

Profile on Shillah Mandaba

Shillah Mandaba made history as the first woman to be employed as an Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunications (AFTN) Officer in Zimbabwe's Department of Civil Aviation. Shillah grew up in the Central Province of Zambia and attended Chibombo Primary School. She completed her high school education at Mumbwa and Chipembi Girls Secondary schools, and thereafter trained as an Aviation Telecommunication Operator through the Zambia Air Service Training Institute.

Shillah moved to Zimbabwe where she became gainfully employed and continued to pursue part-time studies through the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Shillah successfully completed her studies and was awarded a Diploma. After gaining two years of experience with the Civil Aviation of Zimbabwe, Shillah left the organization and opened her own Travel and Tour Company, catering for international travelers to Zimbabwe and its' neighboring countries. After a few years of managing her own agency, Shillah moved to the United States where she continued to demonstrate her ethic for hard work. During her six- year residency in the USA, Shillah showed immense courage and perseverance to achieve her goals and with the belief that "everything has a season", did not give up even in the most trying times.

Shillah's determination, sweat and hard work paid off! Her perseverance culminated in her achieving an undergraduate degree with a double major in Art and Science.

Shillah has now lived in Canada for four years and works as a Personal Assistant to a very brilliant lady who is battling with Parkinson's disease. Shillah's long-term goal is to become an entrepreneur once again and to open her own cleaning agency. She would like to incorporate a skills building component into her business by providing the opportunity for others to learn how to work in the business. Shillah is a true testament to the results of hard work, perseverance and determination. She values the notion that having a skill set opens doors of opportunity and hopes to return to academia one day, to take up part time studies in Mathematics.

Foe Shillah, the sky is the limit!