



A Letter from a MaP OVC Scholar

Dear Mr Taylor,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and my sponsors for a job well done. Six years ago, I got a scholarship to further my studies here at Maru-a-Pula. I am an orphan who has been living at SOS Children's Village since I was 12. Opportunities of the nature I have had do not come easily to orphans and vulnerable children. It was the greatest thing to happen to me and I really appreciate being granted this scholarship.



Maru-a-Pula has provided me with an opportunity that led to many doors opening for me, from travelling the world to having the greatest level of education ever. I enrolled in Form One without any experience of using a computer before. There was this task we were given in class which required typing a passage, which I believe was about a hundred and forty words, and unsurprisingly, I spent two weeks to complete it, which obviously resulted in a bad grade. At this moment, I am really happy to share that I am predicted to get an A* for my A-Level Computer Science subject.

The thought of going anywhere outside the country of Botswana never crossed my mind. That was changed when I had to get a passport made for my first trip to South Africa for Camp Bush Pigs. From then, I had trips year after year outside Botswana, going to Camp Nelu, and boarding house and sports trips. In addition, Maru-a-Pula gave me the opportunity to be one of 10 Botswana to attend the 2013 Doha Goals Leadership forum in Qatar.



Throughout my years at Maru-a-Pula School, I played in the school's athletics team, football team and rugby team. I had never played rugby before in my life and if it were not for coming to Maru-a-Pula, I would have not known I had the skills to play it. Being part of sports at Maru-a-Pula School enabled me to play rugby at an international level for Botswana, most notably in the U18 team at the 2014 African Youth Games.

Taking full advantage of the service opportunity that MaP presented to me, I signed up for a service called Gabane Feeding, whose main aim is to provide the needy with food. My commitment was rewarded with a Service Award in 2012. In addition, I was also involved in Naledi Teaching, a service which allowed me to share my knowledge, and offer both mentorship and academic assistance to those students who were completing their primary school education.

I got the opportunity to have a mentor who treated me as his son, Mr. Bruce Nkala. He was a motivator and also a person I could talk to with an open heart. He always had a story to tell me which had a message about life in it. He has become like a father to me. All these memories were made possible by being part of the Maru-a-Pula community. I also experienced studying subjects nurtured by great teachers with interesting, and (most importantly) effective ways of presenting information to the class.

I am greatly thankful for the clothing, school uniform, sporting outfits, pocket money and toiletries provided for me during the course of my time here. Staying in the boarding house allowed me to study in a quiet place. This would have been a different task to carry out if I were not a boarder. For that I am grateful; for providing me with the basic necessities.

Your kindness has made a big difference, as I am currently working on university applications to the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Canada. I am glad to be the person I am today because of you.

I aspire to enrol in a great university next year, which will add on and sharpen my skills in Computer Science enabling me to make a change in people's lives through computer technology.

Yours Sincerely

Emmanuel Molefi

