



RITA TIRIBOYI'S SEVEN DAY REGIONAL ADVENTURE



August 2024

POWERED BY :





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1. INTRODUCTION



The 7 day regional adventure: powered by WOSSO ~ Genderlinks

Rita Tiriboyi is a young woman who grew up under the care of her late grandmother Eurita Matiyenga Musekiwa in N'andu, a rural village in Goromonzi District, Mashonaland East Province. Rita, relocated to Mashonaland Central (her second home) where she is fighting for the empowerment of women and girls in the rural areas.

Rita, amongst a number of her initiatives and achievements, was identified to be a Woman of the South Speak Out (WOSSO) Fellow. WOSSO is a Global South programme which offers fellowships to young women from the global south to advance their local advocacy initiatives linking them to regional and global initiatives. WOSSO is led by Gender Links, a regional women's rights organisation headquartered in South Africa but has a vibrant office in Zimbabwe.



RITA TIRIBOYI
RIGE DIRECTOR

As part of the WOSSO fellowship linking and learning programme, Rita got an opportunity to attend the SADC summit. In this article, we share her 7 day adventure at this regional platform.



2.1.DAY 1

WOSSO onboarding

On the 9th of August 2024, Rita along with fellows from various countries within Southern Africa went through orientation on the WOSSO fellowship programme. Her key takeaway was: **Women ought to be bright in every corner where they are and it is vital to create spaces for women everywhere.**



2.2.DAY 2

Southern Africa Youth Forum

In solidarity with WOSSO fellows and all youths from Southern Africa, Rita attended the 6th edition of the Southern Africa Youth Forum held at Monomotapa formerly Crowne Plaza hotel. This platform offered youth to meaningfully engage and contribute to the youth development initiatives they wish to see at regional level ahead of the SADC Heads of State Summit.

6th SOUTHERN AFRICA YOUTH FORUM

DELEGATE

THEME:
“Empowering the Future: Innovative Education for Sustainable Development in Southern Africa”

#6thSouthernAfricaYouthForum
#SouthernAfricaYouth

10 - 13 Aug 2024 | Harare - Zimbabwe

SAYoF_Official

Logos: African Union, EU, IOM, USA, AFRICA, Kingdom of the Netherlands, IDEA, Save the Children, ALMA, GPE, amref, Kulenda, Hivos, Y-ACT, TRUSTAFRICA, YETT, RBM Partnership To End Malaria

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2.3.DAY 3 & 4

Attendance to the Non State Actors Engagement Meeting

Rita was privileged to shadow the Genderlinks Special Advisor: Colleen Lowe Morna and the chairperson of the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance: Emma Kaliya at the SADC Non State Actors Engagement Meeting held at Rainbow Towers hotel from 11 to 12 August.

She learnt more on how NSAs can effectively engage to influence SADC frameworks for development. She also got an opportunity to contribute on how gender disparities can be addressed through NSA engagement at regional level.



2.4.DAY 5

SAYoF closing ceremony



Rita and WOSSO fellows managed to attend the Southern Africa Youth Forum closing ceremony held at Celebration centre on the 13th of August.

7 DAY REGIONAL ADVENTURE

3.DAY 6

Attending the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) meeting



On the 14th of August, following the Non State Actors Engagement meeting, Rita was also privileged to attend the RISDP meeting. She continued effectively contributing to how the RISDP should factor in strategies to address gender disparities and youth development and inclusion initiatives at regional level.

Women in Political Participation (WPP) Africa Barometer Launch & Voice and Choice Barometer Reference group meeting



Rita managed to give solidarity message at the WPP Africa Barometer Launch. She highlighted how on behalf of WOSSO fellows, she was grateful to learn about electoral processes, how young women can effectively participate in them and how young women should continue advocating for women spaces in political participation. This was on the 15th of August at Rainbow Towers.

Rita also gave remarks in line with Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights advocacy, from a background of being a Genderlinks Voice and Choice grantee at the Voice and Choice 2024 Barometer reference group held on the same day at Rainbow Towers.

5. Conclusion

SEVEN DAY REGIONAL ADVENTURE



Rita was glad to have this adventure at regional level for the first time representing all rural girls and women. She surely confirmed that women deserve to be in such spaces where decisions are made and meaningful change is advocated for, for the future of Africa is young and feminine! Rita felt ignited and more energised to keep inspiring and changing lives of youths and women. She developed a clear advocacy plan that will effectively engage men as champions of women empowerment programs in Bindura rural, Mashonaland province and the nation, region as well as global village at large.



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