Nominee: Mrs. Modesta Banda Kanjaye

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**Nominated By**: Robert Kalin (robert.kalin@strath.ac.uk) - Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

**Nomination Category**: Society

Citation

Modesta, as Director of Water Resources for the Government of Malawi, exemplifies Women in Leadership who have a demonstrable impact on the people and public good across Malawi. She inspires staff, and in particular, women in the Water Sector across Southern Africa, to make the world a better place.

Evidence

Modesta is Director of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (Malawi) with overall responsibility for Water Resources Management and Development including the National Water Resources Authority (Regulator), and Transboundary Water Resources Units. For more than 25 years she has been actively engaged in water resources management and development, and is the Malawi representative on international, regional and national committees within SADC, AMCOW, ZAMCOM. Her journey to this position however has been one of considerable challenge. Modesta was born in 1968 of Malawian parents in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) into a family of ten siblings. Due to the war, she and her siblings were sent away, Modesta was relocated to Zambia without her parents in 1978 yet gained highest grades for her Primary School Leaving Certificate. Her parents left Zimbabwe and returned to Malawi in 1981, and she returned to Malawi to be reunited with the rest of the family. In Malawi she was forced to re-attend primary school (spaces in secondary school were limited) yet was top of her classes, excelling in technical subjects. She applied to University of Malawi, The Polytechnic to pursue a degree in Engineering but was forced to change her choice due to her gender and instead she completed a 5-year Bachelor of Education (Sciences) with Earth Sciences as her major,at Chancelor college and upon graduation was hired by the Ministry of Works (Water) in 1991. In 1994 Modesta earned a Scholarship for a Master’s Degree at Curtin University of technology in Perth, Australia, obtaining both Post Graduate Diploma in Hydrogeology in 1995, and MSc in Geology in 1996. As an exceptional student, she was offered a PhD and was scheduled to commence studies in June, 2002. Unfortunately, her husband passed away after a short illness in February, 2002 and she was forced to abandon the PhD. As a single mother of two small children, she remained in Malawi for their care and to complete construction of a house for the family. Modesta joined the Government of Malawi as a Hydrogeologist Grade I, and moved up the ranks as an exceptional leader gaining the title of Director of Water Resources in 2010. Throughout this professional journey she has been a role model to Malawi’s young women who wish to pursue a technical career. She articulates clearly to the fact that women are truly marginalized in these roles in Africa and works hard to change perceptions and help young women believe in themselves. As an Honorary Doctoral Graduate of the University of Strathclyde, Modesta will undoubtable continue to be a leading example for women in science and technology across all of sub-Saharan Africa.

Awards

Institution Curtin University of Technology Perth, Australia i. Qualification Master of Science in Geology Period 1995 – 1996 ii. Qualification Post Graduate Diploma in Hydrogeology Period 1994 – 1995 Institution Galilee College, Israel and University of Malawi i. Qualification Post Graduate Diploma in Public Administration and Civil Service Management Period 2003 – 2004 Institution Malawi Institute of Management i. Qualification Certificate in Public Sector Administration Period February – April, 2011 Institution: University of Malawi Chancellor College - Zomba i. Qualification Bachelor of Education (Science) Period 1989 – 1991 ii. Qualification Diploma In Education (Credit) Period 1986 – 1989 Other Relevant Trainings and Certificates Obtained i. Water Resources Management and Development (East and Southern Africa Management Institute, ESAMI, November, 2002) ii. Public-Private Partnerships Policies and strategies : Improving Efficiency and Quality in Public Service Delivery (July – August, 2003, Washington DC, USA) iii. Assembly, Installation, Trouble shooting and maintenance of Moving Water Industries (MWI) Solar Pedalflo Water Delivery Systems (January, 2003, Deerfield, USA). iv. Mainstreaming HIV/ AIDS and Gender into Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) Planning and Implementation, July, 2006, Harare, Zimbabwe) v. Groundwater Management Certificate, Groundwater Management Institute, (November, 2009, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania). vi. Disaster Risk Management (May, 2010, Lilongwe) vii. Enhancing negotiation and Conflict Management skills Related to Water Resources (SADC, September 2012, Gaborone, Botswana) viii. Water Resources Development and Management for National Water Resources Master Plan (JICA, December, 2012, Tokyo, Japan) ix. AfDB Procurement and Financial Procedures (Kyela, Tanzania, July, 2012), World Bank Procurement and Financial Procedures (February, 2013, Blantyre, Malawi) x. Enhancing Advanced Negotiation and Conflict Management Skills on Water Resources (module 2) and International Water Law (Gaborone, Botswana, 2013) xi. Atomic Agency Training ( Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2014) xii. IFC training in Public Private Partnerships (Salima, Malawi, 2015) xiii. Public Private Partnerships Training (2017) Salima

Connection

Modesta has been actively involved in Government to Government Policy exchange as part of the Scottish Government funded, Climate Justice Fund, Water Futures Programme (Prof Kalin PI) since 2012, and has well-founded connections with the University and Scotland. She has been to the University of Strathclyde on two separate occasions to facilitate Government to Government (Scotland / Malawi) engagement on Water Resources Policy, the first in 2012 to meet with Nicola Sturgeon (then DFM) and the HydroNation Forum Committee to establish the ‘Water’ link between the two countries (also including Scottish Water, Drinking Water Quality Inspectorate, SEPA, WICS and industry leaders). Modesta has met many Univ of Strathclyde students (MSc & PhD) and staff personally in Malawi and manages time and resources of the Ministry and its staff to facilitate Univ of Strathclyde engagement across Malawi. She is a strong advocate for women in Science and Engineering in Malawi. Modesta is also engaged with the University on the publication and dissemination of the collaborative research efforts undertaken by the CJF programme, recently co-authoring a seminal paper on trans-boundary groundwater with one of the Department’s outstanding Female PhD students. There is no doubt that Modesta has strong connections with the University and Scotland.

Role

Modesta clearly exemplifies exceptional service internationally through her contributions to Malawi’s Water Resources Management (water for all, always), through Trans-National engagement on shared resources with Malawi’s neighbors, though Scotland-Malawi policy and regulatory sharing, and support of University of Strathclyde student and staff research. This relationship can be deepened through direct engagement (and mentoring) with research and teaching programmes at Strathclyde, in particular across widening activities between Malawi and Strathclyde. As an Honorary Graduate of the University, she will provide leadership in Africa espousing the values of the University by continuing to be people-oriented as a role model offering guidance to women in the Water Sector, by being confident in meeting the Challenges of SDG6 in Malawi and collaboration between her neighbors, and by ambitious innovation through technological solutions to Water Resources crises in Malawi (e.g. her forthcoming responsibility to lead a major water investment scheme).

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