

## Profile of Evelyn Mungai

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Evelyn Mungai

Evelyn Mungai is one of Kenya's leading businesswomen and an entrepreneur par excellence. She started her career in the early 1970s, with the establishment of one of the first companies in Kenya to offer recruitment services. She then became the pioneer of the design industry in the region, through the establishment of Evelyn College of Design, which last year celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

For over ten years she was publisher of *Presence*, a magazine catering to business and professional women. She is the author of *Kenya Women Reflections*, a book celebrating the women who were prominent in the independence struggle. She is also Chairman of Speedway Investments, a property development company.

As a publisher she was a member of the Media Owners Association, and in 1994, she was appointed a member of the Task Force on Press Laws by Kenya's Attorney General. She was the Chairman of the Media Ownership Development and Licensing Committee..

Throughout her entrepreneurial career she has been a champion for women's economic empowerment. She has served as Chairperson of the Nairobi Business and Professional Women's Club, and she is the Founder President of the All Africa Businesswomen Association (AABA), which promotes the economic empowerment of women all over Africa. She was the first woman member of the prestigious continent-wide organisation of leading African businesspeople, the African Business Round Table (ABR). She was also ABR's Vice-Chairman, the Chairman being President of the African Development Bank.

She is or has been on the board of numerous organisations, both in Kenya and internationally. She is the immediate Past Chairman of the Kenya Chapter of Transparency International, the global anti-corruption watchdog, and she is a Trustee of the President's Award Scheme. She has served as a member of the Africa Project Development Facility (APDF) Board of Advisors. (APDF is part of IFC, the private sector development arm of the World Bank.)

She is Past President of the Rotary Club of Nairobi, the largest and oldest Rotary Club in Sub-Saharan Africa, through which for six years she has been spearheading a major village empowerment project. She has also been an Assistant Governor of Rotary.

In her capacity as Vice-Chairman of ABR, she testified before the Sub-Committee on Africa of the Sub-Committee on International Policy and Trade Committee and Foreign Affairs of the U.S. House of Representatives, addressing the role of the private sector in the development for Africa.

In 1993, she was awarded the Lincoln University President's Award for Excellence in Business and Finance, and at the end of 2006 the President of Kenya awarded the Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW), in recognition of her many significant contributions to the country.

She is featured in the International Who's Who of Intellectuals; the Who's Who in the Commonwealth: 1983-1992; the World Who's Who of Men and Women of Distinction; the Community Leaders of the World; the International Book of Honour; the International Register of Profiles; the Dictionary of International Biography; the International Register of Personalities; the International Who's Who of Contemporary Achievements; and the World's Who's Who of Women.

## **Present responsibilities**

### **Founder Chairman and Executive Director, Evelyn College of Design**

Founded 30 years ago, and still the leader in its field – regionally

### **Chairman, Speedway Investments Ltd.**

A property development company

### **Project Coordinator, Cura Rotary Community Corps**

An integrated rural development initiative aimed at village empowerment

### **President, All Africa Businesswomen's Association**

Promotes development of African businesswomen in the formal sector

### **Trustee, President's Award Scheme**

Kenya chapter of Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme

### **Advisory Board, Africa Business Leadership Forum**

A leading continent-wide Initiative composed of Africa's Leaders and Captains of Industry.

## **Past Responsibilities**

### **Chairman, Transparency International, Kenya Chapter**

The global anti-corruption watchdog

### **Chairman, Rotary Club of Nairobi**

First woman leader of the largest and oldest Rotary Club in Sub-Saharan Africa

### **Assistant Governor, Rotary District 9200**

### **Vice-Chairman, Africa Business Round Table**

Private sector arm of African Development Bank (ADB)

### **Board member, African Project Development Facility**

Part of IFC, the private sector development arm of the World Bank

### **Board member, Kenya Film Corporation**

### **Founder, Board Member, NCBDA**

**Director, Pride Africa**

**Chairman, Sunlink**

**Chairman, Nairobi Business and Professional Women Association**

**Publisher, Presence Magazine**

**Author, Kenya Women Reflections**

### **Areas of strength and experience**

- ❖ Experienced and successful **board member** of numerous national, continental and global bodies... often as **chairperson**
- ❖ Deep understanding of **business**, as entrepreneur and director, in fields such as publishing, PR, design, films, education, property development and micro finance.
- ❖ Wide network of **top-level business and political contacts** around Africa, in the US (eg Corporate Council for Africa, Capitol Hill) and elsewhere. Greatly respected in global circles, as a result of extensive exposure over many years.
- ❖ Knowledge on **trade** issues, including AGOA
- ❖ Long-time pioneer of **women's economic empowerment**.
- ❖ Champion for **community-based development**
- ❖ **Speaker** and **writer**

### **CONFERENCES & INVESTMENT PROMOTION MISSIONS**

- 1983            Sponsored by West German government for study **tour of German business and publishing houses**. Further visits to Mauritius for interaction with **women leaders and public officials**.
- 1985            Sponsored for US tour by African-American Institute, to **meet publishers and editors** of women's magazines
- 1988            Presented paper on **Women entrepreneurs and the new technological environment**, at International Institute of Communication Conference, Washington DC
- 1989            Presented paper on **Women and the workplace** at Frederick Ebert Foundation Conference in West Germany
- 1989            Presented paper on **Women in the media: who makes decisions, and does it really matter?** at International Institute of Communication Conference in Paris, France

- 1990 Conference speaker on **Training for the creation and development of business in ACP countries**, at ACP/EEC conference in Marseille, France
- 1984-1991 Participated in several **investment missions** to Europe, South Asia, Canada and the US, to promote Africa
- 1988 Speaker at lunch for leading businesspeople for Africa Business Roundtable Investment Mission in Toronto, Canada, on **The role of African Women in the private sector**
- 1992 Testified before Sub-committee on Africa; and Sub-committee on International Economic Policy and Trade; of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the US House of Representatives, Washington DC, on **The role of the private sector in development for Africa**
- 1992 Chaired panel on **The role of women in promoting African entrepreneurship** in Accra, Ghana, during an APDF Conference on Entrepreneurship Development in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 1992 Delegate at **Global Coalition for Africa (GCA)** Sub-Committee meeting in Kampala, Uganda on **Democracy and Governance**
- 1992 Presented paper on **Management – a great opportunity for women** and chaired forum on **Business Management** at AMSCO Conference in Cape Verde
- 1993 Delegate at Global Coalition for Africa (GCA) meeting in Maastricht in Holland on **Africa's future and the world**
- 1994 Served in panel and presented a paper at a GCA NGO Conference on **Africa – Investments, Needs and Threats**
- 1994 Guest speaker at Rotary Club of Maastricht on **What role should donors play in development in Africa?**
- 1994 Main speaker, University of Groningen Centre for Development Studies on **A future for Africa**
- 1994 Speaker/Participant at the Royal Tropical Institute, Amsterdam, on **Donors: their role in Development Assistance**
- 1994 Keynote Speaker, African Business Council of The Netherlands, on **Expanding your business in Africa**
- 1998 International guest speaker at Award Ceremony for **South African Businesswoman of the Year**, in Johannesburg, and then in Durban and Cape Town
- 2000 Delegate at World Bank / IMF meeting in Prague, Czech Republic on **Making the Global Economy work for everyone** and delivered a paper on **Building consensus for reform**
- 2003 Delegate at GCA **NEPAD** meeting, Accra, Ghana, Botswana, Kenya

- 2005 Speaker at IDRC conference in Ottawa, Canada, on **Unleashing entrepreneurial potential**
- 2004 Delegate at **Commission for Africa** private sector consultation conferences in Dar and in London
- 2005 Speaker at ESKOM African Leaders Forum, on **Women and Emotional Intelligence**, and panelist on **Reducing poverty in Africa**

## **AWARDS**

- 1989 Honoured by Westover Consultants, leading US company, for her **contribution to private sector development in Africa**, at ceremony attended by leading public and private sector personalities
- 1993 Lincoln University **President's Award for Excellence in Business and Finance**
- 1994 National Council of Women of Kenya Award on **Economic Empowerment and Leadership**