

Episode 19. Podcast Interview with Madonna Wambua

Wambui: Hi there, Madonna Thank you so much for being on my show.

Madona: Thank you so much for inviting me. It's an honor to be here.

Wambui: Thank you. So, when people ask, tell me a little bit about yourself. What do you tell them?

Madona: Well, that's a good question. I start by telling them I'm a mother. I'm also a wife, which are things that I feel like in my field. After working for many years, I've not met many people who are like that, but those are things that I identify with. And this is the other unique thing is, because I'm Black, and I'm also a hardworking mom, I would say. But professionally, I am an author. I am also a founder. I am a CTO for, actually, it's an interesting thing. I'm a CTO for two companies, so it's pretty cool. I am a Google Developer Expert. So that means Google acknowledges me as an expert in one of their fields, which is Android, which is used by, I think, a billion people around the world. So Android is pretty big. If you have an Android phone, the operating system.

Wambui: All right. Very good. That's good to hear. Now, what is a CTO? What does that mean?

Madona: A CTO just means chief technology officer, which means you oversee all aspects of technology in that particular company that involves design, and product building. And sometimes it's not good to code, but I like coding. So coding and yeah, so it's just overseeing every production of the particular product that's being built.

Wambui: Right. Now what led you to this path?

Madona: That's an interesting one. So I wanted to become an aeronautical engineer because I loved planes. I grew up, of course, in Kenya, but we used to live near Their plane station. So we would see a lot of planes. And I was like, who made those planes? Because, and I feel like I sound like a broken record now because everybody has heard this story, but your listeners have not heard it yet.

Wambui: They have not.

Madona: So it would, I would see the planes and say, I really want to understand how they're built because it was so fascinating that something like that would take people overseas. Right. So to me, it was very stunning. And I think I started watching this channel about how things, how things are made by think DSW. I forget if it was DSW, but it was by a German channel. And then it, that really inspired me a lot. So I ended up getting a laptop. And after that, I was like, Oh my God. Who made this? So it's always been me wanting to know how things are built and just being the person that's building because I was like, wait, am I not smart enough to do that? So that was also always my question. Now, the good thing is that I was strong in sciences during my school years. I was always the top student. I don't think I've ever been past the top two, but that said, I think that inspired me a lot to look into what these things are. Now, the funny thing is that my mom or my dad didn't know about

those fields. Cause I mean, the fields that are actually known back at home, if you're from Nairobi or from actually, it's not only from Nairobi, I've sat on another What is it called? Research. And it's true that many parents don't know that computer engineering is a thing. They know the jobs that are normal engineering, which might be just, you know, a civil engineer or other engineers. And then they know about being a doctor, being a business person, being a teacher or an entrepreneur, but not a computer. So it wasn't that my mom or my dad told me, Hey, you can be actually a computer scientist now. And like, now I can tell my kids that, but I ended up learning by myself about what that path was after I got my phone because I was like, Oh my God. So it would be the phone too. So now I make mobile. I mean, I'm an insider as an expert again, you're an insider. I get to help build the APIs or give feedback on the APIs that actually. Help build this operating system. So it's pretty cool.

Wambui: That's pretty cool. And so what are the challenges that you find as a woman in the tech field?

Madona: I feel like this is also, it's going to sound like a broken record, but I feel like everybody goes through the same. You are always the one. Yeah. And especially, I've not worked in Kenya as an engineer, but when I came to the United States, went, did my studies and then I got my first job, I was always the one. And it's so funny. I've been to a company where of course there were other women, I think two, but we also had many men, but there too, it was women. At their old and young age, with no kids, just living their life. And I was like, wow, but nobody looks like me. I don't think I've worked with in the engineering. No, I've not, which is very sad. And that's why sometimes I feel like it's easy for someone to give up. Because most of the time you're like, who's rooting for you? Right? So I decided not to do that. Even though sometimes I felt like, hey, it's really hard, you know because you're expected to deliver. I mean, the work ethics here, I mean, I never worked in Kenya. So, I know the work ethic here in America. Pretty different as compared to what I've heard in Kenya, but I've always been thinking and wondering how it must feel like for people that are in different fields that are by themselves. Like I am in engineering because it's very hard. You're like, you're going to give up tomorrow. So what kept me going was just the passion for what I, did cause I didn't want to give up. I wanted to be that person to build that stuff. And I've actually worked with cool companies and built stuff. But at the end of it, it really, sometimes can become draining. You feel like going to give up, but I actually found a community and that helped me a lot. That is what actually helped me stay in tech because tech is very big. Like product managers are still in tech. And I think you are a UX designer, not everybody codes, but I'm in the coding part. So it was pretty interesting.

Wambui: That's pretty cool that you're in the coding part and, you decided to stick 'cause I was going to ask you what made you stick in the field. That must have been hard.

Madona: The community. I think for me, when I found my community and that's after I felt like I was drained out, I almost gave up because every other day I would be like, Oh my God, I'm going to get fired tomorrow.

Wambui: Wow. Now let me ask you as a person coming from another country to the U. S. Kenya. I came from Kenya to the U.S. Did having an accent, you know, you have an accent, did that bother you? Did that hold you back?

Madona: I mean, nobody ever says I have an accent. That's an interesting thing. Cause everybody, I mean, nobody has ever said I'm from Kenya. So maybe that gave me an advantage, but maybe you can hear it. I mean, I speak normally like I would. But I've never experienced that issue where somebody said you had an accent. Cause most of the people think I'm either from the Caribbean or nobody thinks I'm from Kenya. When I say I'm from Kenya, they're like, wait, what? of the people think I'm from the Caribbean, just around here, which is closer to the US. They're like, Oh, you're not from the Caribbean? Somebody the other day thought I was from Haiti. And I was like, no, I'm not from Haiti. But I mean, I don't mind being from Haiti, but yeah, so nobody has ever. Confused me or asked me, where's your accent? Actually, I interviewed for this company. I think it's called it's a very famous company for protecting kids when they travel. No, it's tracking. And that's the only time I heard somebody ask me, are you from Australia? I was like, why? And asked them why they thought that. And they said that I sounded like I was from Australia. I was like, Oh, interesting. Nobody has ever said that. No, I'm not from Australia. I'm from Kenya as well. Oh, I would never have guessed.

Wambui: Yeah. The reason why I asked that is because here you are in a field where you feel alone and then maybe now having an accent would shrink, maybe, you know, feel like, okay, I'm not speaking like they are in that stops me. Cause I know I had that issue where people would say, oh, we don't pronounce that this way. We. This way. We say, like the word said, you know, S A D, we say S A D, and I'll be like, I've been, I came here after I was, I think, 25, so I am not going to change. It's going to change how I speak. So I'm glad that that did not stop you.

Madona: No, that did not. I think that I think the only different thing that I can maybe share a similar experience with you is that when I think in tech, there's a lot of tech jargon, which is there's a lot of words that are very different and pretty sophisticated, like, for instance, that were to be using technology, then other words that you would use in a normal. Let's say the setting is like me and you're talking. So that's the only part when I felt a little bit insecure because I would not understand what those words meant because I mean, come on, English is not my first language, you know? And then when I hear immutability and I think variables before I, I mean, with the time you become better, but the first time I was scared because I was like, Oh my God, what does immutability mean? What does immutable mean? Cause those are not words that would. Click to me, you know, yeah, so I think yeah, I did spend so much time learning those words and I remember one day writing on my review that, because I think I was told, you know as you ask me questions and then I say, actually, I think I know why, because I don't understand some of these words. And I was like, you know what, in my review, I wrote to myself that this is one of the things that I want to work on, because I know those words, they're not like, They're not natural to me. They don't just come to me. So I wrote an entire list of the words that I was going to look at. So that was the only thing that I felt like, Oh my God. And then the funny thing is that they don't make it better for you. And that's the thing. You'd, and that's what's the thing with diversity too because diversity doesn't just include you, including other people. It's just understanding that this person is from a different place and they don't have English as their first language. And being able to understand that they wouldn't know immediately what immutability or mutability means. Right. And you being welcoming to that. But I don't feel that was the case. I feel like the guys were more like, Oh, you don't know what that means. Why? You know, like they're shocked. Yes. Because they don't know. So you don't know. They don't know what they don't know.

Wambui: They don't know what they don't know. It's a good thing you wrote a manual for the codes.

Madona: I had to, but then I realized this is funny, but I realized it was a cultural thing though. It wasn't. Yeah. Cause not everywhere because in other places where it worked and there were other, let's say traditions like we had some Indian there or somebody from. Brazil or somebody from, let's say Mexico, the people there would know that people are from a different place. So they would be very welcoming and say, yeah, even when they look at your code, they're like, they understand that the person is, doesn't know English is the first language. So definitely, I think it's just different based on companies and the people too. You know, you never know who you're going to work with until you work with them. So yeah, it's pretty tough.

Wambui: Every company has a different culture.

Madona: Yeah.

Wambui: Good. Tell us about your, you have a company called Jibu Labs.

Madona: Yes. I created the company as a consulting firm because I think it became much easier for me to know that now I'm a Known expert. I've spoken in many countries and also events, all this paid for by Google. And I was like, I'm building my name out there so I can do consulting much easier. Right. And I wanted to use your nickname so that everybody can be curious and always ask, what does Jibu actually mean? And that happened because all the time, everybody's asking, wait, what does Jibu mean? And then have to explain. So it brings up that curiosity. And then for me, when I'm responding and answering, it brings in the client. So I've worked with a couple of great companies. Mostly it's just consulting. Normally consulting people reach out to you. They ask you, Hey, we need your services here. For instance, I can give an example. This company is in New York. Because I live in New York that building what is it called? Crypto.

Wambui: Okay.

Madona: And then they were like, you know what? We don't know what mobile applications in Android look like, and we would want to consult with you. And then I was like, okay, so. It was just only for, I think, two hours. So we consulted for two hours and I got paid over 3,000. I was like, Oh my God, this is good for two hours. Yeah. So consulting works like that where people just reach out to you. And then the good thing is that you can, you know, you're legit. So they can write tax and they can, you can report that in tax. So without a company that would be very hard. So that's why I decided to create it.

Wambui: That's awesome. That's pretty good. Now you recently got an award from Success magazine.

Madona: Oh, that's several, which is pretty funny and amazing.

Wambui: Tell us a little, tell us about that. What led to that award?

Madona: No, I think it was the, the way it works is that just. People who are influencing communities around them, making an impact. And I think in the year 2022 and 2023, I did

travel a lot. I think I traveled, I spoke at over 30 conferences. Oh, wow. And, oh yeah, all of them are paid by Google, which is good. , And, the good thing was that what I was doing was just educating others, on how to build applications and just build for the modern world. Because right now. Everybody has a phone and every company that has an application or something that's been used by customers will definitely need to deploy for both platforms by both platforms. I mean, Android and iOS. So I think it got a nomination and I think we had many women, we had over a hundred and then they normally just speak top 50 and it was an honor. I mean, I was like, wow. They really thought I deserved it and then I remember telling my friend, Hey, I got this. And she was like, Oh my God, I thank God. And she was like, no, you thank God. And you, because you did the job too. I was like, okay, good point.

Wambui: Good point. Yeah. I saw that. I was like, wow, this is pretty cool. Madonna is doing something that's really impacting the world or somebody. Now, do you mentor girls and women who are interested in technology?

Madona: Yes, I do mentor. I actually use the U Stripe mentor. I find it to be much easier to use and that is high school students. So normally they just reach out to me via messages and we do a one-on-one because I feel like I find I also do have mentors who are like the Android engineer. Like I'm an engineer in the field that I talk to from time to time, but mostly I like the one for the phone call. Like just somebody just sends me a message like, Hey, I am struggling with this. How do I go about this? Or hi, I want to go to college to do this. Do you think this is the right path for me? And then we gauge what have you been doing at school. What have you achieved so far? You know, I've also participated in mentoring for this group in Brazil, which is amazing because I don't know Portuguese, but it worked because they had a translator and they reached out to me. They were like, Hey, you know, we'd like for you to come speak to our mothers because it's a group of mothers. And I was like, yeah, definitely. So I definitely do enjoy doing the mentoring because it helps a lot. I also do have a mentor myself. I think it's good because sometimes we can all learn from other people because again, I mean, yeah. You never, you don't know everything and it's good to learn from other people. That's why when you asked me to come and join you, I was like, yeah, I like to make myself accessible because I think. You never know the impact you can have on someone's life. Because sometimes I might think, I can't do it. But then when they look at me they're like, but Madonna can do it. It can really inspire someone. Because I've heard that narrative. Like, hey, if Madonna can do it, why can't I do it? And I like that.

Wambui: That's exactly what I saw. When I saw that, and I started following it, I was like, wait a minute. Ah. Madonna is doing this. I wonder what my listeners would say, even myself. I'm like, that someone that inspiration so I'm really honored that you could come and share some things about what you do, with my audience.

Madona: Oh, yeah. Every time someone reaches out to me, a community, I'm always, I mean, unless it's corporate, corporate definitely has to pay. Yeah, thank you. But as a community, I'm always willing to help because I think this so much. And I think making ourselves accessible becomes much easier, even for the people because you can't just keep building. Without thinking about the community around you, because again, when we go back to my story in the beginning, I said the community really helped me a lot when I connected with the community, I was able to find women and listen to other women that went through this similar things. And I was like, wow. So we definitely do need each other.

Wambui: We do. Now, as I was researching, for this podcast interview, I learned that one of your superpowers is taking action. Now in my community sometimes we find ourselves procrastinating. Can you share a little bit about how you avoid distractions and keep yourself focused?

Madona: Oh, that's a good question. And I feel like. Through one of my mentorship sessions, I met with this lady, she's from Nairobi and she asked me, how do you get to write a book, have a family do the speaking, and also do your job? And I told her, I think number one, you have to look at what is taking your time. Number two, you have to prioritize. And then. You have to always have the mindset of, if it's due, it's due, and you have to do it. Now, when we went through the things I told her first, I don't spend so much time on my phone. It's okay. I look at social media, but I don't spend so much time. On average, I spend, I think, three hours every day on my phone.

Wambui: Wow.

Madona: I'm not a scrolled student. I know. It's just looking at things that actually kill your productivity because if you spend so much time on your phones, calling, which sometimes happens, you end up being in a loop where you were supposed to do something, you forgot about it, and you will not get it done. And I've seen experts acknowledging that. Put your phone aside for a few hours, you'll get things done. For me, I don't even need to do that. I think it's just natural. Because I mean, I don't see anything to scroll about. Even when I log in to it and look at it, I won't scroll unless it's Sunday or Saturday when I'm just in bed.

Wambui: Yeah,

Madona: I don't do that. Because what am I looking for? You know, so We decided to look into our phone. I told her, Hey, show me your phone. Let me see how much time is being spent on your phone. It was eight hours to nine hours every day. And I was like, that's your full day. It's a work day. Exactly. And sometimes it's not like she's doing it consistently. I don't think she does it the entire time. It's just a short period of time where she takes a break and then starts scrolling. And then without knowing, it's already an hour. Without knowing again, it's another two hours. So I told her, number one, you can cut down on that. And it's easy to discipline. Just put it aside. Do the work. When I was doing what I was doing, I was able to write a book, and also continue my work, raise my kids, and do the speaking. Because I do not procrastinate. And it's easy. If it's due, have it in your mind, it's due and just do it. Don't wait.

Wambui: Don't wait. Because it still will be done at the end, right?

Madona: Yeah. So when you kill that time and say, Oh, I'll do it tomorrow, you know what's the purpose, you know?

Wambui: Yeah. I love that. That putting your phone away. Because that, then that's a big time killer, you know, just really being on the phone and scrolling and you're finding yourself, Oh my gosh, like one hour is over. And it's like, what did I do? So productivity. That's for sure. I will definitely start doing that. I do, I do not disturb, so I don't, yeah, and that's.

Madona: No, I don't even put that. I mean, unless it's my mom who sent me a text, I'll reply or something urgent or somebody calls me, but the other times I'm just doing what I'm, I need to do. And when I sit on my phone, I, even if I look at, I have social media, I have, but if it's to look at my phone, I just open it and look a few seconds and I'm done. I don't. Yeah. And I think again, it's just something I think I've said this before, but it's always about who is in our mindset, you know, like, do I need to spend so much time on this? What am I looking for? You know, if it's videos, I mean, can I just do this on a Saturday? Do I need to keep up?

Wambui: Yeah, I'm gonna be asking myself. What am I looking for? I think, what am I looking for? Oh, I really, I'm not looking for anything right now.

Madona: Exactly. Yeah. Like, what are you looking for? What do you want to see? You know, cause mostly when you're scrolling, it's like, you want to see something or you see something interesting, keep going, but no, for what?

Wambui: I like that. That's going to be very helpful to my listeners and to myself. So now. Many professionals struggle with imposter syndrome, self-doubt, and limited beliefs. Have you ever struggled with imposter syndrome? You know, asking yourself, Oh my God, I'm in tech. Who do I think I am? Yeah. Have you ever struggled with that you know, type of imposter syndrome or what did you do? What can you share with my listeners?

Madona: Now, that's a very good question because I've had this question over and over. And in fact, I did a talk in I think it was in January in Singapore, Google flew me to Singapore to give this talk, which is interesting because I've never been to Singapore. So I was there like for like three days or four days. So super cool. Now, the thing is that. I also listened to another woman talk about how she's not an imposter. So she doesn't have any imposter syndrome. And that really changed my perspective, which was like, wait, so people that think that they have imposter syndrome is because they're imposters. So it really made me think, because I like listening to other people talk and just because if you're speaking, sometimes I do a lot of technical talks, but from time to time, I like to listen to other people on what they're talking about and what it is about. And to me, that really inspired me because I was like, wait, I am not an imposter. So I've never experienced imposter syndrome. So maybe that's what I need to start telling myself. We are not imposters, right? You've done the work. Okay. Thank you. achieved everything, it's because somebody believed you did. You did not lie. Because definitely, everybody has to verify what you're saying, right? So you're not an imposter. So you should not have imposter syndrome. I think that's the answer I would give. And going back to the question, if I've experienced it myself, I would say, for me, it's more of, okay, I feel like The self-doubt just comes with the ability to think, are you doing good as you should? The way I've changed that narrative in my mindset is that I'm always content where I am because I'm not competing with anybody. I do not compare myself with anybody. I do not compete with anybody. It's just me. And if it's only you in the race. You have nothing to lose. So everything that comes to me, I accept, and everything that doesn't come to me. I'm accepted too because I'm in no competition with anyone. Right. Think about it. So every award, I think I've won so far five awards. I did not expect that they all came to me and I was like, Hey, look, if somebody sitting there and thinks, you know, Madona is doing good, I need to be like, hurry up. Like you're competing with me. That's the wrong. Everybody has a different path and journey. So I would say. Comparison, of course, we've heard this so many times, is the joy killer. Don't compare. Be you and do what makes you happy. And you will

not have an imposter, you know, because again, you're not an imposter because you've achieved and done all the things that people say you've done and I think that also got validated to me by somebody I have never met. And somebody was doing a series and they were asked who inspired you. And they said, my name was like, wait, do they mean the Madonna that sings? And then Madonna me. And I was like, Oh my God. Somebody sent me that video. I was like, Oh my God. Okay.

Wambui: How did your parents give your name Madonna?

Madona: Yeah, I think my mom, she's a superstar. She's very young too. She doesn't, she does. She doesn't like to age. She's not going to age anyway. And I like that. And I think she was a Madonna fan maybe. I don't know, but I think Madonna for those who don't know in Italian means mother of Mary. So I don't know if she knew that. No, not the mother of Mary. Sorry. Mother of Jesus. Mother of Jesus. Yes, you can check it out. But, yes, I think she got inspired either by the Madonna era or she never gave me a good reason. She's like, yeah, I just liked Madonna.

Wambui: It's a nice name.

Madona: Well, it's unique because nobody has my name.

Wambui: Yes, it's unique. When I saw it, I was like, okay, beautiful name.

Madona: Yeah. And it's on my passport and everything. So nobody, like, even at work, somebody's like, Oh my God, you're the only person named that. That's amazing. Cause there's so many, and this person said, there's so many John Will or John Smith, like me, like, don't feel bad. In the 1 billion people, unless somebody now decides to call their kids that after me.

Wambui: That is interesting. So what keeps you motivated in your career?

Madona: Now that's a good one too. I feel like what keeps me motivated in my career is just the, okay, let me step back a bit. I think having goals is very important in life. Yeah. And I've, again, if you listen to what I've told you from the beginning, I've always been curious. Yes, I have goals. As for my goals, I've always been very kind to myself. I'm not painting a picture of a perfect person now, but I feel like I've always been disciplined to have some goals. And also, when the goals don't go as I expected, I don't hold it to myself. This is something I had to learn over the years, by the way, it didn't come like that. No. So I set goals and I feel like when you set those goals, it really helps you stay on track of what really motivates you because you're like, I have a goal. What do I want to be? And maybe 10 years. Now, let's say those 10 years came and passed and I wasn't that, again, I wouldn't hold to myself. I would write other goals and say, maybe I'll be here, you know, so that was, that is what keeps me motivated. Always have a goal that you're looking forward to, because I think in life, we might feel empty a lot if we don't you. Look forward to anything, right? So when with us listening, create that picture of where you want to be or where you want to see yourself. Is it a city or one day? Is it a CEO one day? Is it the founder of a billion-dollar company? It's okay to have those goals. Dream big. What is limiting you from dreaming big? Dream big. If that doesn't happen, don't be hard on yourself now. Okay. And also again, I'm going to go with the incremental goals, incremental changes that the small things, small wins are good.

More wins. Celebrate them. Yeah, it's just more wins. Towards your goal. And you're like, yeah, okay, I achieved the goals. So I would say that is something I've always employed. And I don't know where that came from, but I feel like, and I think it might either come from curiosity because I do know people give up a lot.

Wambui: Oh, yes. So people give up a lot and especially even as an entrepreneur, you're like, okay, I've got this business and then maybe after it's not making money, going where you want it to be, then you give up. And that's maybe when it would have. Picking up.

Madona: Exactly. So I think having those goals really helps a lot. And I know it might sound like rocket science, but it's not. It's again, our thoughts of, I mean, our mind and thoughts are very powerful. And if anybody wants to make a change in their life, it has to start in their mind. In the thought, in the thought process. Yeah. Like saying, yeah, I know I'll get there one day, even if I'm not there now. And again, don't compare yourself with anybody because sometimes we might be comparing the business with somebody else like, wow, the neighbor there is doing good. Their business, why is my business not doing good? No. I mean, come on. It's going to kill your mood. Yeah. Don't do that.

Wambui: Yeah. And we don't know what the neighbor's path has been. So comparing is really the thief of joy. I like that. And now when you set your goals, do you set quarterly goals or yearly goals? Or how do you, I know you say 10 years. How do you achieve your goals?

Madona: Because that's true. No, that's a good question. So I think the way I set my goals is I know the overall goal, like the long-term goal. Yes. So I've set a goal of let's say in 15 years, I want to be this 15. I know it's a lot. And sometimes I know that God laughs when we make plans because, you know, we don't know tomorrow. So I always say it's God's plan. So when you set those kinds of goals, it's very important to know that the small ones too, they're very important. So I set a bigger goal, like say, I want to be. Let's see a politician in 15 years. Now, before that time, what do I want to be? Where do I see myself career-wise? What is the progression that I want to make? Now, if I cannot achieve all that, I can do other things that make me happy, right? So just small goals that are incremental and passionate to me. It can be maybe traveling to a new country, seeing new people, or going to see my mom. That's a goal, you know? Yes. Letting my mom come see me and my kids, that's a goal, you know, those tiny things that make you look forward to tomorrow, they're very important.

Wambui: I like that you say even, going to see your mom or your mom coming to see you. Cause it's important to set goals in all areas of our lives. So that's family, you know, spiritual, you know, career travel, you know, whatever, adventure, whatever you want to do, but to set goals in all those areas of our lives. And then just, I like what you said. What makes you happy? Something that makes you happy.

Madona: Like, yeah, like for instance, last year I made a goal of taking my kids and my family to Miami for two weeks and we just go to the beach and spend time there. And that's exactly what we did. And it fulfills you. And if it doesn't happen, it's okay too. Things happen. Sorry. Sometimes it can be finances. Sometimes it can be your job, not coming on time. But if that happens, you're like, fine, this does not happen this time. I look forward to it. doing it next time. Also learning how to practice that is very important.

Wambui: I love this conversation. Now, what has been your greatest accomplishment?

Madona: Oh, wow. That's a good question. Okay. Whoa. That's an interesting one. I don't think. Let me see. Do I? Oh, you see, I struggled with that because I do have some, And I think the reason why I took a little bit there is because I think I've done so many things and all of them are accomplishments, even little ones. So definitely say Bringing up kids, my big boy is nine, my small boy is seven, and being able to work through it all and being able to raise my family and also just, you know, help the community and also write a book. It's something that I never thought I would do, like a technical book. And it turns out, I think I might be the first author, you know. A woman author of the Android book, you know, because I've not seen any other, I've looked in any, in them, so it's, it's not an easy task.

Wambui: And then that is, yeah, right there. What is the name of the book?

Madona: Modern Android 13, a development cookbook. So, people who want to learn how to code, can get the book and start learning how to code, and how to make applications for the Android application.

Wambui: I'll make sure we put that link in our show notes. That's interesting. And you do have a podcast too.

Madona: Yes. The podcast idea was just to elevate women in tech's voices, you know, just come share. You might inspire someone like the same thing you're doing, but just in tech. So I think for accomplishment, I feel like every time I think I could say that an accomplishment because that's how we celebrate ourselves. Because otherwise who's going to cheerlead for us? No one. I mean, my kids do, other people do, but mostly it has to start with you. And I think that's very important. That's always been, my mantra, like, Hey, it has to start with you. Because otherwise, if you're very hard on yourself, you will end up being depressed because you're like, I've not achieved what I need. I've done. No, no, no, no. Don't negatively talk to yourself. Don't ever do that. You can't raise, raise healthy kids if you're negative-talking yourself. Right. How are you going to do it?

Wambui: Yeah. And they see you, they see you, they, they, they absorb, they absorb everything and they'll see how you are, you know, even body language, your thoughts of what you're saying, what you're saying to yourself. And you'll see that and start picking. So if you want to put that self-confidence in them, it's really. Saying, acknowledge yourself, and celebrate your small wins.

Madona: Yeah, it has to start with you. Because even when you're telling them, Hey, you can do it. And you're still, I'm telling myself, I cannot do it. That doesn't make sense. Yeah.

Wambui: Does not make sense. Now, anything you would like to tell my listeners about how to stop holding themselves back and just go do it, take action. And I don't know, we did talk about how. You know, you take action, but what would you do, any just inspiration, something to encourage someone holding themselves back because they're not believing in themselves?

Madona: I would say it's not easy. First of all, I think identifying a problem is very important to solving the problem. So you have to understand the problem and then you can solve it. It's

the same with mathematics. I loved math a lot. And in every math problem, you have to understand it to solve it, because if you don't understand it, it is very hard to solve, right? So. In life, it's the same. I don't see any difference. Understand the problems that you're encountering. What is the issue now from there? Now you can see ways to solve it. So for instance, if you're saying, I want to start a business and I don't know where I'll get my clients. Number one, go out to the community, and find networking events. I feel like in America, there's so many networking events happening everywhere. Be out there, like just. throw yourself out there And then after you found like three or four clients come back, start your business, you know, and then after that, go back to the community, tell them you're doing this, you now have a company, tell them to refer you. And sometimes it may not work. As you expected it, because that's a fact, it never works as you expect. But Hey, look, at the end of the day, things turn around. It's just you having that hope and knowing that, Hey, even though it's not working now, it will work. That is so important in life, knowing that, Hey, you know what, even though it's not working now, it will work. For instance, I mean, I worked in my career for all those years of, I think 13 years, and it's just 2023 where I got like five awards in one year. Exactly, right? Yeah.

Wambui: So stay the course. Stay the course. Start and

Madona: Exactly. Yeah. It starts from somewhere and then it just builds up. It doesn't come just in one night. And that's what everybody says, by the way, if you've listened to people who are successful, they just don't start in one night. Right. Even if you're born rich. I mean, I don't think, you know, no, you have to work for it, you know, and then, and also it's fun when you work for it and earn it, you're like, I did that.

Wambui: Yeah. It's, it's more, there's more pride in that when you earn it, when you put it, you know, you put in the work and you earn it. You're able to celebrate yourself. This is such a good conversation, but I want to honor your time. I know it's a Saturday, so I really appreciate your time, Madonna. But before we go, where can people find you?

Madona: Yeah, I'm on LinkedIn. Just Madonna Wambua I'm also on Twitter and Instagram. I think I also have a website but I don't do so much there is just a website to just, you know, record my own stuff. But I think I'm active mostly on LinkedIn because I find that to be more. Professional site, because sometimes you never know your client. Again, if it's a job that you're really worried about can be through my connection, like you can just say, Hey Madonna, make an intro. I've done that for so many people. Like, Madonna, I see you're not this person, introduce me. And then I do that. And then from there, whatever happens, I don't know, but I've connected you too. So I like that a lot. On Instagram, what do I post? Just funny stuff. Events that I'm doing and people can come I think I've given out some tickets before too many people like the events that I'm attending for people to come to learn.

Wambui: Yeah, that's very generous of you just being open and, and it's true, just your being here is a true testament of what you're saying. You know, look me up, if I have the connections and I'm able to, I will help you because I did ask you the first time and you said yes. So I'm really happy and I'm honored to be in your world that we are in each other's world and I will link up your book in my show notes and your social media handles here. So I just. Yeah. Anything else you want to say?

Madona: No, as I said in the beginning, it's good to be accessible because you'll never know who you can impact. And like when I say, no, I don't do that. Or, you know, that's not me.

Wambui: Thank you so much.

Madona: And I feel like maybe that's what distinguishes me from many people because I've heard that like you're very accessible, which is good. I mean, I, and I like to be that, like I said, only corporates is when I'm like, no.

Wambui: Yeah. And it's valid. Yeah. Yes. So if corporates, please reach out to Madona. She has a wealth of information, but It's not going to be for free, I thank you so much for taking the time to be on.

Madona: No, thank you too. And let me know where I can listen and wish you good stuff.