**ANITA ISMAIL**

**Miss Zambia USA’s Autobiography**

*“Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step.”*

***Martin Luther King, Jr.***

This has been my recurring theme for the past decade and I always go by it.

My name is **Anita Ismail** and I was born on the 10th of August, 1991. I was born and raised in the capital city of Zambia called Lusaka. I grew up in a Christian home where “keeping the Sabbath day holly” was a very important aspect of our lives. I went to high school in Zambia and I graduated from Sarafina International School. I completed my high school at the age of 15, I didn’t wait for too to enroll at a college. I got accepted to go to the Zambia Center for Accountancy studies a few months after graduation and I immediately started pursuing a degree in the Chartered Institute of Marketing. I got my first professional job when I was 17 with one of the biggest mining/construction/transportation companies in southern Africa called Scirocco Enterprises Limited, where I was offered a position as an Administrative Assistant and within a few months I was promoted to Operations Manager Assistant.

I have always been career driven and I had dreams of moving to a different country abroad to pursue my dreams. I relocated to the USA in March, 2012. With a definitive goal of educating myself, I enrolled at Metropolitan State University of Denver where I am currently pursuing a double major In Economics and Accounting, motivated by my love for learning and succeeding as I strive to become an outstanding and successful woman in today’s society. I work three jobs which makes me so busy to sometimes do other fun things that this country has to offer. I make the most of my free time by going to explore the different cities and culture of Colorado. Attending concerts, mountain climbing, bike riding, fishing, road trips and exploring the different foods and wine have become my new hobbies.

I started modeling since I was in Junior High School where I was first crown “Miss Independence,” I continued to represent my school at different inter-schools beauty pageants. The United States of America is a the right place one can grow in the fashion industry and I am using whatever opportunity I come across to develop a good modeling portfolio with a goal to empower young women to be comfortable in their own skin and what it come with.

Being brought up by a single mother, I learned not to always wait for people to do things for me. My mother introduced me to all the possible ways of how to develop our lives by using resources that we already have around us. She made me plant tomatoes to sale and I remember how mad she was at me when I used all the profit that I had made. My platform is about using what we already have in order to help ourselves. I want to go back to Africa to help educate people on how to become successful Entrepreneurs because depending on other people and organizations will never stop poverty and suffering that goes on in Africa.

A five year forecast of my life includes me having completed my Master’s Degree, built a good foundation for my work in helping Africans around the world by delivering the knowledge and Education they need. I wish to continue my contributions as a model and upcoming young Entrepreneur and role model by **“taking that first step in faith.”**