
- Chevalier du Mérite de l'Ordre National de la France
- Commandeur de l'Ordre National du Mali.

Son engagement pour le développement de son pays et l'égalité des chances pour tous, trouve sa parfaite illustration à travers son parrainage de :

- Collectif des Centres d'Ecoute de Bamako pour l'insertion des enfants orphelins, abandonnés, nécessiteux vivant dans la rue ;
- « Special Olympic » pour la prise en charge sociale des enfants déficients intellectuels à travers les disciplines sportives.

L'ONG AGIR créée en 2003 a des missions d'utilité publique qui s'inscrivent dans la politique nationale de développement du Mali. Il s'agit de :

- Centraliser, coordonner, organiser toutes les compétences et les énergies d'acteurs motivés et désireux d'améliorer leur cadre de vie ;
- Promouvoir et soutenir toute action qui milite en faveur de l'amélioration du cadre et de la qualité de vie ;
- Initier et exécuter tout projet dans ce domaine ;
- Mobiliser les ressources et rechercher les donateurs pour le financement des activités.

Les activités que mène l'ONG-AGIR agissent de manière transversale sur tous les aspects de la vie et particulièrement la protection de l'environnement, l'assainissement, la santé notamment la santé de la reproduction avec en relief la santé reproductive des adolescents et des jeunes particulièrement les jeunes filles, l'éducation environnementale et la promotion d'un modèle viable d'établissements humains par l'éducation de la citoyenneté.





H.E. PROF. GERTRUDE MUTHARIKA

The First Lady of the Republic of Malawi

She is the Patron of Family Planning Association of Malawi-FPAM.

She is a member of the High Level Group of Regional Leaders in Eastern and Southern Africa that advises, steers and supports young people in education and sexual health.

She is the Goodwill Ambassador for Plan Malawi International, one of whose aim is to end early marriages among girls.

She is the Goodwill Ambassador for the OXFAM Ending Violence against Women and Girls-EVAWG Campaign.

The First Lady is also the First Signatory and Ambassador for Women for Water and Sanitation: a call to action to improve access to sanitation particularly for women and girls.

Her Excellency Professor Gertrude Mutharika was born on 7th February, in 1960.

She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration.

She was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy (Honoris Causa) in Environmental Management by the University of Malawi in recognition of her contribution in environmental protection and promotion of proper waste management and health practices.

She was awarded an Honorary Professor of Global Health by Peking University in recognition of her dedication and contribution to public health.

She has worked for several reputable organisations including World Vision International.

She served as Member of Parliament in the Malawi National Assembly.

She also served as a Member of Parliament of the Pan-African Parliament (African Parliament)

She is the Goodwill Ambassador of the Pan-African Parliament.

Her Excellency the First Lady was also a President of OAFLA. OAFLA seeks to increase awareness on

- i) HIV/Aids pandemic
- ii) Cervical and breast cancer
- iii) Promotion of maternal and child health
- iv) Harness the demographic dividend through promotion of youth friendly health services.

She is the founder and chairperson of the Beautify Malawi-BEAM Trust whose aim is to

- i) Mobilise action for environmental protection, proper waste management, good sanitation and cleanliness for a cleaner and healthier nation.
- ii) Promote girl child education as a sustainable way of creating a generation of economically empowered women.





**H.E. Madam MARIAM
BINT AHMED TEKBER**
**The First Lady of the Islamic
Republic of Mauritania**

Mariem Mint Ahmed dit Tekber is the First Lady of Mauritania. She was born in Casablanca, Morocco and raised in Nouakchott, Mauritania. She went to school from primary through higher to University, in Mauritania. She occupied different position in the administration prior to becoming the First Lady of her country.

As First lady, she devotes all her time and energy to the service of the needy, the marginalized, the forgotten and the have-nots of the society.

Every year she Presides over various events, benefiting to Women, Children and Persons of special needs, such as: Women's day, International Day of Persons with Disability, Annual children vaccination campaign, International Children's Day and International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

She is the Chairperson "ad honorem" of a Non-Profitable Humanitarian Organization "Rahma" which is very active in Mauritania providing support and assistance to the most vulnerable stratum of the Society.





H.E. DR. ISAURA FERRÃO NYUSI

The First Lady of the Republic of Mozambique

Birth and Family Tree

Isaura Gonçalves Ferrão was born in Tete, the capital city of Tete Province, on the 2nd of October 1962. Born to Gonçalves Firmino Ferrão, a post office public officer, and Florinda Aires, a teacher and later a public officer working for Mozambique Telecommunications, both deceased.

In Nampula city of, Isaura Gonçalves Ferrão met and married Engineer Filipe Jacinto Nyusi with whom she has four children, three boys and a girl. Having adopted the surname of her husband her full name became Isaura Gonçalves Ferrão Nyusi.

Childhood

During her childhood, and for a long time, Mrs Nyusi had her father absent due to his imprisonment on the island of Mozambique, as a result of his involvement with FRELIMO (then Mozambique Liberation Front).

Descended of a Christian family, she was educated in an exemplary manner and spent most of her childhood in her homeland in Tete with her mother, grandmother Florência and her mother siblings, the source of inspiration for her simplicity, moderation, assertiveness, love, peace, compassion and affection for the Motherland. She learned Nyungue (her mother tongue), Portuguese and other essential skills in her tradition such as being a good listener, hospitality, respect for others, calm, fraternal love for children, elderly, disabled and the ailing.

Primary and Secondary Education

At the age of six Isaura Gonçalves Ferrão Nyusi moved to the Town of Malema District in Nampula Province, where she attended and successfully completed her primary education, at Santa Maria de Malema College.

Later, she attended secondary school at Santa Teresinha do Menino Jesus Mission, in the Administrative Post of Mutuáli. She was later transferred to Sofala Province, where she successfully completed her secondary education at Samora Machel Secondary School in Beira.



In 1975, following the national independence, Mrs Nyusi developed her self-esteem and pride of being Mozambican. It was so that her passion for teaching and learning began, but also the desire to see Mozambican teachers in Mozambican schools.

High Education

Her thirst for knowledge increased over time and her academic life continued. Enrolling at Universidade Católica de Moçambique, Faculty of Education and Communication she successfully completed the Bachelor degree in Human Resource Management and BA in Social Communication, in Nampula Province.

Professional Experience

Professionally, Isaura Ferrão Gonçalves Nyusi's first job was in education and later worked for Mozambique Railways Company. She later worked for the National Institute for Disaster Management, in Maputo province.

As a professional she attended several capacity building courses with particular emphasis to training in Accountancy and Human Resource Management.

Engagement in Political Life

Mrs Nyusi participation in political life was moderate. While in Nampula Province, she participated in various activities and events as a member of the Mozambican Women Organization (OMM). In addition, she was also involved in several socio-cultural development activities in collaboration with the Office of the Nampula Province Governor's Spouse.

Vision and Mission

Isaura Gonçalves Ferrão Nyusi became the 4th First Lady of the Republic of Mozambique following her husband, His Excellency Engineer Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, investiture as the President of Mozambique on 15 January 2015.

Henceforth, her mission, through her Office, is to expand the capacity of the President's interventions, thus contributing towards the consolidation of a united and peaceful Mozambique, of cohesion and social solidarity among Mozambicans in pursuit of sustainable development based on permanent training of the human capital.

Mrs Nyusi's vision is of a society of peace, harmony and social justice. A society that has the person at the core of every action and that values the creative potential and the participation of each Mozambican towards development.

In pursuing her mission and vision, Mrs Nyusi recently became the Patron of the Model Maternity and Wards Certification in Mozambique, a Ministry of Health initiative.





H.E. MADAM MONICA GEINGOS

**The First Lady of the Republic of
Namibia**

Madame Geingos is also a UNAIDS Special Advocate for Young Women and Adolescent Girls. This is a perfect fit with the One Economy Foundation's #BeFree Movement, a youth-driven program which concerns itself with the challenges holding young people back from reaching their potential. Madame Geingos is also the Chairperson of the Urban Poor Fund international Board and has recently been appointed to serve on the Oxford African Studies Centre International Advisory Board.

Madame Monica Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia is a qualified lawyer. Before becoming the First Lady in 2015, Madame Geingos was the Managing Director of Namibia's largest private equity fund served on the Boards of large public and private sector companies as either Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson. She was awarded National Honours (Most Distinguished Order of Namibia) for "outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development of Namibia" and was inducted into the Namibian Business Hall of Fame. She has also received numerous awards such as the Namibian Business Personality of the Year and Most Innovative Entrepreneur of the Year.

Madam Geingos has previously been ranked by various global organisations and publications as one of Africa's top 100 Economic Leaders. Due to her extensive corporate experience, she was a long-standing member of high level policy advisory Boards such as the President's Economic Advisory Council, the SWAPO Party Think Tank and the National Council of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with the mandate to advise on national policy formulation and implementation.

As First Lady, Madame Geingos has combined her rich experience as an entrepreneur with President Geingob's war on poverty and inequality. Through the One Economy Foundation, the First Lady has initiated numerous programs which focus on breaking the poverty cycle. A flagship project in this regard is the One Nation Fund which provides micro business owners, who operate on the periphery of the economy, access to collateral free loans, entrepreneurial training and mentorship. Another flagship program is the Talented Individual Programme, an educational fellowship which provides talented children from low-income families the opportunity to access quality education, while concurrently developing their characters by providing them with a full spectrum of financial and psycho-social support.





H.E. MADAM AÏSSATA ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU

The First Lady of the Republic of the Niger

A titre d'exemple, elle obtient en 2012 le Prix CRANS MONTANA pour son implication et son plaidoyer dans la valorisation de la main d'œuvre féminine dans tous les secteurs socio-économiques du pays. Plus récemment en mai 2018, c'est à Marrakech qu'Aïssata Issoufou reçoit le prix de la Femme Visionnaire d'Afrique, par Believe In Africa, à l'occasion du Congrès Africain Femme et Agriculture dont elle est la Marraine. Sacrée Championne de la lutte contre le Paludisme en Afrique et Marraine de (1) la lutte contre les Hépatites virales, (2) la lutte contre le Sida au Niger, (3) la Tuberculose, elle joue un rôle très actif dans l'amélioration des conditions d'accès aux soins de santé de la population.

Membre active de l'Association des Premières Dames contre le VIH Sida (OPDAS) et de l'Organisation des Première Dames d'Afrique pour la Paix, Aïssata Issoufou est une dame profondément humaine, naturellement maternelle et de compatissante.

Aïssata Issoufou est née en 1959 à Mainé Soroa, une localité de Diffa au Niger. Elle fait partie des premières femmes à avoir choisi de suivre la filière scientifique au Niger.

En 1978, son baccalauréat S en poche, elle quitte le Lycée d'Excellence des Jeunes filles de Niamey et poursuit ses études à l'Université de Niamey. Elle obtient en 1983 un DUES en Physique-Chimie et sa licence l'année suivante.

En 1986, elle obtient une Maîtrise en Chimie, un diplôme d'Experte en Valorisation des Minerais puis un DESS en Exploitation et Valorisation des Ressources du Sous-sol de l'Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Géologie de Nancy (ENSG/ CESEV), en France.

La Première Dame Aïssata Issoufou entame ainsi une brillante carrière d'ingénieure chimiste en tant que Chef de division minéralurgie (Département Traitement du Minerais), à la SOMAIR ARLIT-NIGER, tout en soutenant son époux dans son combat politique au sein du Parti Nigérien pour la Démocratie et le Socialisme (PNDS Tarayya). Son amour pour les sciences et techniques lui a d'ailleurs valu la reconnaissance du célèbre magazine Amazons Watch en tant que Pionnière des STEM (Science, Technologie, Ingénierie et Mathématiques) au Niger.

Suite à l'accession du Président Issoufou Mahamadou à la Magistrature suprême en 2011, elle décide de se consacrer à sa plus grande passion : l'humanitaire, afin d'accompagner les actions de son époux et renforcer la visibilité de sa gouvernance. Elle fonde ainsi la Fondation "Guri Vie Meilleure" qui œuvre inlassablement pour le bien-être de la population notamment les couches sociales les plus vulnérables : les femmes et les enfants. L'éducation et la protection de l'environnement occupent également une place de choix dans les axes prioritaires de la fondation.

Son engagement fort et les multiples actions de terrain menées au profit des plus démunis lui a valu de nombreuses reconnaissances.





H.E. MADAM FATIMA MAADA BIO

**The First Lady of the Republic of
Sierra Leone**

Sierra Leone First lady, Fatima Maada Bio was born in 27th November 1980 to a Sierra Leonean mother, Tidankay Jabbie and a Gambian father, Umar Jabbie. The First Lady was born in Kono district, Eastern Sierra Leone where her mother hailed and father settled as a businessman. Mrs. Fatima Maada Bio grew up in Kono and attended the Ansarul Islamic school before she completed her secondary education at the St Joseph Convent Secondary School in Freetown.

Mrs. Fatima Maada-Bio later traveled to London where she pursued a Bachelor degrees of Arts with Honors in Performing Art from the Roehampton Institute in London and Bachelor of Arts with honors in Journalism at the University of the Arts, London College of Communication.

The First Lady's degree in Performing Arts propelled her to start a very successful career in the African Film Industry in London and stardom as one of the elegant Nollywood Actresses, scriptwriter and executive producer. Mrs. Fatima Bio wrote and produced the movie, "Battered", which put her on the limelight in the movie industry. Furthermore, Mrs. Bio has received several awards in including;

1. Miss Africa in 2000
2. "Best Supporting Actress" for the movie Mirror Boy
3. In 2011 "Best Actress Award" from the Black Ethnics, Fashion and Film Industry in the UK.
4. In September 2013, Mrs. Fatima Jabbe-Bio was voted the best female actress at the African Oscars in Washington DC, from a list of 32 nominees in Africa People's Choice Best Actress category.
5. Pan-African "Woman of the Year Award" awarded by All African Media based in Ghana.
6. Prestigious Gweses First Lady Honorary Award at the Global Women Economic & Social Empowerment Summit. According to Dr (Mrs) Bola Olabisi FRSA, the award is in recognition of our First Lady's outstanding achievements that impact the socio-economic development and empowerment of women.

Beside her battery of laurels, First Lady Fatima Bio won the Gathering of African Best (GAB) Awards for her exceptional contribution to promoting a positive image of Africans around the world. This is important because her determination to build and motivate in every area goes beyond the shores of Sierra Leone.

Mrs. Fatima Bio, the multiple award winners, is a pioneer of the President's vision of unity, patriotism and hard work to build Sierra Leone for it to be one of the greatest nations in African with positive lives of its citizens.

In 2018 at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, the conference "Girls with no name" is an unapologetic look on the issue of child prostitution in West Africa, using Sierra Leone as a case study.

Mrs. Bio delivered a speech at the conference in tagged "Girls with no name". It was hosted by the United nations at their headquarters in Geneva Switzerland. Mrs. Bio did not mince words and spoke objectively and gave an unapologetic insight on the issue of child prostitution in West Africa. She said sometimes these kids provide for their families through prostitution. This is absolutely not the responsibility of a child, but it is a social reality we face today.

Her prowess and strategy was noticed by the nation during the 2018 elections in Sierra Leone. She took a pro-active role. She was able to broker peace easily amongst warring parties. Her down-to-earth communication skills was not only due to her formal education, but also her affinity with the grassroots.

At the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in London, the Queen of England was excited to meet with Africa's newest first Lady. The Queen was impressed with her tenacity in helping to change the perception of the role of women in politics.

In the West Africa sub-region, Mrs. Bio is building personal relations with other First Lady's. She has a unique ability to make people buy into her vision. This is straitened by the fact that she leads by example.

The First Lady has been working tirelessly to put Sierra Leone on the map and also bring out the potential of its citizens. Mrs. Fatima Bio loves children and has been working on realistic short and long term goals that are impacting on the well-being of children across the world. She passionately promotes women rights and equality thus fondly refers to the women of Sierra Leone as "Women of Substance".

In line with the government's vision, First Lady, Mrs. Bio believes education is key. Her philanthropic character is inborn and she is a fantastic role model that leads by example. Her greatest strength is her ability to achieve any goal she sets. Some say it is divine, but people close to her will say it is pure, undiluted hard work, others still will say it is a combination of both divine intervention and hard work





H.E. MADAM ESTHER LUNGU

The First Lady of the Republic of Zambia

Her Excellency, Mrs. Esther Lungu is the current First Lady of the Republic of Zambia and Founder of the Esther Lungu Foundation Trust. Since assuming her tenure as First Lady in 2015, Mrs. Lungu has utilized her distinguished position to reinforce her passion for uplifting the wellbeing of humanity which work she has been doing for more than 23 years.

Mrs Lungu has levered her position to focus on the economic empowerment of women living in rural and hard to reach areas. She advocates for the empowerment women and girls; maternal and child health; and for persons with disabilities. Her Excellency has joined global leaders to press for the elimination of child marriage, discrimination against persons with disabilities; and elimination of gender-based violence.

Through her Foundation, Mrs. Lungu is co-financing food processing equipment for women in agriculture; low cost boarding houses for girl's education; waiting shelters for mothers in rural areas, mobilizing health equipment for hard to reach areas, supporting community health workers, drilling of boreholes for clean drinking water and assistive devices for children with disabilities.

Her Excellency Mrs. Esther Lungu is a member of the Organization of African First Ladies Against HIV and AIDS, she is also a member of the Stop Cervical and Breast Cancer First Ladies Forum, she is patron of the Lafarge Foundation in Zambia, she is also the patron for SOS Children Villages in Zambia.

During the Starkey hearing Floundation 17th Annual awards Gala in July 201 in Minneapolis U.S.A, the First Lady was awarded as the 2017 Humanitarian Honoree alongside actor, director, writer and founder of the Eastern Congo initiative Ben Affleck; the Wilf Family Foundations; FedEx and Scott Borchetta and Sandi Spike Borchetta of Big Machine Records and Music Has Value. With this award, the First Lady of Zambia joins other notable individuals like Presidents Tony Blair of Britain and Bill Clinton,

George W. Bush, Archbishop Desmond tutu, Sir Richard Branson, actress and philanthropist Jennifer Garner and many others since to receive this award since its introduction in the year 2000.

She has also been awarded by the Medical Association of Zambia for her advocacy work on health for rural communities and she has been recognized for supporting persons with hemophilia in Zambia, resulting in significantly improving their quality of life by the World Federation of Hemophilia.

Her Excellency Mrs Lungu has also been decorated by Lions Clubs International with the Presidential Pin for her outstanding work to uplift humanity since assuming office as First Lady.





H.E. MADAM AUXILLIA MNANGAGWA

**The First Lady of the Republic of
Zimbabwe**

Born 21 March 1963 in Mazowe District in Mashonaland Central, she grew up in Chiweshe near Rosa Business Centre where she did both her primary and secondary education.

After completing her secretarial studies at Silveira House in Chishawasha, she joined the Ministry of Manpower and Development in 1981.

She also worked with the Central Intelligence Organisation until 1997 – 1982 when she left to undertake studies in Environment and Tourism at the University of Zimbabwe.

Two years after leaving the country to pursue studies in hotel and tourism administration in Switzerland, she graduated in 2001.

She married His Excellency the President Cde. E.D. Mnangagwa in 1984.

She graduated with a Masters in Business Administration Degree at the Midlands State University 2008 graduation.

She is currently undertaking a PhD with the Midlands State University.

She became the First Lady of the Republic of Zimbabwe on the 24th of November 2017.

POLITICAL LIFE

The First Lady is a member of the ruling party ZANU PF.

She is the Deputy Secretary for Environment and Tourism in the ZANU PF Politburo.

She is the Patron for Youth and Tourism in ZANU PF spearheading youth empowerment through tourism.

As the ZANU PF Deputy Secretary for Environment and Tourism, in the Politburo she contributed to the launch of a historical tourism initiative in the city of Masvingo.

She was also honoured as Patron of Environment by the Ministry of Environment Water and Climate in recognition of her passion and hard work towards environmental preservation.

She has been a Central Committee Member since 2009 to date.

In 2014 she was elected to become a Member of Parliament representing Chirumhanzu-Zibagwe Constituency.

She worked on a number of empowerment projects on behalf of ZANU PF.

When She became the First Lady she resigned as a Member of Parliament for others to contest given her wider national role as the First Lady She was honoured as the Patron for Environmental Philanthropy by the Ministry responsible for Environment Water and Climate in recognition of her passion and hard work towards environmental preservation. She is a former Chairperson of Pan African Parliament for the Southern African Region.

PHILANTHROPIC WORK

Passionately known as Amai, the First Lady is a champion of the needs of the vulnerable in society. Even prior to becoming the First Lady, she has footprints demonstrating a passion for the needs of the vulnerable. She was instrumental in the establishment of women's banks in Silobela, Zhombe, Kwekwe, Chirumanzu-Zibagwe, Mvuma and all constituencies in the Midlands Province. She encouraged women empowerment through ownership of livestock and handcrafts (sewing knitting and claypot moulding) She also promoted tiling of rural homes as a way of promoting good hygiene. She also was instrumental in promoting women in cross border trading as a means of self sustenance. On assumption of her role as First Lady she has intensified her initiatives of empowering the vulnerable by forming the Angel of Hope Foundation.

As founder and Patron of the Angel of Hope Foundation she has spearheaded philanthropic work spreading its wings to the most marginalised communities and advocating for the preservation of their culture, for example the San people (bush men) and Doma community.

Through her Foundation the First Lady has visited communities and institutions donating foodstuffs, bed linen, stationary, ICT and medical equipment, and initiating comprehensive self help projects like fishponds, nutrition gardens, orchards and free range chicken rearing.

In recognition of her selfless work towards women and children's health the First Lady was appointed as Ministry of Health and Child Care's Ambassador for Maternal and Child health

The First Lady is an active member of the Organisation of African Ladies against HIV/AIDS, who is known for actively engaging the youth on sexual health matters discouraging premarital sex.

She has been facilitating free medical specialists services to marginalised communities. She has also been providing accessible and free cervical, breast and prostate cancer screening through her mobile clinic screening programme.

The First Lady launched the National Human Papillomavirus Vaccination (HPV), an anti-cancer programme expected to benefit over 000 800 girls aged between 10 and 14.

The First Lady has been actively advocating for safe sanitary wear in girls and women and has been donating sanitary wear including reusable sanitary wear.

She has been applauded by the Ministry responsible for Primary and Secondary education and other stakeholders for her keen interest in addressing and engaging adolescents by way of interactive sessions on a country-wide schools programme discussing issues around child abuse, early marriages, teen pregnancies, drug abuse, bullying and school drop outs.

The First Lady hosts a series of Family Fun Days aimed at promoting wellness and recreation in especially women and the elderly





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