

Tertiary Education Scholarship Fund for Africa

TEST 4 Africa Newsletter, December 2019

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**Welcome to our December 2019 Newsletter!**

**Chairman's message**

Season's greetings to our friends and supporters. I hope that you are looking

forward to getting away from daily commitments to spend time with those that you care for most. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for showing that you care deeply about providing quality higher education to Africa's talented but needy scholars. Your commitment to that cause, either through the hard work that you put in running our scholarship programme or through your generous financial backing, really makes a difference. A new year will soon be upon us, and we are looking forward to unveiling our brand new website. TEST for Africa is growing both in the extent and the depth of its impact and I hope that you'll see that clearly when you visit the new site. The site will also meet stringent new GDPR regulations in the UK, designed to protect personal data. TEST is conscious of the need to keep all of our scholars safe. This month presents the interesting stories of what our alumni and current scholars are involved with, in their respective countries. We hope you enjoy the read.

## HIGHLIGHTS







### **Robert Kampi Laari**

With a scholarship from TEST for Ghana, Robert studied at the University of Development Studies and was awarded a BSc in Planning. Robert notes that the scholarship provided a springboard for him to achieve his dream of going to university. With the confidence that the tuition fees were covered, Robert was able to focus on studying and look for opportunities to do more. After being elected as president of the Ghana Association of Student Planners in his second year, in the final year, Robert started an organisation known as the Dream Big Foundation. This provided coaching and inspiration to empower young people in the Junior High and Senior High schools in the northern part of Ghana. In a tremendous example of the commitment of a TEST scholar to contribute back to their community, Robert has visited more than 50 schools to give high impact career empowerment and motivational seminars.



### **Rudoviko Medison**

Rudoviko Medison is a Malawian Test scholar who studied the Bachelor of Science in Horticulture at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He won the T4M scholarship and was later given the Dr Harry Potter Scholarship which is within the T4M scholarship scheme. Commenting on his acceptance of the scholarship, Rudoviko stated that "Honestly, I cried, because I could not believe it. The Dean of students gave me all the requirements needed and advised me on the need to maintain good behaviours

and work hard to uphold the ethos of the scholarship. This financial support helped me to successfully concentrate on my studies and graduate eventually from the Bunda College of Agriculture in November 2016 with good grades". After successful completion of his studies, Rudoviko worked for the Government of Malawi (GOM), through the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development as an Agriculture Officer-Crop Protection where he confessed that "he is very happy and satisfied to work for the Government and to be directly involved in the development of the country". In August 2019, Rudoviko was offered a fully-funded scholarship from the Government of China to pursue Master of Science in Plant Protection at one of the multidisciplinary comprehensive university in China. Currently studying in China, Rudoviko aims to uphold the ethos of T4M by being an asset to the development of Malawi, Africa and the world. He highlighted that "I do not know what the future holds but it will be awesome to be part and parcel of TEST for Malawi and contribute directly to the future of our students in Malawi".







### **Mulumba Ngwenlabagna Songsore**

Mulumba acknowledges the immense contribution of TEST for Ghana in the completion of his Bachelor of Arts in Integrated Development Studies at the University for Development Studies. Mulumba received the funding in his third year at a time when support was difficult. Graduating with Second Class (Upper Division), Mulumba served as the President of the Department of Social Political and Historical Studies and was the award-winning leading student Activist and a writer with his own website @ [www.mulumbaonline.com](http://www.mulumbaonline.com) where he advocates on social issues within his university, the Ghanaian economy, Africa and its implication on the world's economy. Expressing his gratitude to TEST for Ghana, Mulumba stated that, "I will want to state categorically that all my success and performance is attributed to the support I had from TEST and pledge my sincere allegiance to whatever I may be directed to do in the name of TEST4GHANA. Am ever at your service".





### **Nasra Silih Abou**

Nasra is a student at the University of Dar es Salaam registered in the Bachelor of Science in Telecommunication Engineering degree programme. She embarked on her four-year degree programme in October 2016 under the registration number 2016-04-07566. She has just completed her third academic year and will enter her final year in October 2019 expecting to graduate in November 2020. Nasra comes from a relatively poor family and her studies would have been impossible had T4T not been there to come to her aid when she was about to be barred from continuing with her studies for lack of tuition fees. Currently, she is involved with a beautiful initiative dubbed, "Hear my Voice" which is dedicated to the course of persons with "disability".

### ***The genesis of the group "hear My Voice"***

Nasra and her group stand on the premise that most if not all human beings have some form of disability or impairment. The form and impact of a disability are visible in some people and not visible in others. Nasra was awarded a T4T scholarship at a time when she was barred from sitting for her tests and pleaded with T4T to bail her out. Nasra considered her inability to pay her tuition fees as a form of disability, not immediately visible to others as giving moral support and try to find ways and means of mitigating the effect of such disability on the host. The tangible step Nasra took to realize

her goal of creating awareness and give moral support to others with physical disabilities was to form the group "Hear My Voice". The group held its first meeting at the University of Dar es Salaam on 22nd June 2019 at which the T4T Board Chairman Prof. Ralph Masenge was the Guest of Honor. A large majority of the participants are people with various forms of impairment. See some of the photos from the event above.

The aim of the pressure group "Hear My Voice" is to create awareness to the student population at the University of Dar es Salaam and society as a whole on the plight of people living with various forms of physical and visible disabilities, including albinism, impaired vision and impaired hearing. The message to the participants was: Concentrate on things your disability does not prevent you from doing and do not regret the things it interferes with. Don't be disabled in spirit as a result of your being physically impaired.





### **Bismark Odei**

Bismark is a product of KNUST-KUMASI with a second class upper division in Bsc. Agricultural Engineering. He joined T4G in 2014 in his second year when things were difficult for him as he was supported by a single parent, his

mother, who was also taking care of his three siblings. The support from T4G contributed to his ability to successfully graduate from this agricultural engineering studies and is now committed to providing quality education to people within his vicinity and beyond, no matter their financial constraints. This endearing mindset and initiative were spurred by the privilege given to him by T4G during his tertiary education. Bismark now runs his preschool and primary school in his home town where one-third of his students whose parents are faced with financial problems are allowed to enjoy free education and meal. Placing figures on these, his preschool has 59 pupils where 24 pupils enjoy free meals. His primary school consists of 53 pupils out of which 20 enjoy free meals. In total, Bismark has 112 pupils in his school where 44 are freely fed to enable them to attend school on a regular basis. Bismark exemplifies the ethos of TEST for Africa in unlocking the potential of gifted students within Africa who otherwise would not have had university education due to financial constraints.