

JONATHAN MAKUWIRA – BRIEF BIO

IT HAS BEEN A LONG ROAD TO TRAVEL (Jimmy Cliff)

Jonathan Makuwira was born in Malawi “too many rains ago”. He comes from a very poor family. He is the first born in a family of 9. He attended primary, secondary, teacher and university education in Malawi. In 1983, he qualified as a Primary School Teacher and taught in Primary schools for 3 years before going to the University of Malawi for a Diploma in Education majoring in Biology and Mathematics, before graduating in 1989. This allowed him to teach Biology, Science and Mathematics in secondary schools for one year before joining Teacher Training as Pre-service Teacher Educator in 1990.

In October 1990, he resigned in the public service and joined the Malawi Institute of Education as a Research and Curriculum Development Officer. It was during this time that his career blossomed. He was offered a World Bank scholarship to do his Honours in Mathematics Education at University of Nottingham in UK between 1992-1993.

In 1995 he was offered an Alumni Scholarship by Nottingham University to do an MPhil in Mathematics Education, graduating in December 1997.

In 1998, Jonathan joined the Council for NGOs in Malawi (CONGOMA), an umbrella organisation for all NGOs in Malawi as a Research, Information and Networking Manager. It was during this time that he developed an interest in doing a PhD in a development-related topic. It did not take long until when he was offered two scholarship – The University of New England Postgraduate Research Scholarship (UNEPRS) and Overseas Postgraduate Research Scholarship (OPRS) both at University of New England, Australia. He graduated in October 2003 with a PhD in International Development. His doctoral research “**Non-Governmental Organisations, Participation and Partnership Building in Basic Education and Development in Malawi**” was ground-breaking in contributing to new knowledge in the field of development studies, particularly in relations to the role of NGOs in development.

Upon graduation, Jonathan was immediately employed as a Lecturer in Peace Studies by University of New England, to contribute to a better understanding of the link between ‘development and peacebuilding’. In 2005, he joined Central Queensland University as a Lecturer in Comparative Indigenous Studies and worked among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Central Queensland, Australia. It was during this time that Jonathan won two Teaching awards:

- **Carrick Australian Awards for University Teaching Citations for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning**
- **Vice Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence – Indigenous Teacher of the Year.**

In July 2007 Jonathan joined The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University as a Lecturer in International Development. In 2010, Jonathan won a Teaching award - **RMIT University Teaching Excellence in Higher Education:- For fostering innovation in curriculum development, learning and teaching and linking international development studies theory into practice.**

After 14 years, and teaching in 3 universities in Australia, Jonathan decided to leave a well-paying job and came home to Africa; South Africa in particular.

Jonathan is an author/co-author to 3 books; 15 book chapters; 17 peers reviewed journal articles and 7 peer reviewed conference proceedings and numerous non peer reviewed conference proceedings.

His areas of research interest include but not limited to: popular participation, capacity building, peacebuilding and development, education and development, poverty alleviation, NGOs and development, comparative indigenous studies.