

**VOTE OF THANKS TO
TERTIARY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST (TEST)**

BY YAMIKANI D.M. YAFETI



PERSONAL PARTICULARS

My name is YAMIKANI D.M. YAFETI, a male, third born in a single-parented family of seven and graduate of an **Upper Second Class Degree** in Water Resources Management and Development from Mzuzu University.

HOW TEST CAME INTO MY LIFE AND WHAT TEST MEANS TO ME

I did my secondary education at Chipasula Secondary School and being a child from a poor family, raising school fees was a bit of a problem and I could be absent from school for close to a month after being chased away for not paying school fees. As was everyone's expectation, this was supposed to negatively affect my academic life but to everyone's surprise, I was doing well in class. This led to the school management to inquire more about my family background and with this, coupled with my performance in class, I was granted a Government Scholarship which covered my tuition fees for Secondary Education from form two up to form four till I wrote the 2006 Malawi School Certificate of Education which I passed with 23 points with distinctions in Mathematics and Physical Science.

After I graduated from Chipasula, I was selected to pursue Bachelor of Science in Water Resources Management and Development at Mzuzu University under normal entry on Government Sponsorship. Here, the government pays for you part of the fees and you are required to meet the remaining part where you are given an opportunity to apply for a loan from the same government for you to meet the remaining part of fees. I applied for the loan for my first year fees. Lucky enough I was successful. It was during my second year at the University when I was granted a TEST scholarship and I stopped applying for the government loan because I now knew that I will give chance to my fellow students who are not on any scholarship to get this Government student loan. My life at Mzuzu University (MZUNI) was exciting, despite financial constraints at home, because to me the most important thing was tuition fees which the government was responsible.

My piece of mind now started being disturbed when government introduced the system of scanning where according to them (government), the loan was supposed to be granted to needy students only. I knew myself that I was needy and I truly deserved this loan but what yielded so much worries in my mind was that the government did not have a valid and reliable mechanism

to be used for the identification of the so called “Needy Students”. It was just a game of chance because the government relied on the information provided by the students on the loan forms. This led to the giving in of false information by the students for them to be selected for the award of the student loan.

As I was still in the wilderness of worries, there came **Tertiary Education Scholarship Trust (TEST)**. An advert was pasted on the notice boards by the University Management asking students to apply for the scholarship. I applied for this scholarship with the grades of the previous semesters attached. I thank God I was successful and **TEST** came to my rescue. What makes this scholarship so precious to me is that it came to me like the “*one and only glass of water in the desert*”.

I thought it wise that, as one who has directly felt the sweetness of this precious scholarship, I personally thank the trust that provides this Tertiary Education Scholarship known as **TEST**. My dreams of completing my tertiary education would not be realized minus this scholarship. I would like the trust (**TEST**) to realize that this scholarship has gone beyond assisting my academic life, I have been assisted psychologically, emotionally, spiritually, socially, morally, just to mention but a few. It is my dairy prayer that the Almighty God should continue blessing the funders/sponsors of this scholarship so that it flourishes and reach as many needy Malawian students as possible because Malawi happens to be one of the poorest nations in Africa and access to education is very expensive.

HOW LEADERSHIP SKILLS HAVE ASSISTED ME

During my stay at Mzuzu University, I was privileged to be entrusted with different leadership positions. Among others, I was elected as the Vice President of Mzuzu University Students Union (MUSU); the class president in our class; the Director of International Students Affairs at National Scholars Association of Malawi (NaSAM). As the Vice President I was at the core centre of the welfare of students in as far as school fees is concerned and I worked hand in hand with the office of the assistant registrar Academics/students affairs as well as the office of the Dean of students this helped me to have a true picture of how needy Malawian students are. This is why I am saying that your coming to us, as the Scholarship provider, is a blessing and I am saying this out of experience and based on facts.

MY VISION

My core vision is to see myself finding some more opportunities to further my studies and contribute positively to the development of my home country, MALAWI. Since almost throughout my entire education (both Secondary and Tertiary) I have been under scholarships, I have been groomed into a person who understands problems. It has also instilled in me the heart of giving not only to your relatives or friends but to everyone and I have learnt to have a heart of love to one another. I therefore would also like to see myself contributing towards the education of some needy students with the little I will be earning. Throughout my entire study at Mzuzu

University while under **TEST**, I have always been thinking of what I can do to show appreciation to the providers of this scholarship. Only one answer kept on coming in within me and that is: *“There is nothing I can do except graduating with a degree of a good grade”*. It is my hope and belief that by coming up with a **DEGREE OF AN UPPER SECOND CLASS**, I have somehow made you proud. I want to let you know that I will always live to remember you (**TEST**) for the assistance rendered unto me.

LONG LIVE TERTIARY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP

YAMIKANI D.M YAFETI

Email: yamikaniyafeti@gmail.com