

20 MAY 2020

LEADERSHIP IS A LOVE AFFAIR

A BLOG BY NOLWANDLE MADE



May 2020 started with much excitement on my part, it was the day for the special webinar event to celebrate the 70th birthday of a legend, former president of Malawi, Her Excellency (HE) Dr Joyce Banda. I, as an African woman had a lot of admiration and if I'm honest hero worship for this trailblazer. After all, Africa and the world does not have a lot of female leaders to look up to. So, ja, I was super-excited and as a member of the organising committee, also super-stressed.

The webinar, titled Leadership in crisis and beyond, was hosted by the Joyce Banda Foundation International (JBFI) in partnership with the African Agricultural Professionals in Europe (AAPE), Ushift Labs, The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Mzuzu E-Hub and Sheroes International

Celebrating 7th Birthday - OF - Dr Joyce Banda

Join us on the **20th of May, 3pm GMT +2** for a conversation on your dreams and vision for Africa's future with:

<https://slu-se.zoom.us/j/8261919787>



Her Excellency Dr Joyce Banda

former President of Malawi; Founder and Chair of The Joyce Banda Foundation International

Topic: Women's resilience during crises: how are we doing with coronavirus?



Her Excellency Dr Arikana Chihombori-Quao

Former African Union Ambassador to Washington; President Our Africa Diaspora Development Institute

Topic: Coronavirus in Africa: the dilemma of stopping people from dying and thriving

Her Excellency Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, GCSK

Mauritian politician and biodiversity scientist who served as the 6th President of Mauritius from 2015 to 2018

Topic: Women in science and entrepreneurship



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Edith Kachale-Banda

Joyce Banda Foundation International

Topic: To lockdown or not to lockdown: lessons with entrepreneurial students and TRUST



Harry Akinola

Global Talent & Learning Leader, Founder - Africa Shift Initiatives

Topic: Leading the youth for success in times of crisis



Thamo Mzobe

CEO of the National Development Agency

Topic: COVID-19 money transfers, markets, sustainability and food security



Pascal Murashira

Youth, Agriculture & ICT for Growth and Development, Swedish Management Institute, Netherlands

Topic: Youth, Agriculture & ICT for Growth and Development



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Topic: Women in science and entrepreneurship



Linley Chivona-Karltun

Associate Professor, Senior Lecturer of Agricultural Sciences, Board Member of Joyce Banda Foundation

Topic: To lockdown or not to lockdown: lessons with entrepreneurial students and TRUST



Flossy T Menson

Sheroes - International Forum

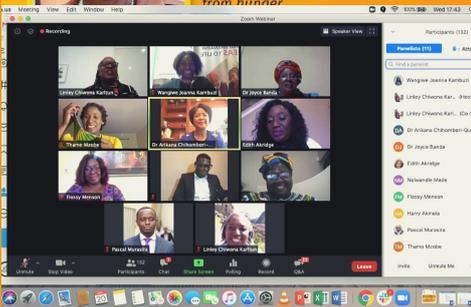
Topic: Mentoring and Leading the next generation of women post COVID19



Wangie Joanna Kambuzi

Social Innovator, Mzuzu Friends Malawi

Topic: Supporting the youth in times of crises - from corporate to community building



Anyway, back to my excitement, the clock seemed to be moving slowly and galloping at the same time. 15H00 came too slowly and quickly, and then it was showtime. It wouldn't be a great event if there are no glitches at the beginning. For a start, the event was organised from three continents, North America (two US cities); Europe (Sweden) and Africa (Malawi, Ghana and South Africa). So a lot was at stake, what with internet connections having no respect for the auspicious occasion we were planning, it took longer than anticipated to connect. However, I am sure our participants and panelists alike will surely agree that the wait was well worth it.

I'm unsure that African women in particular are aware of the significance of this occasion when two former world leaders, HE Dr Joyce Banda and HE Dr Ellen Johnson Sirleaf shared the same stage. The former president of Mauritius, HE Dr Bibi Ameenah Firdaus Gurib-Fakim, who had greed to be one of the guest speakers had to sadly pull out at the last minute because of a tragic family event. Then of course there was former AU ambassador to the US, Dr Arikana Chihombori-Quao, remember how we were all outraged when she was stripped of her ambassadorship. This powerhouse of speakers was joined on the panel by Ms Edith Kachale-Banda, Managing Director of the Joyce Banda Foundation International; Mrs Thamo Mzobe, CEO of the RSA National Development Agency;

