



Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit

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Leadership for the Future: Resilience and Inclusion

Hastings HaGo Golosi Ignite Talk Transcript

Speaker

- Hastings HaGo Golosi, 2021 Mandela Washington Fellow, Malawi

Session Transcript

I come from a poor family. I come from a very remote area in my country and there's no internet access; I can't do anything. I graduated two years ago, but I can't find a job and my government doesn't support the youth in my country. "Why do you keep complaining?" Yes, I come from one of the poorest countries in the world—Malawi. Malawi is a youthful country, and it will remain so in the years to come. According to the International Labour Organization, the increase in the number of the youth in secondary and tertiary education is a very positive development. However, labor markets in Malawi are currently unable to accommodate the expanding pool of these skilled young graduates.

Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity and the Malawians. Youth, especially college graduates, are struggling for the most basic human needs. It's because our government and private sector are failing to accommodate 130,000 new interests every year, to match the college students graduating from our colleges. But do you know it's possible for some of these graduates to survive without being employed? Yes. I am a living testimony.

My name is Hastings HaGo Golosi: self-made entrepreneur, business coach, and also a film producer at HD Plus Creations, a company I co-founded in 2014 when I was still a college student. Despite not attending any formal film production, we have managed to create one of the top media houses in Malawi – but not only equipping 500 youth with videography skills, but also employing 20 people. Our vision is to be one of the African leaders in media industry, and recently we have just pre-made our first feature film and we're hoping it will reach Netflix.

So, small and medium enterprises that are started by the youth in my country face unique issues which affect their profits and has diminished their ability to contribute effectively to sustainable development in my country. So, to solve this kind of problem, I came up with Enact. So, Enact—which means “put ideas into action”—is a platform that was established in 2014 when I was still in college after I discovered that there was high unemployment rates among the youth, especially college graduates.



In addition, it was discovered that those aspiring to be entrepreneurs find themselves attending different business workshops, seminars, but are still lacking the courage and financial muscle to put their ideas into action. I want to use this platform to see many youth transforming their business ideas into action; I want to see them creating more jobs for us; I want to see their business ideas turning to reality. So, for the past five years I've collaborated with my fellow entrepreneur, and also Mandela [Washington Fellowship] Alumnus, who started business straight from college. Our aim is to provide a mentorship program to these young and aspiring entrepreneurs.

My journey as an entrepreneur started in 2011 when I was in first year. So, my first business, I was able to provide computer safety and products to my fellow college students. In 2013, our government used to give us the book allowance 41 dollars, so I invested that money in pig farming, with the intention to help my relatives who dropped out from school because of no school fees. I started with only two piglets, and by the time I was finishing my college I had 70 of them.

Having the passion of filmmaking, in 2014 I partnered with a college classmate in a mid-year film called HD Plus Creations, which we have successfully managed to work with different organizations like Millennium Challenge Account, World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF, just to mention but a few.

So what happened when I was in fourth year, I wanted to take a loan to enlarge my business. So I applied different loans to different people, different organizations, but they didn't give to me because to them it was like they couldn't help a college student; to them, it was "high-risk." Then I was frustrated, I was angry. So, like I asked myself: "do you mean we don't have an organization that supports college student entrepreneurs?" That's what motivated me to come up with Enact.

So, to sustain its activities, Enact will partner with already existing business hubs, and later we want to introduce a TV show, a young entrepreneur series: Yes. The idea is, we want to say "yes" to good ideas, "yes" to business ideas, and "yes" to a business venture. Our aim is to want to build an entrepreneur on camera. So this program called Yes, it will be broadcasting different platforms locally and internationally. So our aim is to encourage the youth to start their own enterprises. This is done by providing a platform for the youth in Malawi, including local colleges and university graduates, to learn how to identify business ideas, how to build businesses, and to develop the entrepreneurial skills necessary to sustain the business ventures. If the majority are being mentored while still on college campuses, our unemployment rate—which is now expected to reach 6% by the end of 2021—will be reduced. Together, let's end poverty among the youth in Malawi by investing in them.