



Our February 2022 UDSM Alumna

This is a “light corner” on the UDSM portal intended to feature for one month in turns two among many of the University’s graduates—alumni—since its foundation in 1961. The corner is designed to inform the public and the University itself, without prejudice in terms of historical precedence but guided only by professional information search, on the past graduates of the University, their whereabouts, their current position or engagement, what is remembered of them as past ‘boys’ and ‘girls’ of their time and, finally, on what is reckoned about their contribution to their Alma Mater, their nation, the Africa region and/or the wider world.

MboniZabein MHITA (néeMuhaji)



Year of matriculation: 1979

Year of graduation: 1982

Award: B.A. (Hons), The University of Dar es Salaam (1982)

More info:

- **Diploma (Teaching English as a second language), Moray House Edinburgh University, U.K (1971)**

For UDSM’s website’s ‘Alumni Corner’ this February 2022, we have MboniZabein Muhaji Mhita, an alumna of the graduating class of 1982. She is several things in one: a teacher by professional training, former tutor of a teacher training college, past director in a government ministry, former member of parliament and previously twice deputy minister in two Government ministries at two different times. ZabeinMuhaji Mhita was born on 9th September 1950 in Kondoa-mjini in Kondoa district, Dodoma region. At the age of six she enrolled at what was then Kondoa-mjini Native Authority [N.A.] Primary School for her primary education (1956-1958), after which she was admitted to Mpwapwa Girls Middle School for what were extended classes of five to eight (1959-1962). In 1963, she began her first year of secondary education at Dodoma Secondary School, from which she transferred a year later to Msalato Girls Secondary School for Forms II-IV in 1964-1966. From there, she went to Butimba Teachers College in Mwanza for a two-year teacher training course (1967-1968). After the course, she taught in schools for a continuous period of five years, which were followed by a recategorisation from an ordinary school teacher to a ‘college tutor’. She was posted to Chang’ombe Teacher Training College, serving there in that post for a total of thirteen years from 1972 to 1985. From 1985, she was appointed to serve as Regional Academic Officer for the Dar es Salaam region well up to 1991, when she was promoted to Director of Primary Education within the Ministry of Education and Culture (1991–2000).

In 2000, Zabein was nominated Member of Parliament [Special Seats] for the next five years. In that same year, she also was appointed Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, an appointment that was to last for five years till 2005. In 2005, Mrs Mhita contested for a parliamentary seat for the Kondoa-North constituency, which she won and kept for two consecutive five-year terms until 2015. A year after she had been an MP, in 2006, she was appointed Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism. The appointment lasted until 2008.

As Member of Parliament, Hon. Mhita is reckoned to have maintained a strong attachment to her constituency, often fighting ‘tooth-and-nail’ for her constituents’ fair share of the nation’s cake in terms of the development budget, particularly in the transport and communications sector and more particularly in government allocations for infrastructure. In June 2013, she is remembered to have even presented to Parliament evidence of the sad stories of people having to climb up trees and tall hills—‘risking falls and attacks by wild animals’—in attempts and struggles to send or receive messages from friends and kin via the ‘newly introduced’ mobile phones.

Throughout her career, Zabein has had an exemplary record of public service commitments and consultations—both professional and political—in connection with matters

and projects of national importance. A few examples of such commitments include travels to or contributions to ‘Empowerment training seminar for women leaders’ (in Mbabane, Swaziland, May 1997); ‘Education systems in Thailand, Guatemala and Argentina’ (February 1998); ‘National anti-corruption strategies and action planning in Tanzania’ (Dar es Salaam, July-September, 2000); ‘Training of women MPs to raise their awareness of key parliamentary issues and to enhance women’s confidence and competence in parliamentary procedures’ (Dodoma, November, 2001); ‘Negotiations on and signing of a comprehensive nuclear test treaty among international organizations’ (Vienna, Austria, April, 2004); and ‘African Education Ministers consultation on establishing an International Centre for girls and women in Africa’ (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, September, 2004). Other official-professional engagements to which she had to ‘make time and prepare discussion notes for were the Board of Governors meeting for the International Centre of Genetic Engineering and Bio-Technology (Delhi, India, November, 2004); Arab-Africa Conference on Arab investment into Africa and Tanzania (Dubai, UAE, May, 2006); The role of aquaculture development in rural communities (Rome, Italy, January, 2007); The ‘14th Conference of the Parties to CITES (COP14)’ on the trade in endangered species of wild fauna and flora (The Hague, Netherlands, March, 2007); ‘Small business enterprise formalisation and administration (Lima, Peru, August, 2008); and Skill improvement strategies for women leaderships (Mbabane, Swaziland, July 2013).

Mrs Mhita has served on several governing boards of public and private institutions in Tanzania. These include the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), 2008-2011; the Tanzania Insurance Regulatory Authority (TIRA), 2008-2011; the Tanzania Forest Services Agency (TFS/MISITU), 2012-2014; the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB), 2016 to date; and the Agricultural Seed Agency (ASA), from 2018 to date. UDSM congratulates her on her accomplishments.



2005. Appealing to the National Assembly for a “fair share of the communications budget for the Kondoa-North constituency”



Dodoma, November 8, 2012. The-then Prime Minister and Leader of Government Business in Parliament, Mizengo Pinda, in conversation with the-then MP for Kondoa North, MboniZabein Mhita in the Parliamentary grounds in Dodoma.

**MboniZabein MHITA is Our February 2022 Alumna,
and her great stories begin here!**

Get in touch with us through

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