

A. Personal details

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2. Age: 33

3. Nationality: Kenyan

4. Address: Box 11843, 00100,
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5. Application as:

African Leader

B. Background, Motivation, Vision

1. Your background?

I am a holder of Bachelor of Education Science (B.Ed Sc) in Physics and Chemistry from Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya and a Master of Arts (MA) in Peace and Conflicts Studies from European Peace University (EPU), Stadtschlaining, Austria.

2. Your motivation and your vision?

The resilience and the fighting spirit of the African people is my main motivation. The enduring spirit and hope of the African people for a better tomorrow regardless of the prevailing hardship that is perpetuated by poor leadership and bad governance is the driving force behind my belief that the African continent could do much better if we all played our role.

A number of young Africans have found themselves in difficult positions following the demise of their parents, but have somehow maneuvered their ways through school and eventually established themselves as very resourceful members within the society. This belief in oneself is my motivation and the source of inner drive that everyone should be given a fair shot at the opportunities that life presents, that regardless of one's background, the universal rights such as a right to education should be extended to every African child.

My community and Kenya as a society greatly suffer from poor leadership and bad governance practices that have systematically entrenched corruption and favouritism in all spheres of service delivery to the people of Kenya. As our leaders continue to suffer from credibility deficit, so is the society that continually gets programmed to perceive service delivery as being at the mercy of the leadership and not as a function that they are elected or appointed to perform on behalf of the people and therefore their (the people) entitlement.

As corruption and nepotism continue to engulf the Kenyan society, objectivity or ability to stand for what is right without fear of being denied one's rights is equally on the rise. In my community, poor parents who entirely depend on governmental institutions for scholarships for their children (especially in high school and tertiary colleges) are afraid to stand firm against punitive

misappropriation of these funds or discriminative formulae for distribution of the same for fear of being denied these opportunities all together. To this extent, they are most comfortable settling for less than what they actually deserve.

Corruption and nepotism/tribalism, the cancerous cells that are killing the Kenyan society is deeply embedded into our societal structures and culture that even students at High School are old enough to identify with corrupt practices as an end in itself. To this generation, the practice is a normalized societal culture that guarantees a better future. With this perception in place, it is reasonable to point that the deeply rooted corruption infrastructure is established as early as at high school level.

My vision is therefore to actively participate in projects that would nurture young people into dependable members of the society. Those future leaders who would dedicate themselves for the service of humanity and create a society that is devoid of corruption, promotes integrity and create room for a community that is ripe for progress in every aspect which matters to humanity.

3. How have you showed:

(a) The ability to excel and to move beyond challenging circumstances

I believe in the resilience of the African people and my experience is testimony to that belief. My father passed on when I had just joined High School and just before I joined University, my mother followed. As a first born in a family of seven, the most horrific experience was the whole idea of taking care of my school going siblings (including a younger one who had just joined standard one) while keeping myself in college too.

Despite this huge challenge, I managed (with the meager government loan) to cater for my educational needs, while sustaining my siblings at home. Years down the line, even though one of us (a girl) passed on (while in High school), the rest have either cleared school or are still in college.

This was a challenge that I took bravely as a kid and resolved to see through no matter how complicated it got and I truly look at what has been achieved with pride and dignity even as I continue with the fight.

(b) Any exemplary services to your community,

The demise of many parents through HIV/Aids, Malaria and lately Cancer has left many children orphaned, devastated and can rarely meet their educational ambitions beyond the basic primary school education. This is the real picture in Migori County, a remote place in Kenya from where I was raised.

Even though some scholarship opportunities may be available, the awards are highly skewed and many of these deserving children end up missing out regardless of their obvious need or good performance at school. It is under these glaring circumstances of need that I offered to educate a deserving student through his entire High School program.

As the project took off, I developed an idea of a collective engagement that would see even more students benefit. It is at this point that I embarked on a journey aimed at bringing other people with a shared vision on board. With a total of five members sharing the same dream, five students who would have otherwise not had an opportunity are now either at the University, or in High School. This trend is made manageable by picking just a pupil and educating him or her till the end of her High School and hopefully joins his/her university where their education can now be taken care of by the Higher education Loans Board (HELB). When that cycle is complete, the member picks another child even as we seek to expand our membership with as many sponsors as possible.

(c) Which is the evidence of your potential to effect positive and lasting change?

My background, determination, respect for humanity and the desire that every human being be accorded the dignity and respect they deserve are the key components that motivates me to do better for humanity. Charity begins at home and my enduring struggles and sacrifices have never been entirely about me as an individual, but for family. These sacrifices have now been taken a notch further and through my own efforts I have brought people on board who are now educating a disadvantaged child. As this program expands, a number of children who would have not had an opportunity through school would find themselves competing fairly with those they would have not been at the same level with.

4. What do you expect from the conference as relevant to your current needs?

From this conference, I expect to meet global leaders who have made tangible contributions towards making the world a better place for all of us. My expectation is that through my interactions with them, I stand an opportunity for mentorship given that I am still not yet fully established in my field as a consultant.

The conference equally provides an avenue for networking with the most skilled persons in areas that are of significant interest to me. This exposure would eventually put me in a firm position to gather new ideas that I can best put in place to make my project a successful one.

5. How do you anticipate nature, scope and impact of your vision over the next 10 years?

Eliminating corruption and nepotism/tribalism in Kenya is not going to be achieved by focusing on the older generation of leadership if the future leaders equally perceive the vices as normal survival instincts. My approach therefore entail reaching out to the younger generation (future leaders) through leadership forums in their schools and giving tangible insights into the collective benefits accruing from a corruption free society that is devoid of tribalism, focuses on merit, provides equal opportunities regardless of one's circumstances and rewards hard work.

The implementation of this project would involve steps such as: Collaboration with Kenyan leaders who have served the country with utmost dignity and selflessness and seeking their consent to be part of this transformative process. We will then liaise with various high schools in my community for purposes of offering public lectures on leadership and good governance. These lectures would seek to reinforce the idea that to change the perception of society on given issues, focus must be on the future generation of that society which is why high school

visits are critical. Once successful visits have been given in my community, my team and I would then seek to expand our horizons to capture the rest of the Country.

As a consultant on governance and a former teacher, I have abundant resources in terms of the knowledge and skills for sharing these ideals with the audience. Through the networks I have built in the course of my consulting work, I would easily reach out to respectable leaders who would gladly be part of the team. My dream therefore is that in the next ten years this initiative should be felt across the entire country.