

# BLACK HISTORY: ACTIVIST SPOTLIGHT

“THE CLIMB REPRESENTS A MISSION OF HOPE  
AND A TRUE LESSON IN OVERCOMING  
ADVERSITY”

**Dr. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka**



Dr. Anna Tibaijuka is a Tanzanian politician and served as the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT). Dr. Tibaijuka has led the UN-HABITAT's main objective of improving the lives of slum

dwellers in line with the Millennium Development Goals. UN-HABITAT is responsible for leading the effort on improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020.

As Executive Director, she participated in all high-level bodies of the United Nation's system. This included the Chief Executive Board of the United Nations and the Senior Management Board of the Secretary-General. It is under her tenure that governments overseeing the agency through its

Governing Council more than doubled UN-HABITAT's core budget to \$44 million for 2004-2005, granting it authority to spend up to \$50 million.

Apart from her UN-HABITAT role, Dr. Tibaijuka is dedicated to the role and rights of women in development. As a founding Chairperson of the independent Tanzanian National Women's Council (known by its Swahili acronym, BAWATA), she is also the founding Chairperson of the Barbro Johansson Girls Education Trust dedicated to promoting high standards of education for girls in Tanzania and in Africa.

Dr. Tibaijuka is a champion of women's rights who speaks English, Swahili, Haya, Swedish and some French. She has published five books and many articles. She was also the convener of Tanzania's Local Entrepreneurs Initiative, a voluntary group mobilizing and assisting Tanzanians to form joint



venture companies with overseas investors. She has been a Board Member of the Tanzania Economic Policy Development and Management Foundation and is a director of a number of private companies dedicated to encouraging entrepreneurship and efficiency in agricultural marketing.

Today, she is the highest ranking African woman in the United Nations system.

**ACTION STEPS: How can I continue the legacy?**

- **Be a champion for women's rights**
- **Be a mentor to a young lady**
- **Create and support programs that support ending homelessness**

