



## Making Africa Work through the Power of Innovative Volunteerism

**Richard Munang**

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*Making Africa Work Through the Power of Innovative Volunteerism offers compelling solutions to existing problems in Africa.*

In *Making Africa Work Through the Power of Innovative Volunteerism*, Richard Munang showcases Africa's potential and presents a fervent argument on what can be done to turn its economy around.

The book includes relevant background on the author, situating him as personally invested in the topic. Growing up in Jinkfuin, a rural village in the northwestern part of Cameroon, Munang was fascinated by what he learned in school. He developed a special liking for mathematics, and traveled to Bamenda, a bustling city in northern Cameroon, for his high school education, accompanied by his uncle Pa Tingem, who also helped him attend university. Every point of his life was filled with overwhelming hindrances, yet he did not despair, and ended up in England to study environmental science.

Unlike many other written studies on Africa and its challenges, this book stands out because of the author's experiences. He understands Africa's challenges intimately and also recognizes the continent's potential. The book's focus is not merely on the numerous issues that African people face; it is positive and encouraging as well, conveying hope for the continent and capturing its vibrant energy, portrayed by its youth.

Practical solutions to everyday problems are offered. On reducing levels of unemployment across African states, the book suggests strategic decentralization to provide opportunities to those in rural areas. To accelerate economic growth, it suggests focusing on growing Africa's catalytic sectors. A number of projects that are changing the face of the continent are discussed with an aim of investigating how their policies can be adopted in other African countries as well.

The author's expertise shows, especially on issues pertaining to climate change. Statistics are sprinkled throughout. The end result is a convincing examination of the abilities and capacities of the African people.

The writing is engaging, incorporating many African proverbs that add particular flavor and depth to the book's message. This effect is further heightened by the mention of African leaders who have made an invaluable impact on Africa and the world beyond it. Still, the book is not coherently structured, and reading it is a slow process. Various unrelated topics and issues are explored together in the same segments of the book.

The final chapter makes a call to African youth, compelling them to maximize available resources, take Africa to greater heights, and not just settle for the usual. The tone is passionate and the plea is earnest, ensuring that Munang's message will linger even after reading is completed.

*Making Africa Work Through the Power of Innovative Volunteerism* offers compelling solutions to existing problems in Africa. It also motivates all African people to join in the efforts of creating a better continent through maximization of available resources.

EDITH WAIRIMU (August 23, 2018)

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