

International Virtual Event: Global Smart Villages

Smart Villages: Africa's Key To Inclusive Development

Stephen Muraga, Co-Founder and COO Great Zambezi Initiative



I would touch a bit about my experience growing in a rural village in Zimbabwe and expose the frustration that many young people face, as in those who grow up in that environment and how they are forced to leave and find their way into cities and some crossing the border illegally into neighboring countries. Most of these cities are struggling and not adequately prepared for the influx of job seekers and this causes a lot of stress on Municipalities trying to cope with service delivery.

I will seek to explore and expose how the introduction of sustainable Smart Villages can change this narrative and improve the quality of life for the over 60% of Africa's population that is currently dwelling in the rural areas. I will also highlight some of the efforts that I am currently involved in with Great Zambezi Initiative advocating for Innovations that will address challenges being faced by rural communities and these efforts are build around the concept of Smart Villages.

I will conclude by predicting what I think the future of Africa will look like if deliberate steps are taken to promote Smart Villages. I believe Smart Villages have the potential to bring about the Urbanization of Rural Areas thereby curbing the forced rural to urban migration which has become synonymous with Africa as a continent.

About the speaker

Stephen Muraga is a serial entrepreneur who has founded several businesses and comes with vast experience in Logistics. He is Co-Founder and COO of Great Zambezi Initiative which is a Social Enterprise that is enabling Innovation in the Zambezi Basin countries of Southern Africa. His favorite saying is "As we go about trying to change the bad we see, we discover ourselves".