

Ann Njeri Ndiangui
Award Receiving Speech
At the International Women's Bridge Event in Mombasa
08/03/2011

The president of the Rotary club Mombasa, the organisers of the Women's Listening Event, women from the international family, amazing women from across Kenya good afternoon and a happy International Women's Day!

I am humbled by this recognition of my efforts to make the world a better place as we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the International Women's Day. I am thankful to the Women's Information Network who have honoured me on this auspicious day.

I am grateful to God for He has always given me the will, energy and good health to keep serving, I really thank Dolce Shannon, who recognised my efforts and acknowledged them by nominating me for this award. My most sincere appreciation goes to my beloved family- especially my mum and dad who have given me all the emotional and spiritual support and acceptance as I do what seems unprofitable, I am greatly indebted to Initiatives of Change for teaching me that whatever changes I wish to see in the society should start with me, as well as the opportunities it has opened for me to reach out to the society.

I am grateful to the many friends who have encouraged, challenged and motivated me to embrace humanity and supported me in boundless ways in all my efforts to make a difference. .

Indeed, this award is not just in recognition to what I have done but rather an embodiment of the role of womenfolk in building a cohesive society. One that we want to see for ourselves and the generations that come after us. It's an acknowledgement of the many women who are doing absolutely amazing things all over the world at the grassroots level. Women like the 85 years old Lily who is taking care of over 30 destitute children in her Subukia home, women like Tia from Malaysia who is a Hindu but every year her family hosts a catholic priest from India to come and teach Hinduism and has opened her home to all regardless of religion or status, for women like my mother who have faced it rough and tough but still believes in God, believes in the potential people have and has never given up on doing good!

To all of you I dedicate this award and say, May the good Lord who grants the desires of our hearts, continue to strengthen you every morning as you seek to serve your society.

As for me, I am not only humbled by this award, but equally challenged to serve more, to love more and to continue tirelessly advocating for the wellness of humanity.

As I conclude, I leave you with the words of **Paula Fellingham and Annette Stanwick;**

WOMEN, THIS IS OUR TIME. This is our time to...

- 1. BELIEVE in our gifts and talents, using them to create a better world.**
- 2. RELINQUISH negativity and build personal power.**
- 3. RADIATE joy and confidence, choosing to be a powerful force for good.**
- 4. STAND as receivers, keepers, and givers of love and compassion.**
- 5. HOLD FAST to truth and moral values, and teach children to stand strong.**
- 6. SEIZE opportunities for growth and leadership while living with passion and purpose.**
- 7. CONNECT with other women to advance worthy causes.**
- 8. SEEK opportunities for meaningful service, touching hearts and changing lives.**
- 9. REACH OUT to enlighten the minds and empower the hearts of women everywhere.**
- 10. DREAM big dreams and make those dreams our destiny.**

WOMEN, THIS IS OUR TIME.

Thank you very much