

Interviewee: Christina Kolopo

Duration: 06:33

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

Past Bursar, Impact of Bursary.

00:00

My name is Christina Kolopo, one of the beneficiary for this partnership Likhubula Dunblane.

I'm coming from the family of three children of a single mother. Actually, my parents were poor. I was selected in 2018 to secondary school, for that matter as my secondary school, a boarding secondary high school. Yes, then my parents had no money to pay school fees. They was like, what are we going to do? So I decided to drop out from school. But lucky enough, the partnership came in and picked me that they're going to sponsor me to support me throughout the secondary school. And I was very happy. And there was tears of joy at home.

Yes. Then from there is when they started sponsoring me in 2010. So, Form 1, Form 2, Form 3, Form 4. They were providing me with everything. For example, school fees, school uniform, shoes, and upkeep. So this helped me that I was really working hard. Yeah, because I had no problem with the issues of money, issues of support, like fees, and so on and so forth. So I was working hard, I was really working hard. And I was taking first position in each and every class.

So, if I can compare to my friend, my friend were suffering. They were chased from school. They were lacking fees, even the pocket money itself. These were all contributing to their failure. But even myself, I was doing good because I was awarded everything with this partnership.

Yeah, so I can say that this partnership has helped me to complete secondary school. And from there, after, in 2014. I graduated Form 4. I graduated from secondary school. Then in 2014. I was enrolled at teacher training college. So I was training there for three years. And actually as I am saying now, I am a teacher by profession. The bursary was supporting me. They were providing me fees, the school fees for three years. Yes, they were providing me with upkeep. Yes, I had like stationery they were providing me. In addition to that, during our first year of training, we had the opportunity to visit the different countries. We visited Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and so on and so forth. And in those countries we learnt a lot. And in the process of the passport, it is the partnership that helped me to process the passport document for traveling.

Now, I go back to school. I also write form 4 in 2020. Yes, I went back to school, so that I should become a secondary school teacher. Then I applied, they enroll me at College of Education. And at the College of Education, I'm paying school fees myself. The money I've saved for teaching I'm now using it to pay school fees.

Though I'm having difficulties of course, like I'm having balances with the school, for school fees. I'm struggling of course, because I'm helping also my relatives. So me I'm at school and the relatives are at school. Of course, I'm struggling. Like right now. I'm having a balance with the school, but I'm trying at least to upgrade myself, yeah. But it's the partnership that made me to reach to reach to this extent.

The first one is to say thank you for their generosity and desire to help students like myself. It is really a great job, yeah. And it is God's work what you are doing, what those people are doing. Yeah, you need to keep it to keep it up and God should bless you. And another one you can say, I really say thank you why I'm working now. Yeah, I'm different with everyone. I'm able to support my parents. My parents were struggling in the past but as of now, at least, their life standard, it has been improved. Yes, I'm managing to take care of them. At least I have built a house for them. They were living in the thatched house, but now they are living in the [...] house. So you can see that at least I've improved the living standards of my parents just because of this partnership, this support. Otherwise, if there is no support for this partnership, I couldn't manage to complete school. Of course, maybe I can finally say, if possible, they can still even support me whilst I am invested here. Cause I'm struggling here and there. They can still continue supporting me so that I can finalize my degree. Actually, I want to go far. I want to do masters. Yes, after the degree I want to do masters.