

Go out there and make a difference, Aupindi

Dr. Tobie Aupindi

The journey of life is long and fulfilling one's purpose is a lifelong quest. Martin Luther King Jr once said that in life, one must discover what their calling is. And when they do...they must do their job so well, that the living, the dead or the unborn could do them no better.

He constantly challenged us to become our best by stating that if you cannot be a pine on the top of the hill just be a shrub in the valley but be the best little shrub on the side of the road be a bush if you cannot be a tree, if you cannot be the highway...Just be a trail, if you cannot be the sun...then be a star for it isn't by

size that you win or you fail - you got to be the best of what you are. *To the graduate Class of 2010, today, the day belong to you! CONGRATULATIONS.* While today is special for you. Even more special are the parents, who sacrificed their youth, and their little resource so that their children can have a better life. So our parent's unwavering support and sacrifice must never be forgotten.

I stand here today mindful of the immense responsibilities you are about to take. I am thankful and humbled by this rare and singular honor bestowed on me by Prof Hangula to share with the graduates a few of my experiences and to entrench in you the attitude you need to survive and thrive in

today's world. I will share with you a message of my suffering, rising above fear but a journey of perseverance.

It has been said that the "knowledge available to man is compounding at an astronomical rate and professionals just a few years out of university are often out of date with new technology, new social responsibilities, new ideas. Continuing education is virtually mandatory for success".

It wasn't long that I graduated just like you are today. I can just imagine what you are thinking. What the excitement of today will bring tomorrow, insecurity and desperation as you search for economic opportunity. You will be wondering as to when the next job will

come by and the anxiety of repayment of your bursary becomes higher, so as your eagerness to survive.

So yes I know how you feel and I completely understand because I went through the same thing. You and I share the same bond. We share the same challenges and experiences of suffering.

Furthermore, we share the potential, the hopes and dreams of a better future for our country and our people. I believe that our challenge today lies in offering global solutions to local problems and in the process we reap the rewards both as individuals and as a Nation.

My journey started many years ago when my parents put a baby on their back and left

for exile in Angola to join SWAPO. I grew up in the Mountains of Kwanza-sul in Angola during the liberation struggle of this country. My first class was under a tree in Kwanza. In the early days we didn't even have books for reading or writing. We used to write on the ground. I remember President Nujoma risking his life being driven through mountains infested with enemy soldiers just to visit us in the camps in kwanza. I am here as a survivor. Not a victim. *What you are about to receive here today, other people sacrificed their youth and their lives so that you can be able to study, enjoy liberty, freedom, justice, opportunity and prosperity.*

The journey of life that I walked was very difficult but not impossible. My story therefore looks very unique, but, its' NOT. In amongst all of you today there could be similar stories of growing up suffering in poverty in Katima, Nkurekuru, Maltahohe or Otjinene. So we are bound by the same past where ever we grew up. Most importantly we share a common destiny and purpose. Today, I believe I am standing before a special group; the 'coffee bean' brand of people.

This brand of people is the new generation, Namibian youth.

The generation that, brings about what they think about. You need to reflect upon your present blessing, of which everyone has many: not on your past misfortunes, of which everyone have some. *So like the Namibian youth that we are, we are not defeated by our circumstances, but we change the shape of the future. For us, the past misfortunes are testimonies of who we were! But it is not, I repeat NOT, a definition of who we are? Or of where we are going?*

Africa has been described as a dark continent because of its' inability to stop the many wars and deliver the much needed economic emancipation to its people. In terms of Economic benefits and prosperity though, the indigenous Namibians are to a large extend only spectators. We do not own much of the economic benefit derived from our country. This is because of the past colonial legacies that have divided a nation for more than a century. These past injustices said that when you were white you were right. While it is true to say we are free today, some of these past injustices are still evident today as relics of the past. When you go into the working world, you will find some of these injustices there. You will find out soon enough that economic independence is yet to come. *But always remember you are the 'Coffee bean brand' and the hope of a Nation. "You may*

not be able to change your history or the circumstances into which you were born. But, if you really decide - you can change your life and re-write the story of your life from this moment on".

Some Namibians are programmed to endure a journey of self destruction. These like the 'carrot' are softened by life's challenges and end up giving in to undue pressure and indeed to character assassination. In some African countries millions of people have been misplaced by political unrest.

The last true colonies in Africa were Namibia and South Africa yet we have ongoing tribal conflict orchestrated by those who sow seeds of hatred in order to exploit Africa's mineral and natural wealth. Don't you think it is funny that when African Government wants to develop a country there are no financial resources and they go to Europe to seek for the so-called "development aid", but when some people need to launch the rebel wars against their own people there is money easily available. In the end though, we are left with nothing but fear.

And we turn on each other and are at each other's throats, it becomes brother against brother, Africans versus Africans, while our Natural wealth is being exploited and only benefiting the few. It is these fears that surround us today, which have removed us from the path of self discovery, self appreciation, self confidence and self respect. It is indeed that type of fear which has made many black children to have a negative self perception of being VICTIMS rather than see themselves as VICTORS. This particular perception has led to black/coloured children graduating from universities as we are seeing today but they go out to a large extend and start looking for a job, while many of our whites and Asians counterparts go out and look for a business. As educated people you must go out and create wealth through a sustainable career. I therefore advise you to go out and look for a business not a job. Even if you get a job, to you it must only be a temporary measure. The system is so imperfect that some of these financial institutions that take all our money in billions of dollar deposits are quick to give a previously disadvantaged person N\$600,000 loan to buy a car, but if you need to borrow N\$600,000 to create your own business, they find all sorts of reasons to refuse you that money. They ask you 'do you have security or collateral. Simple economics will tell you that if you are loaning out money to two people, where one is going to buy a car, while

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Republic of Namibia

Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry

APPLICATION FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE BURSARIES FOR THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND FORESTRY

The Division of Agricultural Training in the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry is inviting applications to pursue a career in Veterinary Medicine. This bursary is in particular for the award of three (3) Veterinary bursaries to students who are **CURRENTLY** enrolled for the 2010 academic year within the SADC Region.

APPLICANTS SHOULD MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA

CONDITIONS

- * Applicants should write a **motivating letter** with a complete Curriculum Vitae (CV) and should be accompanied by the following **certified** documents;
 - > Proof of copies of either Namibian ID, birth certificate or passport;
 - > STRICTLY proof of enrolment/registration for 2010 academic year.
 - > Results of the first semester, if available, or any proof of academic progress up date would be an added advantage.
 - > ANY APPLICANT WHO INTENDS TO COMMENCE STUDY IN THE 2011 ACADEMIC WILL THEREFORE NOT BE CONSIDERED
- * Females and physically challenged persons are highly encouraged to apply.
- * ONLY SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES SHALL BE DULY INFORMED BY THE END OF MAY 2010.

Closing Date for Submissions: MONDAY, MAY 17, 2010.

- * No late submissions shall be accepted under any circumstances.
- * No faxed copies shall be accepted.

SUBMISSION CAN BE EITHER

Posted to:

Ministry of Agricultural, Water and Forestry
Department of Agriculture
Directorate of Agricultural Research and Training
Division of Agricultural Training
Private Bag 13184
WINDHOEK
NAMIBIA

Or delivered by hand at:

Government Office Park, Luther Street
Division of Agricultural Training
Ground Floor, Rooms 029/031
Eros
WINDHOEK

NB: SENDING BY NORMAL MAIL MAY DELAY YOUR APPLICATION TO ARRIVE AT TIME, THEREFORE, APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO RATHER COURIER THEIR APPLICATIONS

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