



Youth Alliance for Leadership
and Development in Africa

CONNECT

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AFRICA RE-DEFINED!

By Sheila Achieng'



In his poem, *The Meaning of Africa*, celebrated Sierra Leonean scholar, writer and poet Abioseh Nicol defines the 'real Africa' for those seeking to understand the continent. The last stanza of this very scintillating piece renders thus:

You are not a country, Africa,

You are a concept,

Fashioned in our minds, each to each,

To hide our separate fears,

To dream our separate dreams...

'This is my Africa' meaning,

'I am content and happy.

I am fulfilled, within...

His poem bravely depicts our self-doubt and apprehension about the future of the African continent. Sharply juxtaposed against each other, fear and contentment dwell together like strange bed fellows.

The new decade began with renewed hope and anticipation of greater things. The contagious optimism was short lived as Africa entered into war with a pandemic, the Corona virus, COVID- 19 disease. Rather than give into self-doubt and fear, African youth seized the opportunity to aggressively confront the challenges faced by the communities in which they dwelt.

Etched in these pages are the stories of Africa's unsung heroes who courageously accepted and aggressively confronted the realities they were subjected to. Brought together by the shared passion to pursue Africa's prosperity, the youth gallantly joined the coordinated efforts to push back the ominous threat to the continent's future. Different from Nicol's reality, youth all over the continent have '*shared their fears*' and '*coalesced their separate dreams*' for the '*Africa we want.*'

***A new generation of brave African youth
has radically revolutionized the concept of
Africa, giving way to new possibilities.
Here are their stories!***



GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND DEVELOPMENT:

A look at women's development and how lack of gender consideration in development can lead to a crisis.

By Sheila Achieng' (Kenya)

"Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development, and building good governance"

– Kofi Annan

The African continent represents the new frontier for global economic development. Home to the fastest growing economies, African countries have attracted investments from international organisations and multi-national corporations that seek to harness the potential of Africa's emerging markets. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD's) World Investment Report 2019, African countries escaped the global decline in foreign direct investment (FDI) as investment in the continent rose to US \$46 billion in 2018, making a remarkable increase of 11% compared to the previous year. In addition, Africa's youthful population provides skilled human capital necessary to drive economic growth. The growth of Africa's consumer population has led to an increase in demand and purchasing power. This has created a combined consumer base worth US \$4 trillion with an anticipated growth in African business opportunities expected to reach US \$5.6 trillion by 2025. However, Africa's success story is not shared by the demographic majority.

According to statistics, women account for more than 50% of Africa's combined population. Given this, women have the capacity to contribute greatly towards Africa's economic development. The contribution made



by women towards economic growth has been marginal, at only 33% of the continent's collective GDP owing to gender inequalities that have been perpetuated in our cultural constructs and enforced in policy frameworks. Although progress has been made in bridging the gender inequality chasm globally, Africa countries still have the highest levels of inequality. The drive to include women in leadership positions has largely been retrogressive, with statistics recording a decline of nearly 50% of the share of women in entry positions to those in leadership roles. Africa's Gender Parity Score (GPS) on women in leadership positions stands at 0.33 below the global average of 0.37. Further still, women's economic potential has been clipped as most productive assets are



owned by men. In addition, access to technology has, to a great extent, been limited to the male gender thereby limiting skills development and overall productive capacity of women. Sadly, women in entrepreneurship have limited access to capital required to scale up business ventures as lenders perceive them as 'risky' compared to their male counterparts.

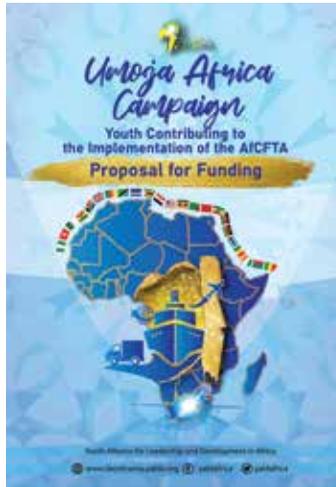
To achieve Africa's economic transformation, there is need for collective agitation for inclusive societies and communities. Advancing women's equality can significantly tilt the scales of Africa's development. According to McKinsey & Company, progress towards gender parity could increase the continent's GDP by US \$316 billion by 2025. But how does Africa leverage the potential of women to deliver sustainable economic development as envisaged in these statistics? While many interventions are needed to bridge the gender divide, the greatest lies in empowerment and a shift in cultural paradigms. Inequalities are often propagated by retrogressive cultural practices that impinge on the rights of women. Female genital mutilation, early child marriages and the cultural preference to educate children of the male gender propagate gender inequalities within societies. Pursuing education for girls and women while simultaneously addressing negative cultural perceptions of women could have the desired effect on advancing equality. Moreover, policy and legal infrastructure will be beneficial in providing suitable environments for the advancement of gender equality. Digital literacy will go a long way in ensuring that women access economic opportunities within the digital ecosystems. The use and ownership of digital technologies by women is important in achieving digital inclusion and ensuring that women are able to leverage existing technology infrastructure to scale up their business ventures while developing sustainable solutions to challenges within their communities. In conclusion, the role of one in development cannot be overlooked. There is need for governments, policy makers and private sector stakeholders to collaborate and accelerate the inclusion of women as a viable pathway towards re-writing the African success story.

THE UMOJA AFRICA CAMPAIGN

By Abinaidah Chaseba (Zambia)

More than 60% of Africa's population comprises young people. This population is striving to combat the worsening youth unemployment challenge by establishing their own businesses. In light of these challenges, it is reassuring to say – the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) couldn't have come at a better time. With the AfCFTA, young people on the continent will have access to investment capital as well as the ability to provide and access goods and services seamlessly across borders.

Accordingly, to ensure that the youth across the continent understand the purport of the AfCFTA, Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA) is currently running a campaign tagged: "Umoja Africa Campaign – Youth Contributing to the Implementation of the AfCFTA" in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union and other regional organisations. This is in order to drive youth inclusiveness in the AfCFTA policy formulation and implementation at both country and continent-wide levels.



The campaign's primary focus is on youth-driven initiatives that aim to promote the AfCFTA and alleviate information asymmetry surrounding it among young people. It will, therefore, drive discussions between young people and key stakeholders on how to move forward successfully in the implementation of the AfCFTA, while ensuring youth mainstreaming in all aspects of its realization.



Furthermore, YALDA recognises the need for young people to understand and leverage off the benefits that could materialise because of the enactment of the AfCFTA. In this respect, YALDA considers it imperative to ensure that efforts are undertaken to resolve information asymmetries that result from the lack of knowledge transfer about how this agreement will work, impact the youth and how they may potentially benefit from it in the long-term. Hence, the Umoja Africa campaign envelops a series of activities that aim to tackle this challenge as well as bring young people into contact with participants, stakeholders and actors that are working on the successful implementation of this agreement.

Among the various campaign activities to look forward to are the UNECA Country Consultations. At the request of UNECA, YALDA is to nominate youth speakers and delegates for the AfCFTA national consultations that are taking place across the continent. YALDA has undoubtedly been able to make contributions to country-level deliberations on AfCFTA implementation through these in-country youth representatives in Zimbabwe, Senegal, Ethiopia and Ghana. The deliberations are, however, not limited to these countries, they will soon be in Kenya, South Africa and others, as per the timetable provided by UNECA.

As the campaign rolls on, the youth will be able to participate in a lot more exciting activities, including; competition and challenges, webinars and other events. To stay tuned, the youth across the continent are encouraged to support and follow campaign updates on social media and other media sources.



BRANCH HIGHLIGHTS

YALDA ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY, ETHIOPIA

After its debut in Addis Ababa University in 2013, YALDA-AAU has been actively engaging students in the University in most of its activities; by extending networking and internship opportunities for students to further develop themselves, by organizing capacity building trainings and workshops and by advocating for the inclusion of students and the youth in general in decision making processes on matters that affect their livelihood. Despite the challenges posed by the imposition of a strict state of emergency on student activities by the university, YALDA-AAU has been persistent in its commitment to connect youth leaders to opportunities for growth both on campus and off-campus. In the last quarter, YALDA-AAU held two major events that brought together more than 450 people; both youth and members of the academic community.

One of the events took place during the Global Media and Information Literacy week where YALDA AAU helped organize a workshop for youth organisations in Ethiopia. The branch worked in collaboration with AIESEC to bring together 15 youth organisations for a 3 day workshop with UNESCO. This was with an aim of ensuring that young people are Media and Information Literacy (MIL) agents. From this event, strong networks were built and YALDA members who attended the workshop shared what they learnt for application in YALDA-AAU'S media team.



To celebrate International Women's day on 8th March, YALDA AAU held the third series of its Digital Skills training on 7th March 2020. This training was primarily targeted at female students at Addis Ababa University; although their male counterparts were also allowed to participate. The training entailed first, a panel discussion that was aimed at creating awareness on the Gender Policy of the university so that the female students could have an understanding of what it entails, and how the policy can be used to ensure that their rights are not infringed upon. Afterwards, the Basic Digital Skills training was held, covering topics like Building Online presence, how to make the most of Digital opportunities, how to stay safe online etc. From the training, the branch received glowing feedback from participants; indicating that they were immensely satisfied with how the training was held.

YALDA MOHAMMED V UNIVERSITY, MOROCCO

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader."

YALDA Mohammed V University, is a branch made of highly motivated and hardworking young leaders – change makers of Morocco – who are fueled by the ambition to unite the African continent by harnessing its untapped potential to create opportunities, explore, innovate, and to attain prosperity beyond the set limits. The YALDA University Mohammed V branch sets its journey to live the African Dream and to support Young Leaders to bring their projects and ideas to life by tapping into a national and international network for young Africans, future leaders and change makers unified by the sole purpose of developing the African continent. With a mission that is anchored on providing guidance and mentorship for

young Moroccan students in addition to motivating them by different means to help them bring out the leaders within them and become the hope they seek, the branch aspires to implement projects



that envisions the most important aspects of self-improvement: Cultural (launching the first edition of the Cultural African University Festival); Educational (creating unified African schooling programs); Entrepreneurial (host a competition for young African entrepreneurs and inventors).

The YALDA UMV branch is the new promising home for young African students who seek change, development, differentiation, innovation and self-improvement.

"Together we can be the change that we want to see in the world."

YALDA LIBERIA

YALDA LIBERIA CORONAVIRUS AWARENESS INITIATIVES

The Youth Alliance for Leader and Development in Africa (YALDA) is an international youth organisation with has its established branch in Liberia called: YALDA Liberia.

YALDA Liberia, with deep passion and commitment to the welfare of the African continent officially joined the fight against the deadly Coronavirus disease in Liberia with a launched self-supported Coronavirus awareness of three categorical activities to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Liberia and beyond.

The three separate activities with one common goal are:

1. Online Coronavirus Awareness (OCA)
2. Coronavirus Communities' Awareness (CCA)
3. Self-Coronavirus Community Awareness (SCA)

1. Online Coronavirus Awareness (OCA)

The social media platforms serve as one of the means to spread information and reach more people in short time. Therefore, YALDA Liberia decided to make use of the social media space by launching the Online Coronavirus Awareness (OCA). This initiative engaged large number of social media users with basic information and update on COVID-19 pandemic with focus on Transmission, Symptoms and Prevention.

2. Coronavirus Communities' Awareness (CCA)

The reality that most common community dwellers do not have access to internet or social media prompted YALDA Liberia to launch the Coronavirus Communities' Awareness (CCA). The CCA was officially launched on Saturday, April 4, 2020 in the Caldwell New Georgia Community with eight (8) volunteers who educated and informed the community dwellers about the pandemic highlighting that the Coronavirus exists, and sharing information on the Transmission, Symptoms and Prevention. Also, as part of the activities to keep the community dwellers informed at all times, YALDA Liberia printed over two hundred (200) flyers and distributed to community dwellers carrying the basic preventive measure.

3. Self-Coronavirus Community Awareness (SCA)

YALDA Liberia wants youth to contribute and impact their communities while extending at the national and continental levels. Therefore, the Self-Coronavirus Community Awareness (SCA) initiative was introduced to reduce high risk of interaction/contact by means of moving from one community to another. This initiative allows YALDA Liberia volunteers, members and other community youth to sanitize fellow community dwellers about the virus and its prevention. This has been carried out in many communities where our members live.

Special message from YALDA Liberia:

The fight against Coronavirus can only be achieved by collective efforts, collaboration, partnership, interconnection and strong solidarity. This means, everyone must be a responsible citizen and follow all the health protocols as well as sanitize others to follow suit. With joint effort, Coronavirus can be defeated in the soonest possible time.





A YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR'S SUCCESS STORY

By Bethelhem Kassa (Ethiopia)



Ali Mohamed
Founder
VOUND Technologies

At 23, Ali Mohamed is the founder of Vound and is also a Massachusetts Institute of Technology student. He built a patent-pending technology that enables individuals with hearing loss to visualize sound. Vound uses a combination of augmented reality and artificial intelligence to interpret sound waves and convert them into projections on a display screen in real-time at a fraction of the cost of cochlear implants or hearing aids. Vound is developing prototypes that could serve people with speech disorders and various hearing impairments that affect 1.3 billion people. Vound's technology has won awards from MIT, Harvard, Intel and Microsoft. Mohamed, originally from Egypt, is currently taking time off from MIT to test his technology across the U.S. He is a modern Renaissance man. All over the world solutions that leverage Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality are shaping our future. Vound, a merging of vision and sound, is a company that builds sound visualizers for those who have hearing impairments. This innovative technology comes at a cost that is well below hearing aids and Cochlear Implants.

For Mr. Mohamed, the idea began in 2012 when he designed goggles for the hearing impaired at his high school science fair. Then he chose to take a gap year after high school to further develop his idea which led him to participate in a three-year immersion in advanced coding and prototyping. In 2014, he came in third at the MIT Arab Startup Competition, and in 2018 was named one of Forbes Arab 30 under 30.

Ali Mohamed serves as an inspiration to all Egyptians. His story sparks light and inspiration in Egyptian youth. It shows them that we are capable of creating our own innovative technologies that use things like Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality. Our future as young people is heavily related on technology; we must create the trends and not merely keep up with them!

“Our future as young people is heavily related on technology; we must create the trends and not merely keep up with them!”

YALDA PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATE OF THE QUARTER

Mrs. Lorato Morapedi is a visionary and transformational leader driven by inner conviction and a sense of purpose. Lorato, a wife, mother and daughter also considers herself a sister to all and has spearheaded many initiatives within the community in her home country, Botswana. Her passion for change motivates her to positively impact the lives of individuals and contribute towards the development of businesses, particularly SMEs, in and outside Botswana. In celebration of her achievements, Lorato was recognized as part of the inaugural 'Top 100 women CEO's in Africa' nominations by Reset Global People in partnership with Pulse and Avance Media, based on her work and accomplishments as a leader. Lorato continues to inspire the next generation of women CEO's in Africa and across the world in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 5 that advances gender equality and 10 that advocates for reduced inequalities through the creation of equitable societies.



Mrs. Lorato Charity Morapedi

"When I was in senior school, I heard of a course called Bachelor of Commerce (BCom). I didn't know what it was about, but it got stuck in my head. I got good grades in senior school, so I applied to the University of Botswana and was admitted," quips Lorato, reminiscing on the events that thrust her into a career in economics. Eventually, she was admitted for a Bachelor of Science Programme that she later dropped in favour of a social science. Her application for a government scholarship placed her in the Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Accounting class. "I was shattered at the time," she says, "but when I actually studied the course, I enjoyed every minute of it!" Her academic pursuit would eventually frame her career and passion for economic development. In another stroke of fate, Lorato's secured her first job within Botswana's Ministry of Finance, a position that gifted her momentum she needed to ascend the corporate ladder.

Mrs Morapedi's illustrious career cuts across different arms of the economy including government, private sector and parastatals. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer of National Development Bank (NDB), a position she has held since 2010. Her career spans over twenty-seven years of experience during which she held different leadership positions at Barclays Bank of Botswana and the Citizen Entrepreneurship Development Agency (CEDA). She has previously worked as an Economist in the then Ministry of Finance & Development Planning. She holds a MSc in Policy Economics from the University of Illinois, USA, a Bachelor of Arts (Economics & Accounting) from the University of Botswana, complemented by several leadership, governance, banking and risk management trainings. She is also an Alumni of the London Business School and Botswana Institute of Bankers.

Given her wealth of experience, Lorato serves in several boards. She is currently a member of the SADC-Development Finance Institutions Sub-Committee; Chairperson of Main Council of ABM University College, Youth Alliance for Leadership & Development in Africa (YALDA)- Botswana Advisory Board; and Chairperson of the Kgalemang T. Motsete (KTM) Choir Advisory Board. She has also served as a Board Member and Board Human Resources Committee Chairperson for Local Enterprise Authority (LEA), and a member of 'The Business Place Advisory Board.'

Lorato has braved the odds to become a thought leader in Botswana's development. She credits her career for the lessons learnt in service to the people of Botswana. "Humility is important. Humility builds you as a person and earns you respect from people you work with. I believe I've been able to lead different

teams at different levels because of my humility. Also, equally important, is that as a person you should not be defined by the office or the title that you hold. When people meet you, they must meet and see you – the person you are without the office. In my case, they should see me first as Lorato, a fellow human being before they see me as the CEO of NDB," she says, her face creasing into a smile.

Lorato is also passionate about youth and women development. Her purpose in life is articulated in her energy, wisdom and passion to make a difference in the lives of others. She has been very instrumental in driving the youth agenda through her leadership and contributions as a member of YALDA's Advisory Board. Lorato envisions a world where young people are embraced as the leaders of today with an equal opportunity to contribute towards development. "Young people need to organize themselves and YALDA is a good example of this. When you organize yourselves, your voices become more audible and your structured views and thoughts draw the attention of current leaders. In addition, you need to acknowledge that those who have gone before you are wise and you need to find allies among the older generation who can offer direction regarding the right course to take to achieve the greatest impact. You need to be able and willing to seek counsel and work with guidance from the older generation," she concludes emphatically.

MEMBERS OF THE QUARTER



Yinka Aileru *Nigeria*

Olayinka Aileru is a Nigerian Legal Practitioner. “I am passionate about using the law to advance the cause of society and fighting for the down-trodden,” says the proud YALDA member. ‘Yinka’, as we affectionately call him, is particularly concerned with the plight of indigent young persons that have had run-ins with the law. “I use my expertise as a lawyer through the provision of pro-bono service to assist inmates awaiting trial and other less privileged members of the society. I also encourage young lawyers like myself to volunteer their time to give their services in the aid of indigent members of the society,” says the young legal activist. Yinka takes pride in participating in YALDA programs and events. As the only International Organization by African that is devoted to promoting integration and human development of African youths, YALDA has captured Yinka’s interests. YALDA leverages Yinka’s professional expertise as a lawyer to aid the attainment of the aspirations of the organisation. YALDA has worked collaboratively with YALDA Nigeria in formulating and organizing YALDA events at the country level and has had the honour of representing the organisation at 2019 Africa Economic Conference in Egypt organized by the Africa Development Bank.

SYLVIA MUSANDILE *Zambia*

Sylvia Musandile was inspired to join YALDA Zambia by the fact that YALDA advocates for youth empowerment and provides platforms for them to be heard, recognized and showcase their talents and abilities. She is appreciative of the informative monthly webinars organized by YALDA which are also a platform to plug in and be part of an international network of youth. Thus, she is highly committed in helping set up the YALDA Zambia branch in terms of marketing since the branch is engaging in a lot of publicity efforts via social media and at individual basis; by approaching students from the University of Zambia outside their classes in addition to publicizing the branch during the orientation for first year students. She is highly motivated by the fact that her efforts are appreciated and terms every experience as being priceless and enriching; having grown to appreciate the role and importance of youth in the society. With this, she has been able to invite quite a good number of people to join the branch; the branch reported an increase in membership from 6 to 25 members in less than a week!



CHELVIN RAMSAMY *Mauritius*

Chelvin’s dream is to strive towards realizing the SDGs, UN Vision 2030 and AU Agenda 2063, “*The Africa We Want*”. Chelvin has undertaken President Obama’s YALI (Public Management and Governance Track) and was a Keynote Speaker for the Global Social Leader Forum 2017. He was nominated as the Top 100 YALI Alumni across Africa. Chelvin is enrolled in the Young Professional Development Program and the AGLA Transformed Leaders Program. Winner of the Noble Citizen Award and Outstanding Management Committee Member Award, Chelvin forms part of the Pan-African family of exceptional professionals that will drive the AU’s human development goals. Chelvin also co-founded Let’s Glow Organisation to promote educational, environmental and empowerment initiatives. He serves as Global Peace Ambassador, Continent Director for the Africa-Asia Youth Foundation (AAYFO) and several other organisations in different capacities. Chelvin is a Tax Consultant at ‘Big Four’ accounting firm KPMG where he has previously won the KPMG Standing Ovation Award. Chelvin’s vision for a prosperous and highly advanced Africa driven by youth fuels his service towards the African continent as YALDA’s Southern Africa Regional Associate and Fundraising Officer in the YALDA International Finance Team.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE

YALDA i-BOOT CAMP 2020 IN SOUTH AFRICA



“i-Boot Camp, where the i serves as a reminder that at YALDA we are here to inspire youth to innovate and implement ideas that will have a positive impact on our beloved African continent”

In our quest to groom Africa’s future leaders, all YALDA University level branches are helping plan our 2020 international i-Boot Camp themed: **“Breaking Information Barriers on Intra-Africa Trade: Youth Inclusiveness in Implementing AfCFTA” from the 23rd – 27th September, 2020 at the Africa Future Center, University of Pretoria, South Africa.** The i-Boot Camp will bring to South Africa over 350 youth and prominent professionals from Africa and abroad. It will focus on how African youth can leverage the immense opportunities presented in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to grow and expand their businesses across the continent and thereby contribute to creating employment for themselves and their peers.



Over the next 30 years, Africa’s youth population is expected to double to over 830 million young people and hence, will form the major economically active demographic group on the continent by 2050. It has been widely acknowledged that the future of Africa does not lie in its natural resources but in its ability to galvanise its teeming youth population through human capacity development initiatives. Equally as important is Africa’s ability to engender regional integration across the continent and promulgate intra-African trade. However, regional integration still remains a major challenge as most African borders remain closed to other Africans, with restrictions in movement of goods and services resulting in low



intra-Africa trade. Currently, intra-African trade stands at a meager 18% compared to 59% in Asia and 69% in Europe, which impedes development contributing to masses of unemployed youth.

After years of negotiations among African leaders, in March 2018 history was made at the 10th Extraordinary Session of the Assembly of Head of States and Government when 54 African countries united to launch the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The AfCFTA aims to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments. With the AfCFTA, young people across the continent—comprising more than 60% of the continent’s population—will have access to investment capital and the ability to provide goods and services seamlessly across borders. This will allow them to: 1) harness the competitive edge of their innovations; 2) focus their production to meet Africa’s growing needs, and 3) combat the worsening youth unemployment challenge by establishing their own businesses that create job opportunities for their peers. With low-tariff/ non-tariff backed access to the African-wide 1.2 billion market, opportunities will be rife in Africa’s free trade area. *(Continued on page 11)*





Continued from page 10

The i-Boot Camp will also focus on promoting youth inclusiveness in the implementation of the AfCFTA, including coordination and funding of youth-run businesses across the continent to access other viable markets leveraging the provisions of the AfCFTA. The i-Boot Camp will empower youth to build viable and sustainable enterprises across African borders, thereby enhancing cross-border capacity development from the bottom up. This will break the physical limitations of physical integration whilst promoting intra-African transactions in goods and digital and other services, ultimately contributing to the prosperity of our African continent!

The i-Boot Camp's high-intensity and fast-paced schedule will encompass: industry specific panel discussions; IDEA labs; seminars focused on understanding the instruments of the AfCFTA; workshops aimed at refining ideas and skills, and site visits to youth-led projects and businesses in Johannesburg and Pretoria. In addition, YALDA will continue its e-participation platform for delegates who cannot physically make it to South Africa.

YALDA has pursued its objectives and impacted African youth through 7 international biennial conferences. In September 2006 YALDA held the first ever conference at the American University in Cairo, Egypt themed **"An African Course in Development: Youth Redefining Leadership"**. In 2008, a second conference was held at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda themed **"Overcoming Obstacles on the Continent and Beyond"**. In August 2011, a third YALDA conference was held in Gaborone, Botswana jointly hosted at



Gaborone Sun Hotel and the University of Botswana, under the theme **"Spotlight on Africa: Youth owning Africa's Development Wave"**. In 2012 a fourth conference was held at the School, Nigeria titled, **"Innovation and Creativity for a Better Africa: Implementing Your Dreams"**. In 2015, YALDA re-branded and re-structured its biennial conferences to the current i-Boot Camps, holding its fifth i-Boot Camp at the United States International University (USIU) themed, **"What Africa Needs Now: Youths Creating Jobs"** in Nairobi, Kenya. YALDA's sixth biennial i-Boot Camp, under the banner **"Fostering Regional Integration for a Prosperous Africa: Transforming Youth Potential to Opportunity Across Borders"** was held in 2016 at the University of Buea in Cameroon. **"Africa in the Digital Age: Youth Bridging Physical Integration through ICT"** was the focus at YALDA's seventh i-Boot Camp hosted by Mohammed V University in Rabat, Morocco in 2018.



WEBINAR TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

Don't miss our monthly webinars this year. Our webinar series offers a great, easy way to learn more and have conversations about African development, related challenges and solutions. Each one features guest speakers to present on our topic of the month. To put our webinars together, we work closely with the YALDA US Harvard branch to recruit speakers, promote our webinars, and execute them virtually.

This year we are also introducing a new certificate programme that seeks to award regular participants with certificates! At the end of 2019, those of you who meet the criteria will be awarded. For more information and in order to be considered for the certificate, please fill out the following form here: <https://forms.gle/PLCmofzFjBqA9ZkCA>.

January 25, 2020 webinar:

"TAKE OVER 2020: Strategies to Achieve Unimaginable Success This Year"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6nJQmUYsvak>

As we ushered in a new year and decade, like minded YALDA Youth convened to re-train their focus on their personal goals and aspirations. The online audience were treated to a motivational talk from Emmy nominated producer, musician and entrepreneur Derrick Ashong. Derrick shared his life's journey and life lessons that lend insight as to how youth can frame their goals and approach success.

The webinar was also instrumental in reframing youth perspective on failures and how to use challenges and hurdles as stepping stones towards success. Derrick emphasized on the need to embrace failure as an opportunity to learn and focus our minds on dynamic and creative thinking as a way of circumventing systemic challenges that they face. The webinar ended on a climax with massive participation from eager youth who engaged Derrick through a question and answer question in which Derrick shared his perspective drawn from his own personal experiences.

WEBINAR!

**TAKE OVER 2020:
Strategies to Achieve Unimaginable
Success This Year!**

Guest speaker Derrick Ashong
Emmy nominated producer, musician, and entrepreneur, featured on Oprah will share his story and his perspective on framing goals and approaching success.

Saturday, 25 January

4pm South African time
5pm Kenya time
3pm Nigeria time

3pm Morocco time
9am US EST time



Phatsimo Mosimanegape
YALDA Botswana President
MODERATOR



Derrick Ashong
SPEAKER



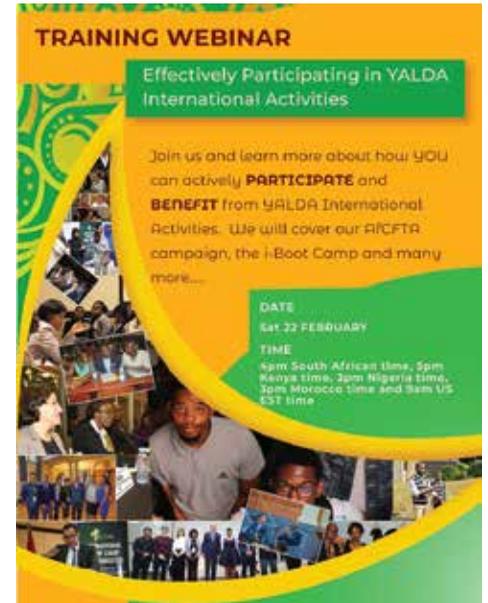
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February 22, 2020 webinar:
“Effectively Participating in YALDA International Activities”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkDk_doKc4o

This webinar was intended to ensure that youth within the YALDA network are well equipped to effectively participate in upcoming initiatives. The training covered the scope of YALDA 2020 initiatives including the AfCFTA campaign, the YALDA biennial i-Boot camp, YALDA training webinars and international events. Youth were encouraged to participate in events as a way of lending their skills and talents towards advancing the youth agenda.

In addition, branch members were trained on fundraising strategies and empowered on how they approach corporate entities and individuals for sponsorship requests. Members were encouraged to galvanize support and engage a wider section of the youth at grass root level to achieve greater impact and greater engagement on YALDA initiatives.



Carter Bell
YALDA Harvard
MODERATOR



Nandini Tanya Llamon
Regional Associate for Southern Africa
TRAINER



John Obuaba
Regional Associate for West Africa
TRAINER



Continued from page 13

March 28, 2020 webinar:

“Driving Africa’s Industrialisation Agenda by Investing in Youth’s Digital Innovations”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtwwKDy6sas>

With the economic disruption posed by the Corona Virus COVID-19 outbreak, economies have shifted to the use of technology and digital ecosystems to ensure that there is business continuity. The February YALDA webinar themed, ‘Driving Africa’s Industrialization Agenda by Investing in Youth’s Digital Innovations’, was instrumental in exposing young entrepreneurs to the use of technology to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in business.

The panel of experts, composed of innovators and young trail blazing entrepreneurs emphasized on the need for Africa to position itself by leveraging the use of technology in business, agriculture, blue economy, green growth and establishing of smart cities as a viable means of driving the continent’s industrialization agenda. The youthful virtual audience was treated to dynamic ideas and effective strategies for addressing the needs of the communities and society as a whole through social entrepreneurship. The speakers emphasized on the need to leverage technology to find solutions to social challenges emanating from the health crisis.



Chuks Okoriekwe
YALDA Nigeria
MODERATOR



Ahmed Bastawy
Managing Director
Icealex, Egypt
SPEAKER



Hulisani Neswiswi
CEO, Loranico Group
South Africa
SPEAKER



Bruno Foy
CEO, Zuoix
Cameroon
SPEAKER



Catherine Lückhoff
Co-founder & CEO, 20fifty
Founder & CEO, Nichestream, South Africa
SPEAKER



BATTLING COVID-19

By Tanda Gavin (Cameroon)

Months ago, all one could see was a dot on the map and it did not seem to matter much; after all it was just that, a dot. After some time, the dots began to multiply and soon almost the entire world was covered with dots of different shapes and sizes. This is how most people watched, first with indifference and then in shock at how fast the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 now widely referred to as COVID-19 spread across the world to be declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization.

The COVID-19 pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time. This particular strain was first reported in Wuhan, a city in Eastern China on December 31, 2019. The virus is classified under to the coronavirus family; which are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illnesses ranging from common cold, fever, tiredness and dry cough to severe experiences such as aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat and diarrhea. The virus enters the body through openings such as the nose, mouth or eyes and then attaches itself to cells in the airway. The virus infects the cell by fusing its oily membrane with the membrane of the cell. Once in the human cell, it attacks the cell and causes the cell to produce many copies of the coronavirus. After a while the new copies are released where they move on to infect other healthy cells. So dangerous is the virus given that an infected cell can produce millions of copies before they break down and die. It spreads when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks.



running water or by using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer; covering your mouth and nostrils with a face mask when going to public spaces; sneezing or coughing into your dress or elbow and contacting the authorized numbers as per your country's directives for early diagnosis.

While there is no known cure for COVID-19, a lot of research is being conducted in academic laboratories across the globe. However, many of the symptoms can be treated and therefore treatment based on the patient's clinical condition is possible. The impact of this pandemic has been felt from personal levels; access to basic products and services to global matters such as the unprecedented decline in oil prices. Our ways of lives have also been affected, seeing that some of the most revered places such as churches and mosques have also closed doors. Adjustments have had to be made ranging from some of the common habits like casual hugs, visits and handshakes to the biggest sporting event in the world – the Summer Olympics – being postponed to 2021.



Given the mode and ease of transmission of the virus and the massive effect this pandemic has had globally by disrupting livelihoods, forcing businesses to close down and restricting border movements, the question that lingers in our minds is whether there

is hope. Different governments have applied diverse measures to help contain the spread of the virus; from requiring that everyone wears a mask, to bans in public gatherings, curfews and even total lockdowns as the world now awaits with hope for a concrete and lasting solution. This has undeniably put our health systems and our preparedness as a continent to the test. With efforts being geared towards reducing the number of infections in order to flatten the curve and avoid overburdening of our healthcare systems, there is much that one can do so that these efforts materialize. These include: staying at home as much as you can; maintaining a safe distance of at least one meter from others; practicing good hygiene by regularly washing your hands with



Financially, no one has been left indifferent as the World Bank projects that global extreme poverty could increase by 0.7 percentage points due to the current pandemic. However, while many are looking at the dark side of the cloud, many tech enthusiasts and service providers are gleaming with excitement at the silver lining. This is an unprecedented era with infinite digital opportunities. The world has turned to the use of internet as a temporal and soon-to-be permanent solution to learning, meetings, communication, commerce, entertainment and surveillance only to name but a few. At a time when the human race had taken huge strides in every thinkable facet of life, the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us invaluable lessons that include the importance of international solidarity, the need to champion and uphold human dignity, the need to invest in sound disaster response mechanisms; in addition to putting our leadership as a people as well as our governance structures to the test. Today, the human populace lives for the moment and in anticipation of better days. As we wait together, let us remember to invest in our own personal development and prepare take up opportunities that arise during the post COVID-19 pandemic!

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

AND THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

By Thato Mooketsane (Botswana)

The rise in the number of Gender based violence cases reported in many African countries can be attributed to the stringent measures such as lockdowns and restrictions in movement that have been imposed on citizens; with an aim of trying to preserve life and their dignity by reducing the number of new COVID-19 cases that are reported.

Besides, the far-reaching economic effects being witnessed from the imposition of these restrictions have had a direct negative impact on the social health and mental well being of the people due to loss of income, increased unemployment and heightened levels of stress and devastation due to the uncertainty presented by the pandemic. With this, one ill taking a high toll on those at home is gender-based violence as many of the reported cases have been attributed to victims being home with their abusers and having nowhere to go.

The term gender-based violence is synonymous with violence, abuse and mistreatment on a specific gender "It includes physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse, threats, coercion and economic or educational deprivation." In this particular case, looking at the effects of the lockdown, the female gender bears the brunt of most gender-based violence cases and this leaves them highly at a higher risk from the above listed offenses and serious ramifications involved.

The majority of gender-based violence crimes start with emotional abuse; from a psychological point this prepares the victim for the physical aspect. This emotional abuse leaves the victim feeling worthless and hopeless and in the long-run, conditioned that it is just a part of the struggle of love and a part of what love is. Some victims endure violence because they are at the mercy of their abusers as they might not have a place to go while some stick it out for the sake of the family especially the children, while some do so with the intention of keeping up appearances in the community. Unfortunately, many women don't even know that they are being abused if it's not physical yet their self-esteems plummet and their dependence on the abuser increases and this leads them not to report such cases especially if it goes on for a long period of time.

Some serious repercussions that can come from gender-based violence "include unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, STI transmissions as well as depression from not being able to get away from the abuser." Another underrated by-product of gender-based violence is that it's a circumstance that exposes the youth especially children to these conditions at an early age and may condition or programme them into thinking that it is normal or the right thing to do; thus, reinforcing the vicious cycle of violence.



The underlying question however, is whether these people who are reported as having been abused were being abused before the pandemic but failed to report and what can be done to help them either directly or by providing platforms that avail the needed help. It's a never-ending cycle with gender-based violence and it's not an easy situation to be in especially, mentally.

Advocating for human rights such as this specific cause is important not only for individuals but also for the community. Drawing from how we are cultured to believe that it is the victim's fault, it is important that open and honest conversations are held to demystify and challenge such thought processes as they leave the victim ashamed and guarded.

Therefore, during this period it is important to be alert and awake to what is happening within your vicinity and take action to prevent or stop gender-based violence. Let us be empathetic enough to lend a helping hand to those struggling to shield themselves from their abusers, those trying to heal from the hurt they have endured and also raise awareness on the importance of breaking this vicious cycle to build communities that are founded on trust, respect and value for human dignity.

<https://www.api-gbv.org/about-gbv/types-of-gbv/>

<https://www.womenforwomen.org/blogs/series-what-does-mean-gender-based-violence>

HOW TO HELP THE SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE FACE OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC?

By Raghda Medhat (Egypt)

Across the world the creation of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are seen as a way to drive economic development and transformative growth, and for some, as a mechanism to opt out of poverty. Setting up such new enterprises is crucial in the creation of new jobs to engage the labour force and maintain global employment rates and, in the absence of employment opportunities, to provide the unemployed with means of livelihood. The level of youth unemployment has increased in the last decade, and this has been attributed to the global the financial crisis of 2008; global unemployment among the youth increased to 12.6% in 2013. In Africa, the World Bank notes that youth unemployment accounts for 60% of all of Africa's jobless despite the continent having the largest population of young people in the world. With the COVID-19 pandemic this is projected to worsen due to the disruption of the business landscape.



Youth unemployment threatens the continent's economic growth prospects. But while entrepreneurship; the art and science of job creation through innovative, creative and profitable market opportunities to earn a living, is seen as a silver bullet for out-of-work young people in Africa, it will not be possible to build a business-orientated workforce without support. Entrepreneurship plays an important role in promoting economic growth by creating and meeting demand for products and services, creating job opportunities, introducing new technologies in the market, and it contributes to community development by helping women to have their own projects and businesses which make them contributors in the society and financially independent. Along with the fact that 95% of the businesses in Africa fall into the category of the SMEs and that in emerging markets, SMEs contribute to 45% of total employment, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of business that are at risk of permanent closure are the SMEs.

It is therefore, important find ways for governments, corporate, consumers and NGOs help small businesses to survive during this time. The following are some of the ways:

1. Tax Relief: the governments can revise or implement policies with favourable tax provisions in order to reduce the tax burden on these businesses given the tough business environment and the shift in consumer patterns which has challenged the ability of businesses to stay afloat.
2. Relief funding: many African countries have approached monetary institutions such as the International monetary fund and the World Bank for relief funds to enable them ease the economic impact of the pandemic on their citizens and as such, the same should apply to SMEs that operate in the critical services sectors.
3. Provide forbearance on all small business loans, including credit card payments for at least six months.
4. Adjust repayment schedules and due dates on credit, property taxes and commercial rent to give small businesses the flexibility they need to stay afloat.
5. Pass legislation that would ensure business insurance companies cover COVID-19 revenue losses.
6. Ensure small businesses that offer paid family medical and sick leave receive cash reimbursement, instead of quarterly tax credits.
7. Ensure the delay of payroll tax payments and grant/ loan assistance are not mutually exclusive.

As consumers, we also have a great responsibility towards the small businesses, given that they are dependent on our consumption patterns and behaviour. We need to buy things in a normal way, and avoid over-consumptions or under-consumption, to help businesses stay afloat. Finally, we ought to work together towards creating solutions while identifying opportunities that arise during these times.

Resources:

<https://www.sfanonline.org/opinions/youth-entrepreneurship-unemployment-africa/>

<file:///C:/Users/Raghda/Downloads/AnAssessmentoftheEffectofEntrepreneurshiponYouthUnemploymentinAfrica.pdf>

https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NMSC/390e0055-2395-4d3b-af60-81b53974430d/UploadedImages/Rsource_Center/COVID_19/NMSC57_MSA_COVID19IMAPCTSURVEY_F.pdf

<https://www.aalionline.org/5-reasons-why-entrepreneurs-are-important-to-african-economies/>

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/388161/>

<5-goverment-backed-financial-relief-measures-that-south-africa-businesses-may-not-know-about/>



REFLECTIVE PIECE:

SELF-CARE AND DEVELOPING A HEALTHY, POSITIVE MENTAL ATTITUDE

By Abdul-Raheem Ibrahim Tuzee (Ghana)

Self-care refers to the art of looking after and honoring your body, mind, and spirit in a way that activates your best self. Self-care choices are those that improve your physical, mental, or emotional health, and move you towards your desired outcome and this is crucial for our daily physical, emotional and mental well-being. Here are tips on self care in order to develop and boost a positive mental attitude:

KNOW YOUR WORTH: it is important to maintain a healthy relationship with yourself as it produces positive feelings and boosts your confidence and self-esteem and one way to achieve this is by practicing self-care must as you are able to understand your strengths, weaknesses and abilities. Also, it is necessary to always remind yourself and others that you and your needs are important too.

A HEALTHY WORK-LIFE BALANCE: Contrary to the common belief that workaholicism is a virtue, overwork, and the accompanying stress and exhaustion can make you less productive, disorganized and emotionally depleted. It can also lead to all sorts of health problems, from anxiety and depression to insomnia and heart diseases. Therefore, professional self-care habits like taking intermittent breaks (for lunch, making a phone call, or taking a stroll), avoiding overextending, etc. ensures that you stay sharp, motivated and healthy.

STRESS MANAGEMENT: Although a little dose of stress is a healthy way to give one a nudge that he/she needs to meet the deadlines or finish that overdue task, constant stress and anxiety can have an adverse effect on your mental and physical health. Smart self-care habits like eating healthy, connecting with loved ones or, practicing meditation should be observed because, it cuts down the toxic effects of stress by improving your mood and boosting your energy and confidence levels.

Positive mental attitude on the other hand is that philosophy which asserts that having an optimistic disposition in every situation in one's life attracts positive changes and increases achievement. Adherents employ a state of mind that continues to seek, find and execute ways to win, or find a desirable outcome, regardless of the circumstances. Some of the ways to help develop a positive mental attitude include practicing the following:

Remember that YOU control your attitude:

As someone who wants to develop a positive mental attitude, you have to always keep in mind that, your attitude only emerges from how you interpret what happens to you, and not just what happens (the action).

Adopt beliefs that frame events in a positive way:

One's interpretation of events and his/her attitude is solely determined by his/her convictions and rules about life and work. Therefore, one should always try to adopt strong beliefs that create a good attitude rather than beliefs that creates a bad one.

Create a "library" of positive thoughts:

It is highly recommendable that one spends at least 15 minutes of his early morning to read, view, or listen to something inspirational or motivational. If you do this regularly, you'll have those thoughts and feelings ready at hand (or rather, ready to mind) when events don't go exactly the way you'd prefer!

Some health benefits that positive thinking may provide include:

- Increased life span
- Lower rates of depression
- Lower levels of distress
- Greater resistance to the common cold
- Better psychological and physical well-being
- Better cardiovascular health and reduced risk of death from cardiovascular disease
- Better coping skills during hardships and times of stress.

INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY STATEMENTS

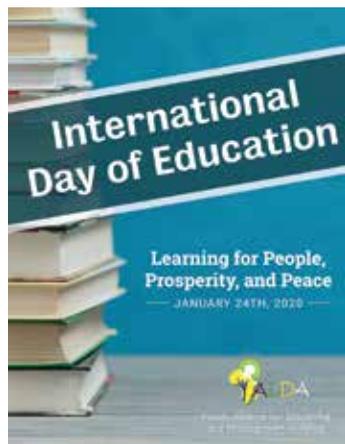
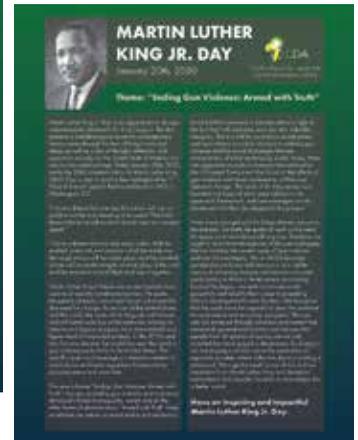
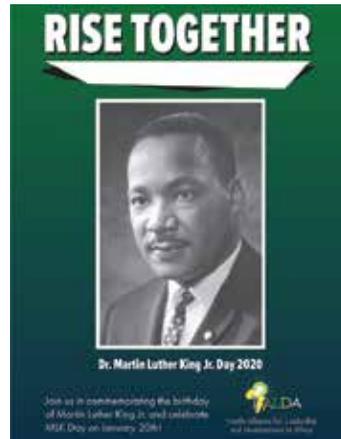
As part of the international community, YALDA not only recognizes and participates in important holidays, but also encourages the youth to participate in these events, thereby advancing the youth agenda.

Here are our thoughts on the important holidays commemorated in the first quarter:

JANUARY

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is an opportunity to discuss, commemorate and teach Dr. King's legacy. The day presents a kaleidoscope to examine contemporary human rights issues through the lens of King's work and ideas, as well as a day of thought, reflection, and aspiration not only for the United States of America but also for the world at large.



JANUARY

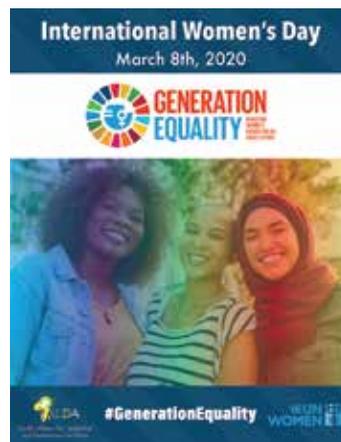
International Day of Education

The United Nations General Assembly adopted with consensus a resolution proclaiming 24th January as International Day of Education in 1981 and this was with an aim celebrating the role and centrality of education to human well-being and sustainable development and this annual commemoration continues to demonstrate the unwavering political will to support transformative actions for inclusive, equitable and quality education for all.

MARCH

International Women's Day

International Women's Day is a day set to collectively celebrate the social, economic, political and cultural contribution and achievements of women; while also accelerating the call to action for gender equality and amplifying the existing efforts. This day is commemorated annually on 8th March since 1911. This year 2020 theme is I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights; inspired by the fact that gender equality is essential for the prosperity of individuals and communities which then, yields a happier and wealthier world.





SELF-IMPROVEMENT CORNER:

HOW TO COME BACK FROM FAILURE

By Omowunmi Amodu (Nigeria)

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."

– Thomas A. Edison

Many people see failure as the end or means to the end. Failure for few is another opportunity to come back stronger. Failure for one or two is a lesson learnt. Meanwhile, everyone is afraid to fail.

To bounce back from failure, the foremost address is to trace what happened. In this, you need to Own up to the questions; engaging your mind in order to seek the truth. What really went wrong? What specific definition can be given to each of the processes? At this stage, changing one's mindset gives you freshness to the mind — a reassurance of new possibilities and capabilities. Next, you need to identify your motives as this gives you the persistent spirit to continue even in the face of oppositions. It helps you to align your reasons and reaffirm your energy; that it is being used for a purposeful course.

Together with all these, set a list of your strengths and weaknesses. Knowing what you can do and cannot do is an excellent tool for achieving anything. This helps you to pay keen attention to your strengths, and address the matters of your weaknesses by seeking help or avoiding them all together. You can then do amazing things with your strengths and link up

your passion with it. Developing the right skills and seeking knowledge and advice for the weak side of you, will guarantee an improvement for the better you.

Now that you know what is right for you and you've analyzed your mistakes, proceed to break new barriers. Set out to do something new, being lazy and moping at previous failed experiences can psychologically tame you in a shell. You need to break that shell and come out back and be better this time around.

In the midst of that, remain positive, keep good vibes and hope in the best. Gather all your strength to work at success and even if you fail again, always now you will have learnt something new and this is another experience which, together with the aforementioned, would have helped you to identify yourself better and show you how strong and resilient you can be.

It's ok to fail... See another opportunity for what it is — **OPPORTUNITY!**

"It's not how far you fall, but how high you bounce that counts." – Zig Ziglar

OPPORTUNITIES CORNER

CONTESTS & CHALLENGES

World Trade Organization Essay Award 2020 for Young Economists *Deadline June 8, 2020*

Peter Drucker Challenge Essay Contest 2020 for students and young entrepreneurs (fully funded) *Deadline May 24, 2020*

African Youth Charter Hustlers: apply amid Covid-19 pandemic *Deadline April 20, 2020*

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

UNOG International Law Seminar *July 8-26, 2019*
Geneva, Switzerland; *Deadline April 8, 2019*

FUNDING

SCHOLARSHIPS

Mandela Rhodes Foundation (MRF) Postgraduate Scholarships 2021 *Deadline April 16, 2020*

2020 Engineering for Development (E4D) Doctoral Scholarships, Zurich Switzerland *Deadline April 30, 2020*

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

IAEA Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship Program 2020 for female graduate students *Deadline rolling*

Pulitzer Center Persephone Miel Fellowship 2020 for Media Professionals for developing countries (Funded to Washington, D.C., USA) *Deadline April 10, 2020*

EMPLOYMENT–INTERNSHIPS–VOLUNTEER–PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EMPLOYMENT

Recruiting UN Volunteers as Africa Women Health Champions *Deadline varies*

INTERNSHIPS

Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa Leadership Program 2020 for young South Africans *Deadline March 31, 2020*

Microsoft Interns4Afrika Internship Program 2020 for Young Africans *Deadline varies by country*