

Dr Casta Tungaraza

Dr Casta Tungaraza is an agent of change, Intercultural-Relations Consultant and an entrepreneur. She is known for her advocacy and long-term service for the economic empowerment of African women. In 2012, the Tanzanian Government appointed her as the Tanzania's Tourism Goodwill Ambassador in Australia, and subsequently nominated as Patron of the Australia-Tanzania Business Council. She convenes the annual Australia-Africa Trade and Investment Forum that connects Australia with opportunities in Africa.

She began her career as an academician in Tanzania and later in Australia. She has worked at the University of Dar-Es-Salaam, Flinders University and Murdoch University as a Lecturer, Academic Advisor, Research Fellow, and a Manager for Gender Equality, Equal Opportunity and Social Justice.

In 2012, she was inducted in the WA Women's Hall of Fame, and in 2013 she was featured in the Permanent Impressions Portraits – an Art collection and an award-winning book recognising 50 women in Western Australia who 'in their ordinary lives had achieved extraordinary things and became role models for all ages.

Since leaving Murdoch University in 2014 she serves on a number of Boards – At a State level, she is a community member and Deputy Chair of the WA Prisoners' Review Board, as well as a member of the Multicultural Advisory Group to the Minister for Multicultural Interests.

At the Federal Level she is a Co-Chair of the Advisory Group on Australia-Africa Relations (AGAAR), working closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) developing the Australian Strategy on Africa, and providing the Government with advice on enhancing Australia's institutional, commercial and people-to-people links with the countries of Africa.

Furthermore, Casta has recently been appointed on the SBS Community Advisory Board.

Her work in promoting better outcomes for African women has led to the development of the Dare to Dream-Links (D2D-Links) program for mentoring and coaching African youth, in particular young African women. In 2006 she founded Miss Africa Australia Perth, a Young African Women's Leadership Development Program. This has become the most successful and effective mentoring programs for African girls, subsequently, in 2014 she received the Mentor of the year Award.

She has been recognized and awarded nationally and internationally for her commitment to the prevention and eradication of violence against women and children through her voluntary community work in Australia and Africa, particularly with young people and their families in WA.

She is a recipient of a number of national and international awards including the African Union ECOSOCC Global Africa Diaspora Award 2015, for visionary and inspiring leadership in the inclusion of African women in all facets of development; and in 2012 the WA Multicultural Services Award for her work over many years in empowering culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Casta has a Bachelor of Arts with Hons, a Masters degree in Development Studies, a PhD in International Politics and a Graduate Certificate in Australian Migration Law and Practice. She is also a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.