**GRACE BEMA BIOGRAPHY**



Eng Grace Bema is a 39year old lady born on the 11th of July 1980 in Harare Zimbabwe. She is married to a very supportive husband Harrison who has given her the space to realize her dreams. She is the first born in a family of seven (six girls and one boy). The boy being her twin brother.

For someone who has always been driven by challenges and the need to be different, after high school Grace studied for a BSc Honors in Civil Engineering at the University of Zimbabwe graduating in 2004. After graduation she was employed by Alpha Engineers for five years from 2004 to 2009. In order to strengthen her management skills she took up a Master’s in Business Administration degree (MBA) again at the University of Zimbabwe and graduated in 2010.

In 2009 she joined Brian Colquhoun Hugh O’Donnell & Partners (BCHOD Consulting Engineers). Just a year after joining the firm in 2010 she was made partner making her the only female partner of the biggest
consultancy firm in Zimbabwe. With BCHOD she has worked on numerous projects the biggest amongst them being the construction of 3,000 houses and roads, water and sewer services for Unki Mine housing development for a total project cost of US$140million. She was both resident engineer and supervisor and was also involved in designing the road network, water and sewer reticulation and treatment works.

As a partner at an engineering firm, she is passionate about improving service systems in Zimbabwe in particular roads, water and sewer systems with a view to upgrading their functionality so as to bring them to first world standards. Grace had the opportunity to experience first world standards when she studied for a Master of Science degree in Sustainable systems at Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania USA. Her studies and upkeep were fully funded by Rotary District 7280 as a Rotary Ambassadorial scholar. She graduated in December 2013. Part of her responsibilities as a Rotary Ambassadorial scholar was to help and participate in any humanitarian activities and functions that she was invited to in the district. She also went around district clubs giving talks mainly on Zimbabwe.

Her move to study for a second Master’s degree in Sustainable Systems in America was prompted by the direction the world is taking to use environmentally friendly systems to help protect the environment and future generations. While in America, for her internship she worked for New Castle Sanitation Authority which is a sewage treatment plant that uses sewage effluent to generate power. She also worked for Macoskey Center as a design developer Graduate Assistant at Slippery Rock University.

She returned back to Zimbabwe in December 2013 and retained her position as partner at BCHOD Consulting Engineers. One major achievement she has had since her return back home was to be selected as a council member for Bindura University of Science and Technology. She is a certified Prince2 practitioner.

As for what the future holds for her, she intends to do a PHD in Civil Engineering within the next three years.