

PART ONE



Inspiring change

oday is 8 March, the day when women's rights activists around the world celebrate International Women's Day. And on this day, I am proud to present MISA's inaugural edition of the annual MISA's Women to Watch.

In this publication, we profile 12 inspiring southern African women, all under the age of 40, who have made us sit up and take notice. Women who we see as rising stars in the region, whose achievements to date are a promise of more great work to come, making them women to watch.

From a former beauty pageant queen-turned-UN communications specialist; to an art photographer challenging mainstream ideals of beauty; to a human rights lawyer fighting for freedom of expression, the 12 women profiled in this publication are all contributing, in their own unique and creative ways, to making southern Africa a more conducive environment for media freedom and improving the ability of all people – including the vulnerable and marginalised in our communities – to access their right to freedom of expression.

The official UN theme for International Women's Day 2014 is "Equality for women is progress for all," and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon, highlighted the significance of this theme in his annual International Women's Day message:

"Countries with more gender equality have better economic growth. Companies with more women leaders perform better. Peace agreements that include women are more durable. Parliaments with more women enact more legislation on key social issues such as health, education, anti-discrimination and child support."

I would add to this that countries with more women in the media have a better chance of reflecting the voices of all members of their populations, of achieving greater participation of women and of providing fair and balanced reporting on women's issues and rights.

"Inspiring change" is another theme that activists around the world have assigned to International Women's Day 2014, and it is a theme that reminds us to look to the future and to seek ways of inspiring and empowering our women. MISA's Women to Watch embody this philosophy, each standing out not only for their incredible achievements and their drive to champion the rights of women and girls, but for their energy, enthusiasm and passion for life that is truly inspiring!

Zoe Titus, Regional Director

Media Institute of Southern Africa





Alisa Amupolo

Tech entrepreneur from Namibia,

30 years of age

lisa is a Namibian born and bred tech-entrepreneur and innovator with a passion for information, communication and technology. She has over 10 years of experience in the information communications technology (ICT) sector in a range of roles and areas, including in radio, public relations, strategic and international communication, strategic leadership, project management, and governance.

She has worked with numerous organisations including the Commonwealth Secretariat and Namibia Statistics Agency and on initiatives such as helping to establish the Commonwealth Regulatory Authority of Namibia. She holds a BA in Media Studies from the University of Namibia and a MA in International Communications from the University of Leeds. She also completed the University of Cape Town Graduate Business School's Executive Programme and London Business School's Emerging Leaders Programme.

In 2010 she was recognised as one of the 30 Southern African Emerging Leaders by a publication entitled 'Vision for Southern Africa'.

Read more here.

"I am inspired by the human potential and capability to innovate new technologies that serve as an enabler to daily lives, ranging from transport to education and learning, health to banking and finance."

Alisa's biggest goal...

"My goal is to lead a career which has an impact in penetrating the technology industry. I believe in the power of information, communication and technology in harnessing knowledge and innovation. My vision for Africa is to see technology fairly procured and applied in a most effective manner to maximise opportunities towards knowledge based societies and technology driven economies. I've undertaken to pioneer new approaches so as to deliver innovative solutions in Namibia's technology land space that profoundly impacts ordinary lives."

Find Alisa online...

www.information.na

www.alisamupolo.com

www.omathano.com



Ana Margoso

Journalist from Angola,

35 years of age



na has known she wanted to be a journalist since she was 7 years old, and has been working as one since she was 17, currently with the Novo Jornal.

While she took a break from journalism several years ago to take up the position of Executive Director of Media & IT at a media agency, she found herself missing the hectic life of a journalist and returned to the newsroom.

Ana's parents fought for the liberation of Angola and instilled a sense of patriotism in their daughter. Ana's patriotism is not the sort which sees her turn a blind eye to the faults of her country, but the kind which sees her constantly striving to help Angola reach her full potential.

Her love of journalism is deeply rooted in her sense of justice, and she is a passionate supporter of upholding freedom of expression and fighting for equality and tolerance.

Read more here.

"With the restrictions on press freedom in Angola and the ownership of newspapers by the people in power, social networks have become ... the fastest way to share and receive information.

I argue that a well-informed people are better able to make good decisions. My job is to inform the population by using social media tools to report news impartially to Angola and abroad."

Check out some of Ana's

work:

África precisa estar atenta aos novos ventos

Não estranhe se o kupapata lhe cobrar em francês

A UNITA nunca teve intenções de tomar Luanda, queríamos apenas fragilizar o MPLA



Chikondi Mphande

Radio journalist from Malawi,

22 years of age



hikondi has dreamt of being "one of the best journalists in the world" since she was in primary school, inspired by journalists who were bringing about change in society in the health, education and human rights sectors through their stories.

Now 22, she is a reporter with Malawi's leading radio broadcaster, Zodiak Broadcasting Station, and the recent recipient of the MISA and Save the Children 2013 Children's Reporting Award in the radio category. Her story reported on how some aspects of Malawian culture are causing children to be denied access to education in parts of the country.

Winning the award has motivated her to pursue more social issues in her stories and she has recently recently written a special report analysing the hunger situation in some of the most remote areas of the country. Her report gave a voice to communities where people were dying of hunger and resulted in a government and non-governmental intervention that provided food aid to over 19,000.

Read more here.

Listen to Chikondi's award winning story, 'Culture compromising children's right to education' here.

"I am looked
down upon because
I m a young,
female journalists.
Often times, even
sources don't have
confidence in me
... but this comes
after they hear my
stories."



Emma Theofelus

Student and Junior Mayor of the City of Windoek from Namibia,

17 years of age

"The inability of people to stand up for themselves and fight for what is rightfully theirs gives me all the motivation to be the voice of the voiceless."

"I try to always lead by example.
I also make it my responsiblity to
be a positive energy around other
people and always motivate them
to be the best person that they can
be."

t just 17 years of age, Emma has already established herself as a young leader in Namibia. As Junior Mayor of the City of Windhoek and a member of the 4th Session of the Children's Parliament, Emma reports back to schools on information concerning civic affairs and represents the voice of Windhoek's school learners to the City of Windhoek.

Emma is a passionate advocate for human rights. As a patriotic young Namibian who is concerned about the rights of children in Namibia, Emma has decided to do something about it by using her position as the Junior Mayor and leader of the Youth Junior Council to make sure that the rights children are acknowledged and respected. In particular, she aims to raise awareness and represent the youth voice on issues such as teen pregnancy, violence against children, ways to empower the girl child, and advocating for the Namibian Government to adopt the Child Care and Protection Bill.

Read more here.



What would you like to see change in Namibia over the next 12 months?

"In the next 12 months, I do not only want to see The Child Care and Protection Bill in Namibia become a law but also put in practice by schools, parents and policy implementers."

Hoyce Jemu

Communications specialist from Tanzania,

35 years of age

Tanzanian village, Hoyce Temu walked five the Miss Tanzania beauty pageant because kilometres, barefoot, to attend school each day. The idea of gracing national stages in stilettos and evening gowns as Miss Tanzania 1999 probably never her crossed her young mind!

s a child growing up in a rural As a young university student, Hoyce entered she saw it as a platform to bring attention to the problems facing vulnerable groups in her country.

> She is passionate about empowering rural women and children to escape poverty and fulfill their potential. She has volunteered and worked for the United Nations in various capacities since 2000 where, today, she is a Communications Specialist.

> In a previous role, she fundraised for a special project that provided grants to rural farmers. Devastated by the extreme poverty of rural women and children, Hoyce managed to expand the focus of the project to include empowering these women, providing funding to more than 100 women's groups over several years.

> Hoyce also hosts her own talk show, Mimi na Tanzania (Me and Tanzania), which focuses on the gender issues she has spent her career promoting.

Read more here.



"My own past experience has been a catalyst for what I am doing. Being a woman who lived in the village with all signs of human rights abuses such as forced early marriages, forced circumcisions and being locked in the cycle of extreme poverty.

I escaped these terrible odds, but I saw many of my friends going through the pain, never understanding what it was, rather considering it a part of a woman's life. I thought, 'I want to stop this! I want them empowered! I want them educated!'"



Jean Chalungama

Radio journalist from Malawi,

31 years of age



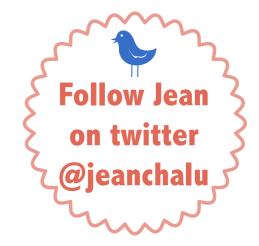
single mother hailing from Katemba village in the central region of Malawi, Jean might not be the type of sports reporter many expect to hear over their airwaves, but that has never stopped her from pursuing her passion.

She "loves sports to a fault", and her passion lead her to become the first woman in Malawi to anchor the World Cup on national television and the first female to receive awards from both the Hockey Association and the Super League of Malawi for her coverage of hockey and football.

At first, Jean planned on a career in Public Relations, but when a friend, who is a celebrated broadcaster, told her she had a voice for radio, she thought she would try her luck and was employed on the spot. Jean has also spent some time in telelevision broadcasting, but she says "radio is where it all started for me, and it will always be my first love".

Jean is currently the senior executive producer in charge of programming at the newly launched mass radio station, UFULU FM, where she also presents a number of prime time shows.

Read more here.



On being a woman in

broadcasting...

"It is not easy to be in this industry and be a female who is a big sports buff... unfortunately in Malawi we don't have a lot of female sports broadcasters - in radio, I am the only one!!! In the whole country! So you can just picture how male dominated it is."

Because of this, I have had to work really hard to prove to myself that I can run with the big boys and be taken seriously. Its not that women don't love sports in Malawi, we do. A lot. Its just that most of the women are not encouraged to pursue a career out of it. I am trying to advocate, through my shows, that it can be done!!"