

Board Member Candidate's e-flyer

First Name : **Elizabeth**

Last Name : **Mang'eni**



Why do you want to become an ASAF Board member?

During my freshman year in University, I read an article on Farida Bedwei a celebrated software engineer from Ghana. It's not her software engineering professional that blew my mind away. Bedwei was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of one. Cerebral palsy is an incurable neurological disorder that affects body movement and muscle coordination. How can a person with cerebral palsy be a software engineer? That was new to me. Bedwei refused to let her disability affect her career trajectory. She found a way push and is today considered as one of the most powerful women in financial technology in Africa. My passion may not have been on software engineering like Bedwei but I can still make a difference.

I am passionate about contributing to initiatives that amplify the voices of young people and foster inclusive development across Africa. Becoming an ASAF Board member would allow me to bring my experiences, particularly in advocating for women and girls with disabilities, into a platform that values diverse perspectives and strives for transformative change. I see ASAF as a dynamic forum where I can collaborate with other like-minded individuals, share insights on how to advance education, entrepreneurship, and social equity, and help steer impactful policies that benefit the broader African community.

What is your vision for ASAF?

To see it grow as a leading platform that empowers African youth to actively shape the future of education, social development, and leadership across the continent. Recently, Kenya witnessed a powerful movement led by Generation Z, who organized demonstrations against the high cost of living, governance issues, corruption, foreign debt, and rising inflation. These efforts led to the withdrawal of a controversial Finance Bill by the government, showcasing the potential for youth-led advocacy to drive change.

I believe ASAF can become a hub where African youth not only access mentorship and entrepreneurship programs but also find platforms to amplify their ideas and initiatives. Through ASAF, young leaders can gain the skills and support needed to address pressing challenges in their communities and across the continent. My vision is for ASAF to continue nurturing leaders who are not only equipped with practical knowledge but also driven by a deep commitment to social justice, equity, and inclusive development.

What skills do you bring to the position and what contributions do you want to make?

My background in entrepreneurship, combined with my interest in the empowerment of marginalized groups, aligns with ASAF's mission to promote social justice. I am eager to contribute my skills in communication, leadership, and advocacy to support the board's vision and objectives. As a member of the Kenya Network of Women and Girls with Disabilities, I have developed the ability to effectively communicate across diverse audiences, build strategic partnerships, and mobilize people for a common cause .

I have a deep understanding and the lived experiences of the challenges faced by marginalized groups, particularly women and persons with disabilities, which gives me a unique perspective on inclusive leadership. My leadership and teamwork experience in various networks such as the Mandela Washington Fellowship, Young Africa Leadership Initiative, Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Disability

Employment, Gender and Equality Studies and working as a Senior Trade Development Officer with the Ministry of Trade in Kenya has taught me how to collaborate effectively, listen to diverse perspectives and create a supportive environment where everyone feels heard and valued. I want to use my experience to contribute to the growth of ASAF as a dynamic, collaborative, and forward-thinking platform for youth empowerment.

Why should you be elected as an ASAF Board member?

"Leave no one behind." Is my mantra

I should be elected because I offer a blend of practical experience, a deep passion for youth empowerment, and a strong commitment to inclusive leadership. These qualities will enable me to contribute to ASAF's growth as a transformative platform for positive change across Africa, ensuring that every voice is heard and no one is left behind.