

**African Association for Public Administration and  
Management (AAPAM)**

**AAPAM Gold Medal 2018**

**Dr. Najat Zarrouk**

**C i t a t i o n**

**Presented By Dr. Roland Msiska**

**AAPAM President**

**Our Guest of Honor ...**

**Hon. Ministers**

**Hon. Members of Parliament**

**Heads of Public/Civil Service and Secretaries to the  
Cabinet**

**Permanent and Principal Secretaries**

**Chief Executive Officers,**

**Commissioners**

**Distinguished Delegates and Guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

I have the greatest honour to present to you the 2018 African Association for Public Administration (AAPAM) Gold Medal winner Dr. Najat Zarrouk from the Kingdom of Morocco.

For the first time in AAPAM history, this prestigious highest honor accorded to outstanding public servants will be given to a lady.

Dr. Najat is a passionate woman, experienced international public servant, dedicated leader and a great champion of transformation in Africa. She has an impressive career with outstanding accomplishment nationally and internationally making her to truly deserve AAPAM's highest Award.

She has a rich progressive career in the public service in Morocco and extensive experience in international matters having served in the United Nations systems as a Member of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, and in other key international institutions and platforms.

Dr. Najat commenced her career as a public servant in September 1982 as a civil servant and successively progressed across the ranks. In 1999, she was appointed Chief of Division in charge of organization and coordination in the Ministry of Home Affairs. In July 2003, she was appointed the Director of Legal Affairs, Studies, Documentation and Cooperation by His Majesty the King Mohammed VI of Morocco. She was again appointed as Governor, Director of Training of Administrative and Technical Managers in 2006 and 2010 respectively.

During her tenure in these posts, she managed to simplify administrative procedures, established the first official bulletin of local authorities, promoted the improvement of the children in Morocco, anchored administrative devolutions and led the production of a Strategic Plan on Training and Capacity Building in

particular at the local level sensitive to gender approach and equity.

Notably, the Directorate she led from 2006 to 2014 won the United Nations Public Service Award-First Place in Africa in 2013 for the integration of gender approach in the Strategic Plan of Training and Capacity Building in Public Administration, in particular at the local level, in Africa and in the Arab Region.

Cumulatively Dr. Najat served 31 years in the Ministry of Interior of the Kingdom of Morocco of which 17 years she worked at the General Secretariat of the ministry.

In August 2016, Dr. Najat was appointed as the Director of the African Local Government Academy (ALGA) of the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-Africa). She has passionately been championing the development of Local Governments of Africa through capacity development including the establishment of A Masters' degree training for local government staff and several continuous trainings on timely topics, like localizing the SDGs. Indeed, she contributed and facilitated the establishment of the UCLG-Africa Headquarters in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco.

Additionally, she organized a number of international forums like the first meeting of Moroccan-Senegalese Mayors in Morocco (February 2005); first Civil Society Forum between Morocco and France (Skhirat, 2006); 1<sup>st</sup> Forum of Women elected local officials in Morocco (Tangiers, 2011); and the participation of

Moroccan women in the launch of Women in Public Service Project on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011 ( Officiated by the United States of America Secretary Hillary Clinton and other women). She created and initiated the First African Forum of Local Managers and Training Institutes targeting the Local Level in September 2017, gathering 450 participants from 54 Countries which concluded by adopting a sound RoadMap to modernize the HRM at African Local level.

Furthermore, Dr. Najat has initiated several partnerships and agreements and twinning between the African Territorial communities. She has successfully facilitated and co-organized the AAPAM 36<sup>th</sup> and 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Round-table conferences in Rabat (2015) and El Jadida (2017) respectively. She has also facilitated and organized a number of study tours for public servants, elected

officials and local managers in Africa and world-wide in her quest to foster development in Africa.

At the global level, Dr. Najat was appointed by the United Nations Secretary General in 2009 as a member of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UN-CEPA) where she served from 2010 to 2017. She served as the Chairperson of this committee during the 2012 and 2013 Annual Sessions. Similarly she served as a Vice-chairperson of the committee and as a member of the Sub-Committee in charge of the evaluation of the projects presented for the UN Public Service Award in 2010- 2011 and 2017 respectively. In her tenure in CEPA, she developed resourceful publications and official documents on issues on public administration, public governance, good governance and local governance available at the United Nations Public

Administration Network Platform UNPAN. Her contributions continued to shape the development discourse in the world. Dr. She has equally championed for values like equity, ethics and integrity in the public service and in the various positions she has held.

Further, Dr. Najat is actively involved in a number of regional and international Networks namely:

- The Arab Women's Leadership Institute (AWLI) where she was appointed a board member in 2010 and facilitated the participation of more than 100 women in the empowerment project by the American Government.

- The Global Give Back Circle Mentorship Programme which is a voluntary mentorship program to empower high school students from Kenya and Rwanda to take up the leadership of the continent. She mentors a girl from Kenya.
- She's member of International Association of School and Institutes of Administration (AISIA) since 2014 and facilitate the membership both of UCLG-Africa and ALGA in IISA and AISIA since 2017 as corporate members.
- She's Godin mother of the African Women Local Elected officials Network (REFELA) since 2011 and;
- An Active Member of AAPAM and an AAPAM Jury Member;
- A member of Women Democracy Network since 2011;

- She' involved in the African Public Service Human Resource Network (APS-HRMnet) where she was elected the Vice-Chairperson on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Dr. Najat holds a PhD in Political Science- International Relations and is also a graduate of the National School for Public Administration (ENAP) of Rabat (honor Student) and of the University of Paris I (Pantheon-Sorbonne) in International, European and Comparative Studies. She holds several certificates including on Public Management (University of Pittsburg (USA) and on Regional Development (University of Aix-Marseille III-France).

She has extensively published articles and essays on public administration and local governance, including a book titled 'Trade and Development: from GATT to the World Trade Organization(WTO). Moreover, she served as a part time lecturer in some Universities and schools in Morocco.

In recognition of her exemplary service, Dr. Najat was awarded was the National Order of Merit - Exceptional Degree (equivalent to Meritorious Service Award) by His the Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013. Likewise, the International Association of Institutes and Schools of Administration (AISIA) awarded her the O.P. DWIVEDI Award for her outstanding contribution to public administration and public policy in the World making her the first Arab and Moroccan

woman to receive such global recognition in July 2015. Twice, she received from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) 2 certificate of recognition for her engagement in the empowerment of women, especially at the local level in 2011 and 2012.

Dr. Najat is the daughter of a military officer who served both in the Moroccan Army and the French Army during the Second World War as well as in the First United Mission for Peace keeping in Congo-Kinshasa in 1960. She was married to her late husband a Commander in the Royal Army of Morocco. She is blessed by one daughter **a Panther Student in the Florida International University since 2017.**

Guest of honor Sir, in summary, this is the woman that AAPAM wishes to recognize and honor with its highest award - the AAPAM Gold Medal. She is an accomplished leader and servant nationally, continentally and globally. She has certainly greatly contributed to the promotion of excellence in public administration and management in Africa and the enhancement of the quality of life of the African people including the marginalized and minorities like women and children. We are therefore glad to celebrate her by recognizing her personal efforts to championing and facilitation the betterment of our beloved continent.

Our guest of Honor Sir, esteemed ladies and gentlemen I now have the grand honor of presenting to you **Dr. Najat Zarrouk** for the Award of the AAPAM 2018 Gold Medal Award.