### Building a Python Community in Zimbabwe

by Anna Makarudze PyCon Nigeria 2018 @amakarudze

#### About



Fundraising Coordinator: Django Girls Foundation

Director:

Django Software Foundation Board 2018

Organiser:

Various events

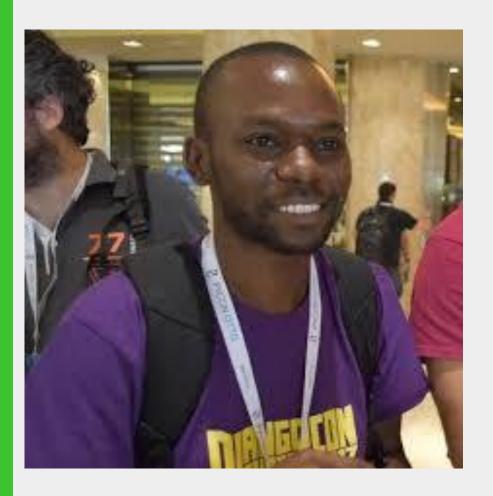
#### Aim

To answer the "What's in it for me?" question with regards to participating in open source communities.

#### How it all started



Learning about PyCon Namibia 2016



### My first Python events



### Django Girls Harare





### Django Girls Masvingo





### PyCon Zim 2016 & 2017





## Challenges faced setting up the community?

## Lack of direction

Volunteering vs Entrepreneurship

## Lack of know-how

How to organise not-for-profit open source events.

### Lack of local funding

Ailing economy + less Python usage compared to PHP

African myths about "Python"



### Poverty

Volunteering and non-profit work is tough for an unemployed population.

### Political Sanctions against Zimbabwe

Blocked international sponsorship for our events.

## Getting past our challenges

## Crowdfunding for first PyCon Zimbabwe





Partnering with university personnel

Access to students and staff who use or have potential to use Python.

## International sponsorship/ support

International organisations + individuals (sponsor conference tickets).

## Learning from the community

How others organise events, handle CoC issues etc.

# Getting involved with the international community

### DSF Membership

Got nominated to join DSF membership in August 2016.

# PyCon events in Africa

PyCon Namibia
PyCon South
Africa

### International Events

Django: Under The Hood 2016

DjangoCon Europe 2017

PyCon Italia 2017

DjangoCon Europe 2018

## DSF Code of Conduct Committee

My first attempt at working with a remote team, on a volunteer basis.

#### Django Girls Foundation

Hired for remote position as Fundraising Coordinator.

# Running for 2018 DSF Board

Nominated myself and later regretted it after seeing so many nominations.

## Any personal benefits for me?

### Exposure

How to organise and run Python events.

Develop Python skills.

### Crucial Friendships

Awesome friends around the globe.

# Reputation and profile building

Showing up when invited and being transparent helps people to trust you.

### Employment Opportunities

Meeting potential recruiters at conferences and online.

#### Mentors

Meeting potential mentors at conferences.

### Access to Resources

Programming books donated or buying a few copies of my own through friends.

Volunteering in the open source community has no direct, tangible financial benefits...

but it offers invaluable and immeasurable benefits which eventually result in economic benefit.

### Questions???

### Thank you!

@amakarudze