# **CECILIA NYOKABI GATHITU**

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#### **COMMUNITY LEADER**

# CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION | DIGNIFYING LIVES OF SLUM DWELLERS CRUSADER AGAINST DRUG & SUBSTANCE ABUSE | LEADERSHIP | GOVERNMENT PROTOCOL

Cecilia Nyokabi Gathitu is a renowned community service leader who has positively impacted the society in areas of women empowerment, rehabilitation of victims of alcohol and substance abuse, climate change mitigation, and dignifying lives of the vulnerable population especially for slum dwellers and street families. She is also an ordained Evangelist and Spiritual leader. She has wide range of experience in protocol, counselling, spiritual leadership and networking.

#### **MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

# 1. Founder of Family Organization for Empowerment (FOREM) – www.foreminternational.org

This is a Non-governmental Organization registered in Kenya since 2014 to support the youth, women and the vulnerable in society. It is involved in community-based rehabilitation of victims of alcohol and substance abuse through training, counselling and offering life and entrepreneurial skills. The organization has rehabilitated and reintegrated over 1000 victims of drug and substance abuse over the last three years. As the key leader of the organization, Forem has mapped all hotspots in major towns and developed life-changing programs such as tree planting and growing as part of climate change mitigation; training women on entrepreneurial skills such as business planning; and advocacy of family values.

#### 2. Founder and CEO of High-Level Protocol Services Limited

I am involved in organizing and management of High-level meetings involving government-level protocols and handling of dignitaries. I have been involved in UN-led meetings, international conferences and presidential functions. I am well versed with planning and coordination of activities for all professional, government and social functions and events. I have participated in presidential function such as UNEA 4 at UN Headquarters (2018).

## 3. Voluntary Community Service

I have offered myself in many community service programs and initiatives to address the societal challenges for family and individuals. I am a firm believer of seeking solutions to better the lives of communities. I have addressed many cases of hopelessness, family breakdowns, stigmatization, societal stereotypes, and spiritual support. I have conducted several counseling services at quarry sites, motor bike sheds, streets, in sports facilities, churches and roadsides. I work with the local authorities, clergy and community leaders to place many young people and women into productivity and employment.

# 4. Women Empowerment Programs

I have impacted over 5000 women in the last five years by developing linkages that create bridges for women to access opportunities; through establishment of networks for information sharing and use of inexpensive technologies; and through self-affirmation of women in order to raise their self-esteem and know their rights.

#### 5. Gospel Minister and Singer

I have contributed positively into the music industry through composing songs of spiritual and general guidance. I have done street evangelism reaching out to the marginalized and the hard-to-reach population. I have influenced and mentored many young artistes into the music space. I am an ordained Evangelist and an active member of the Association of Pentecostal and Evangelical Clergy of Kenya (APECK).

# 6. Slum Projects

I have been involved heavily in finding solutions for dignifying lives of slum dwellers. This involves financing projects and initiating mentorship and training programs. I have organized medical camps, sports events and talent concerts that have had positive impact to the society. I am a well-known crusader of sexual health, anti-drug and alcohol abuse and anti-pollution of Nairobi rivers.

#### 7. Community Leader

I have participated in community service programs such as peace-building initiatives, resource mobilization, dispute resolution, chaplaincy services to schools and police stations and community greening initiatives.

# 8. Climate Change Mitigation Champion – World Environment Day Hero (2019)

I have participated actively in climate change mitigation activities through advocacy against deforestation, pollution, emission; dumping of solid waste, and tree planting and growing. I have attended high-level conferences on climate change. I was celebrated in 2019 as the World Environment Day Hero for my initiatives to address the pollution menace at the Dandora dump site.

#### **SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES**

- Ability to negotiate and arrive at amicable solution
- Great Communicator
- Ability to mobilize people and resources
- Excellent networking skills
- Emotional Intelligence and Charisma
- Community leader
- Environmentalist
- Spiritual Leader
- Philanthropist

#### **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

- Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education
- Certificate in Christian Leadership
- Certificate in Climate Change Mitigation

#### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Place of Birth: Samburu County
Place of Residence: Nairobi County

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#### REFREES AND DECLARATIONS

1. **Dr. Geoffrey Gichuki** – CEO, Signature Marvel and Secretary General of the Association of Pentecostal and Evangelical Clergy of Kenya (APECK)

I declare that the information contained herein is true to the best of my knowledge

Cecilia Nyokabi Gathitu 2023