

# HER VISION

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## MUGUNGA STEPS BACK FROM LECTURE ROOM TO NURTURE CHILDREN

IT IS ONE THING TO OWN A SCHOOL BUT TO TEACH IS A PROFOUND THING. AND DR ANN MUGUNGA, THE PRINCIPAL AND FOUNDER, NETZAH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, GAYAZA, HAS BEEN PERSISTENT ENOUGH TO EXPERIENCE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS. WHILE IT IS NOT A SEAMLESS PATH, MUGUNGA IS A REMINDER THAT ALL PEOPLE CAN TRULY ACHIEVE ANYTHING THEY PUT THEIR MIND TO. SHE SHARES HER STORY WITH TEZRA KISAKYE.

I am an introvert, so imagine the terrifying thought of starting a school," Mugunga shares. For her, this thought was very vivid. It was an instruction she had to implement, whether she liked it or not.

Doing anything that required her to be in the public eye was farthest from her mind. Teaching was not part of her plan. Even then, it seems she was always bound to end up in public service, owing to her career in journalism and communications.

Having graduated with a bachelor's degree in mass communication from Makerere University, Mugunga initially worked as a writer and an editor later.

"As an introvert, I value my space and time, even if I know deep down there is great fulfilment in moving in purpose."

She pursued communications for most of her working life at *Daily Monitor* and later as an editor of the *Hansard*, Parliament of Uganda, a role she diligently executed until 2011.

Nonetheless, teaching proved to be a task that was assigned to her at birth.

"I never 'wanted' to be a teacher. A teacher is who I am! Actually, I struggled with obedience when I discovered through discipleship class that a teacher is who I am," Mugunga says.

In what felt like a revelation, her assignment to teach had been given to her way before she consented to it.

"Teaching ranked highest on my gifts profile at a time when I was being asked repeatedly to lecture and lead Sunday school classes but declined," Mugunga narrates.

**In what felt like a revelation her assignment to teach had been given to her way before she consented to it. "I never 'wanted' to be a teacher. A teacher is who I am! Actually, I struggled with obedience when I discovered that a teacher is who I am."**

"I told God: 'You know how shy and self-conscious I am, and dealing with people tires me out, just let me be.'"

But as days went by, the yearning to teach others grew stronger until Mugunga had no choice but to obey. She started lecturing at Makerere University (mass communication department then) while teaching at the children's church and leading a neighbourhood cell every Saturday, a responsibility she enjoyed for over 10 years.

Mugunga worked at Makerere from 2001-2010; at a church in Uganda until 2011; at Sunday school in Zambia from 2011-2016; and from 2018-2020 in Hong Kong.

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Dr Mugunga