



Embassy of the United States of America
Port Louis, Mauritius
PRESS RELEASE

Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders
Mauritius has a 7th Finalist!

Port Louis, June 11, 2014: Jessyca Joyekurun is the seventh Mauritian selected for the Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders. Jessyca Joyekurun is on the “Business and Entrepreneurship track”. She will attend Yale University in Connecticut in replacement of Micheline Khan of Seychelles after the latter dropped out of the program. Jessyca Joyekurun and her fellow YALI finalists, including one from Rodrigues, are leaving for the U.S. this Friday.

At 28 years old, Jessyca Joyekurun is the Managing Director of Expand Human Resources Ltd., an SME she launched in December 2012. Her company specializes in human resources outsourcing for small and medium enterprises in Mauritius and in the Indian Ocean. She recently opened two branches in Tanzania and Uganda. She specifically targets companies that do not have an internal HR department. Her business idea won her the HR Excellence Award of the “Special Mention by Jury” (2013) from the Human Resource Council Development of Mauritius. Jessyca Joyekurun is a law graduate from the University of Kent, UK. She is currently enrolled in a distance learning MBA program at the University of Wales.

The Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders is a flagship program of President Obama’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) that empowers young people through academic coursework, leadership training, and networking. Fellowships will provide these outstanding young leaders with the opportunity to hone their skills at a U.S. university, and support their professional development after they return home. Individuals who have already demonstrated leadership in the public, private or non-profit sector have been selected for the Washington Fellowship. They have significant professional experience and a proven record in leading and promoting positive change in their organizations, institutions, and communities.

The Obama Administration’s Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) is a signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders. Nearly one in three Africans are between the ages of 10 and 24, and approximately 60 percent of Africa’s total population is below the age of 35. President Obama launched YALI in 2010 to support young African leaders as they spur growth and prosperity, strengthen democratic governance, and enhance peace and security across Africa.

The six other finalists for Mauritius are: Marietta Agathe (Rodrigues), Zuhayr Panchoo, Avinash Jasgray, Vandana Boolell, Sabrina Gujjalu and Aarthi Burtony.

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