THE POWER OF INCLUSION – SPORT FOR ALL; AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE MOVIE »QUEEN OF KATWE«

Ms Kaneese Katisenge Botswana National Sports Council, Botswana

SportandDev.org empathizes that Sport has the potential to be a catalyst for inclusion and people who work in sports have a responsibility to make this happen. There is power in being inclusive and the sport for all concept allows us to make a difference in others' lives and to emerge stronger together against obstacles. Sport, as advised by SportandDev.Org is better when its purpose and direction aim toward inclusion, and that inclusion in and through sport means providing every person full respect, dignity, value, and belonging in any roles they may be involved in. Inclusion encompasses all populations across race, culture, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and disability. Sport for inclusion is Sport for All, and it is important as it promotes the values, ideals, and vision for acceptance, human rights, and non-discrimination.

The Movie, "Queen of Katwe", based on a true-life story of a Ugandan girl, Phiona, who sees her world quickly change after being introduced to the game of chess is one demonstration of what inclusion can help us achieve and impact others' lives for the best. According to the movie, Phiona's life changes after she meets Robert Katende, a chess coach, who teaches her the game of chess. Under Katende's tutelage, Phiona becomes a top player and sees an opportunity to escape from a life of poverty. This is the power of inclusion, the power of sport for all, and the power of one sports person making a deliberate move to use any positive tool available (in this case the game of chess), to be as accommodative as possible to others regardless of age, social background, economic status, gender or ability. The movie stars Lupita Nyong'o, a Kenyan-Mexican actress, as Phiona's mother.