



CELEBRATING WOMEN IN AVIATION

As we continue to celebrate International Women's Day. The Authority interviewed Ms. Mafunanse N. Malenga, who is the Managing Director of the Southern African Institute of Aviation Science and Technology.

Please share your success stories of the platforms that in your capacity as Managing Director are currently running to promote gender equality in the aviation industry in Zambia.

Eight years ago, I embarked on a journey fueled by a vision to bridge the gap in aviation education within our country. With a handful of aviation colleges available, many aspiring aviation enthusiasts, including myself, had to look beyond our borders for training opportunities. Determined to change this narrative, I took the bold step of officially opening an aviation college.

Despite facing numerous challenges and encountering discrimination along the way, we persevered. It wasn't an easy path, but our unwavering belief in the importance of providing accessible aviation education kept us going.

After three years of hard work and dedication, we celebrated our first milestone - welcoming our first five students. Fast forward to today, and I am incredibly proud to share that our aviation college has flourished beyond our wildest dreams. With over 600 graduates and counting, we have become a beacon of hope and opportunity for aspiring aviation professionals in our country. What's even more remarkable is that 80% of our graduates are female students, breaking barriers and shattering stereotypes in a traditionally male-dominated industry.

Our success story is a testament to the power of perseverance, passion, and a commitment to making a difference. Every graduate represents a dream fulfilled, a journey overcome, and a future transformed.

As we continue to soar to new heights, we remain dedicated to empowering dreams in aviation and shaping the future of our industry, one student at a time.



We are thrilled to share the incredible success stories of our alumni who have been making waves in the aviation industry. From working for top airlines and airports to making their mark in travel agencies and cargo companies, our graduates are truly shining bright in their respective roles, both locally and internationally. Their dedication, professionalism, and passion for aviation are a true testament to the quality of education and training they received at our aviation college.

Please share a few initiatives that you have developed to ensure there is better representation of women in technical roles and leadership roles within the Zambian aviation industry

In January 2024, we partnered with AFACA Women in Aviation Zambia Chapter to award 10 scholarships for aviation courses, providing young women with the opportunity to pursue their dreams of a career in the aviation industry. These scholarships represent our commitment to breaking down barriers and creating pathways for women to thrive in traditionally male-dominated fields. Now, we're thrilled to announce the launch of our girls-only class for ICT, scheduled for mid-2024. This initiative is a testament to our dedication to creating a more inclusive and supportive learning environment where girls can explore their interests in technology and pursue rewarding careers in ICT.

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From your journey, and personal insights, what do you feel still needs to be done to encourage young African girls to pursue careers that are embedded in Science, Technology and Mathematical backgrounds? (STEM)

As someone deeply passionate about STEM education and gender equality, I believe it's crucial for role models and organizations to step up and create meaningful projects that encourage young girls to explore STEM fields. By showcasing the diverse career opportunities and impactful projects within STEM.

What words of wisdom and encouragement would you like to share with young girls to inspire them to pursue a career in aviation?

My encouragement to the young girls is, remember that passion will be your guiding force through both smooth skies and turbulent times. Let your love for aviation fuel your determination and drive you towards your goals.

Seek out mentors who can offer guidance, support, and valuable insights based on their own experiences in the industry. Mentors will be your trusted allies, providing wisdom and encouragement as you navigate the challenges and opportunities that come your way.

Stay open-minded and embrace creativity as you embark on your aviation career. Don't be afraid to think outside the box, come up with innovative projects, and push the boundaries of what's possible in the aviation industry.

Remember, the sky's the limit for those who are passionate, open-minded, and willing to learn. With dedication, mentorship, and creativity, you can soar to great heights in the field of aviation. Believe in yourself, pursue your dreams with determination, and let your passion for aviation lead the way.

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To the Sky Above, Let's Fly!