

ISSUE 011/JULY 2022

# ASPIRE

2022 EDITION

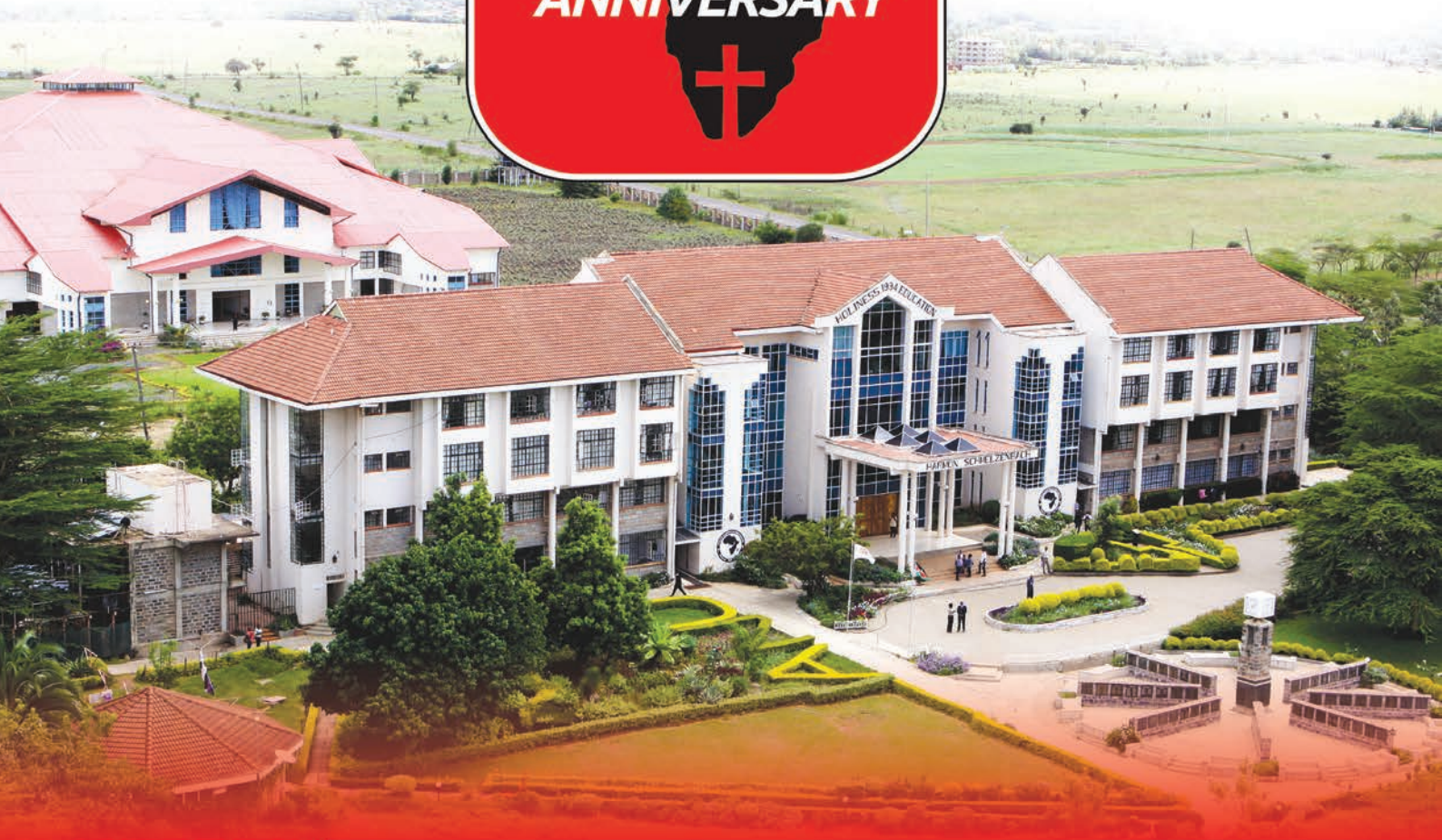
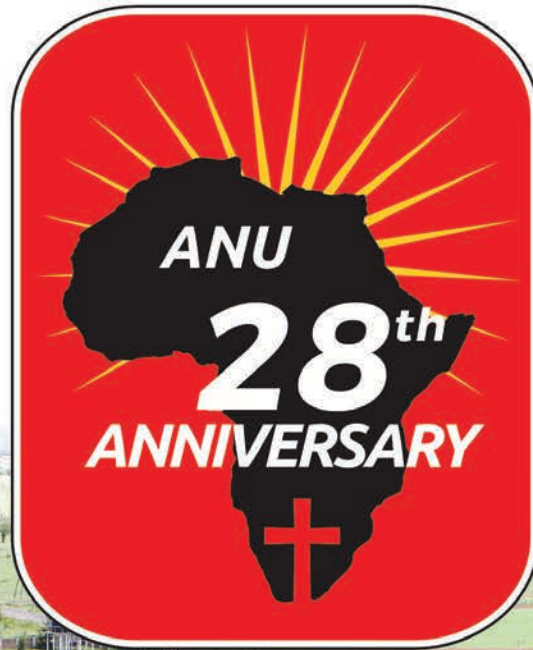
## 25<sup>th</sup> Graduation *ceremony*

***Tumaini: Visions for  
Africa's Tomorrow***



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*What begins here transforms the world*



**2021-2022**

**AFRICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC YEAR**

*Celebrating 28 years  
of Transforming the world.*

## Editors Note

### Congratulations, ANU Class of 2022!

Here we are, four or two years on since joining this institution, and the future does look brighter! If this magazine mirrors who we are as a community, then yes, the future is bright despite the myriad challenges we face; we have the solutions in sight and the capacity within us to turn them into reality! Enjoy the wealth of knowledge and perspectives as you flip through these pages and join us in envisioning a more prosperous Africa of tomorrow. Remarkably, all the voices speaking up in these pages espouse:

1. Pan African values - recognizing that our interests as African people are intertwined; thus, there can be no real progress for 'us' at the expense of 'them'. A sense of community is integral to who we are.
2. We must unlearn the vices that have held our society back for years, which include corruption, poor governance and leadership, underfunding for education and research amongst others and, recognize that educational institutions are a prime ground for driving the shift in values requisite for this.

Wherever your career path takes you from here, go on exercising your voices and live out the knowledge, values, and competencies your ANU education has bequeathed you.

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Teaching at ANULS is based on objectives and methodologies that integrate and encourage critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and practical application. They include, but are not limited to, the use of the Bloom's taxonomy concepts, in addition to the application of the Socratic, case study, seminar, moot court and tutorial methods.

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HON. JUSTICE MARTHA KOOME, EGH, CHIEF JUSTICE & PRESIDENT OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF KENYA

25TH GRADUATION CHIEF GUEST AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER



# THE JUDICIARY



THE SUPREME COURT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE / PRESIDENT, SUPREME COURT OF KENYA

THEME: 'TUMAINI: VISIONS FOR AFRICA'S TOMMORROW'

The Chancellor, Africa Nazarene University,  
The Vice-Chancellor, Africa Nazarene University  
The Deans of the various faculties,  
Academic Staff  
The Graduating Class, your families and friends  
Distinguished Guests  
Ladies and Gentlemen  
Good Morning

1. Thank you for inviting me to share this day with you. It is a privilege and honour for me to join you, albeit virtually. To the graduates of the class of 2022, congratulations! You have worked incredibly hard to get here, and I hope that you are taking a moment to let the full weight of your accomplishment sink in and that you revel in it.
2. A time like this about thirty-five (35) years ago, I sat at my graduation. It was an exciting time filled with mixed feelings of hope and uncertainty. Therefore, I identify with the different even at times clashing thoughts that you might be experiencing today.
3. Turning to the aptly chosen theme of this year's graduation: 'Tumaini: Visions for Africa's Tomorrow', which speaks to humanity's and indeed our continent's dire need for "Hope" for a better tomorrow.
4. This speaks to the reality that it is possible to change our present circumstances for the better. Great achievements by humanity have been attained largely due to the "hope" that past and present circumstances could be changed. As individuals, we cannot thrive or excel unless we embrace not only the possibility of change but also

the possibility of action to effectuate change. Hope or Tumaini is therefore not the same thing as daydreams; rather it is founded on our readiness to take action to enable us realise our dreams. I am certain that as graduating students you can identify with this point: it is largely due to "hope" and the "hard work" to see your career dreams come true that we are today celebrating your success in your studies.

5. Taking our gaze beyond the realm of individual aspirations to a broader horizon at the continental level; I am sure you are all familiar with the sometimes negative labels associated with our continent like underdevelopment, impunity by leaders, wars, and other ills. I have hope that things can be better and our continent can in future be associated with prosperity, good governance, and peaceful and just communities. This hope is largely founded on my faith that we have across the continent groups of young people, like yourselves, who have not only been competently trained as professionals but have also had the benefit of getting Christian-based education that has inculcated in your values that will be important in challenging the story of our continent.
6. As you get into the job market, I see transformative leaders, professionals and change agents in different spheres of life who are carriers of seeds of better tomorrow for our continent. Always remember that you are our continent's hope and the knowledge, skills and competences that you have acquired at Africa Nazarene University are to be held in trust and exploited for the benefit of our communities, our nation, the continent and for humanity.

7. Let me briefly share with you my personal experience and how hope, passion, and action can in a small way transform our communities for the better. I had throughout my life journey always been driven by compassion for vulnerable members of society. Hence, I have always sought to advance the rights and welfare of vulnerable groups like children, women, persons living with disabilities, members of marginalise groups.
8. It is pursuant to this that at the Judiciary, we are championing a Vision of “Social transformation Through Access to Justice” which is focused on establishing a people-centred system of justice through the pursuit of social justice and ensuring that all persons especially the vulnerable are enabled to access justice. Some critics may describe our goals as being too ambitious and even describe them as idealistic. Nonetheless, I say that anything worth having is worth fighting for.
9. The lesson I would wish you to take from this, is that without hope it is certainly is impossible to expect and aim for a better future. The Judiciary’s social transformation vision is built on the hope of more just societies. We are coming from a past associated with complaints relating to access to justice, but now we are bravely tackling these challenges and making sure that we have a Judiciary that is accessible to all including the vulnerable in our communities.
10. My point is that we might be facing several challenges as individuals, in our communities, as a nation, or even as a continent, but in us lies the potential to solve these challenges. We must embrace hope that the future can be better and our actions can contribute to a more positive prospect for the continent. But this will depend on the choices that you make. I urge you not to fall into the pits of despair and give up on your communities.
11. Today you transition from being students to young professionals. This does not mean that your learnings end here. I can promise you that I am still learning despite being a professional for all these years. I trust that Africa Nazarene University has equipped you to be competent professionals in your various fields of study. Further, the university provided a holistic education that not only developed your technical skills but also equipped you with ethical formation. The education you received at this university was aimed at helping you find your place in the world.
12. In line with Africa Nazarene University’s motto ‘What begins here, transforms the world,’ I urge you to play your part in transforming the society. I implore you to give back to society even as you seek to go into employment or even create employment for others. You can give back by volunteering or aligning yourself with an existing cause.
13. I therefore encourage you to aim for the highest good in whatever you may do. The world needs more ethical lawyers, responsible technicians and visionary scientists. I guarantee you that it will be hard but remember that adversity is not only inevitable but also necessary if we were to aspire to become our very best self.
14. In conclusion, as I play my part in spearheading the march towards a more transformative Judiciary, I hope you play your part in building the Africa you want to see.

Thank you and God bless you.

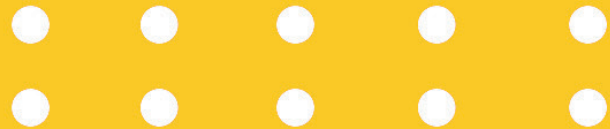
Hon. Justice Martha Koome, EGH,

Chief Justice, and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya

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## WHAT YOU CAN DO:

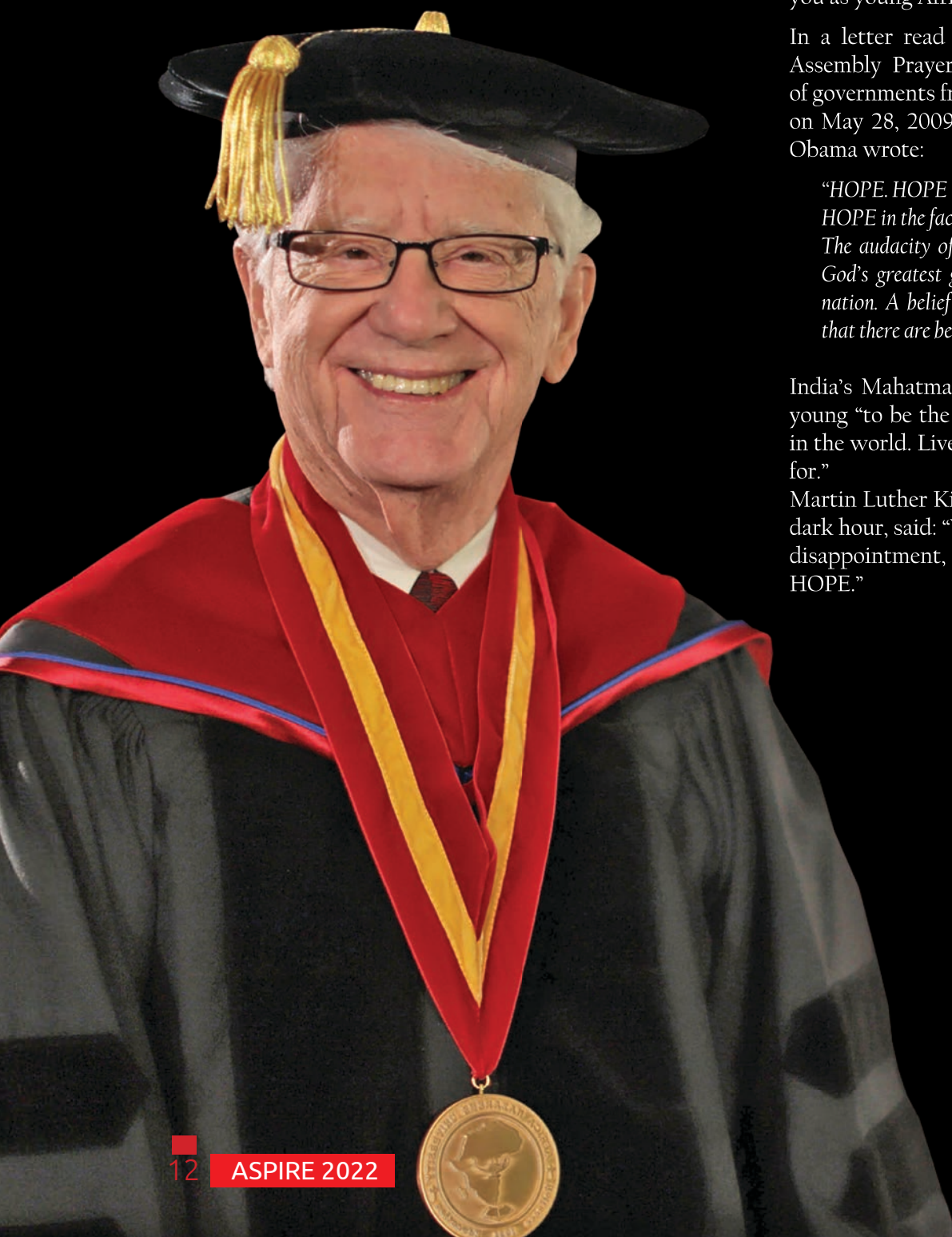
- Share your ANU story
- Ask your friends about their higher education interests.
- Encourage the prospect to visit the campus or invite them to visit with you.
- Advocate for ANU when the prospect is deciding.

ASPIRE 2022

# TUMAINI FOR AFRICA

**Congratulations, Africa Nazarene University Class of 2022 !!!**

Dr. Jerry D. Lambert, Chancellor



There are many outstanding leaders, mentors, and “shapers” of the world who join me in encouraging you as young African leaders.

In a letter read to the Kenya National Assembly Prayer Breakfast, with heads of governments from eight Africa nations, on May 28, 2009, then-President Barack Obama wrote:

*“HOPE. HOPE in the face of difficulty.  
HOPE in the face of uncertainty.  
The audacity of HOPE! In the end, that is  
God’s greatest gift to us, the bedrock of a  
nation. A belief in things not seen. A belief  
that there are better days ahead.”*

India’s Mahatma Gandhi challenged the young “to be the change you wish to see in the world. Live for what’s worth dying for.”

Martin Luther King, Jr., in a difficult and dark hour, said: “We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite HOPE.”



## THE LIBERATION OF HOPE

Rabbi Sharon Brous wrote that in 1807, there were slave owners who published the Slave Bible for use in worship by the people of the West Indies. Their interest was to share Scripture and the story of salvation to make better slaves – but were afraid of its full power and spiritual danger, that its deliverance stories might bring HOPE to slaves.

The Slave Bible was printed, carefully redacting all references to the Exodus from Egypt, without telling about Moses, the burning bush, the parting of the Red Sea, and God's revelation on Sinai. This was a generation fearful to tell the true story of HOPE and deliverance for God's people. Our shame on behalf of that generation causes us to stand for God's truth, the liberating power of HOPE.

J. Hampton Keathley III wrote in Biblical Studies Foundation, "God's truth is a magnificent obsession with an eternal HOPE."

## HOPE THAT HAS BEEN TESTED

Class of 2022, during the sometimes difficult years of your studies at A.N.U., you have faced issues of the Pandemic, academic challenges, technical glitches, family problems, personal economic struggles, weariness of body and soul. You may have been tempted to give up HOPE. But you knew, without HOPE, all your effort and labor would be unfulfilling and even worthless.

In his letter to the Corinthian Christians, the Apostle Paul helps us to see that HOPE is the spiritual "glue" that holds Faith to Love.

Faith is the beginning point;

Love is the end result;

Without HOPE neither is possible.

In the cause and effect of the Divine economy, HOPE is the foundation upon which faith is built, and from which love flows.

## WITH HOPE

- We have a life of meaning and significance.
- We have the achievement of our most worthy goals and ambitions.
- We have a life journey that includes and encompasses the building of wonderful relationships.

Authentic leaders can understand God's HOPE for Africa, as you grasp His wisdom to see His most powerful gift to us:

Faith to believe;

HOPE to act;

Love to give.

The prophet Isaiah asks the most significant question of each A.N.U. graduate, as you move to take your place as leader, fulfilling the HOPE for Africa:

"Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord, the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40:28-31

## Chancellor's Prayer:

"... now we are children of God and it has not yet appeared as what we shall be. We know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, just as He is." I John 3:3. We have, at the finish of this life, the promised HOPE of eternal life and loving fellowship with our Heavenly Father, through His Son, Jesus Christ, empowered by His Holy Spirit. Amen.



## **AFRICA'S HOPE: ACTIVE FOLLOWERSHIP THE ANTIDOTE TO POOR LEADERSHIP**

Rev. Dr. Gabriel Benjiman, Chairperson University Council

While the subject of ethical leadership will always trend out of necessity it is crucial to maintain a healthy tension between good followership and leadership. Given the limited scope for writing here, I will treat only the concept of followership. As we define what *active followership* is, we must set it against *passive followership* for comparison.

Passive followership does not engage leadership. Blind loyalty is usually the brightest colour in the paint pallet of passive followers. Disengaged followers accept that leadership cannot be challenged. Such disengaged and passive followership accepts that the leader is always right. It accepts that leaders instinctively know what to do from where they are positioned. Some followers choose passivity because of their appetite for self-gain. In other words, whereas an active follower would become a whistle-blower in the face of a corrupt regime, some followers choose to become passive and tolerate corruption based on their access to ill-gotten benefits. These kinds of motivations drive toxic followers. Toxic followers make room for toxic leadership to be possible. All too often toxic followers seek leaders styled after themselves for all the wrong reasons.

1. **Active followership is more readily characterised by a moral dissenting voice.** A dissenting voice is a much-needed voice. Here, I am referring to a voice that raises positive, critical, clarifying questions for the leader. Any questioning voice using respect and the right protocols must always be welcomed. Raising the other perspective, the other side of the truth located between us is of critical importance as it helps to produce a 360-degree view of the organisation, its vision, and its direction. Therefore, followers need to know “how to express dissent”<sup>1</sup>. Indeed the follower has an ethical obligation to the leader and organisation to maintain symbiosis within the organisational ecosystem. Below I will list three value-adding behaviours which followers bring to the table of ethical leadership.
2. **Active followers take responsibility for the mandate they give to the leader.** They understand that the leader earns their following therefore such followers get involved in the decision-making, vision casting, and problem-solving activities when the invitation to do so surfaces. When my daughters were both

in primary school, I made the time in my busy schedule to be involved in the school's governing board simply because I could not passively leave the critical processes that shaped their future to others. I also took my responsibility as a civic leader to be an active follower within the institution to offer solutions from the grassroots. Active followers don't sit back and watch leaders crash and burn and then hurl criticisms at them. They get involved from the outset in the mandate they give through their consent.

3. **Active followers cheerlead the organisation's mission and vision.** In the Bible story<sup>2</sup> when Joshua led his army against the Amalekites, Aaron and Hur lifted the leader's (Moses) arms. While his arms were raised, Joshua and his troops won the battle. Active followers take time to understand the agenda for the overall mission and they commit to the vision and raise the leader's arms. By doing so, they write the history of the organisation in positive ways. Good followers see the outcomes as a collective initiative of the leader and the followers working together toward the same goals.
4. **Active followers develop emotional intelligence that understands the times.** Engaged followers know the right times to collaborate in truth and to challenge inconsistencies in love. Yes, you read that correctly. Truth and love for the individuals and organization as a collective are part of a mature emotional composition of a good follower. Active and assured followers never allow the leader to walk into a minefield. They engage, they question, they collaborate, and go over and above the call of duty to ensure the positive outcomes enshrined in the vision and mission of the organisation.

Let us take every opportunity to challenge the next generation of African leaders toward hope. There is a time and place to adopt passive followership but it becomes toxic when passive followers allow the system and leader to fail and then take the fight to the courts of public opinion wherein complaining and insults are hurled. Followers have a chance to change the system from within while every opportunity exists. Complaining comes at a time when it is simply too late to build hope. After all, complaining is the language of the defeated. Let's learn to be engaged and active followers up front!

1. Johnson, C. E. (2016). *Organizational ethics: A practical approach* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

# AN EPICENTER OF HOPE FOR AFRICA

Dr. Kevin M. Ulmet  
President: Africa Nazarene University Foundation USA

Member: Africa Nazarene University Council  
Senior Pastor: Nashville, Tennessee First Church of the Nazarene (USA)



In my 8 years of service to Kenya and Africa Nazarene University, some things have become clear to me. I have watched the economy of Kenya lurch forward into a new era of international significance. I have come to deeply love the people of East Africa, and marveled at their spirit, quiet tenacity and wisdom. As we endured together the pandemic, we came through, thanks be to God, and are facing a new future, with courageous Africans leading us.

In the Kingdom of God and the international Church of the Nazarene, ANU is far more significant than many may realize. One out of three Nazarenes in the world today resides in Africa. Two of our six General Superintendents leading the worldwide church are from Africa. Across many denominations African leaders have arisen, remaining faithful to scripture and influencing their western counterparts more than most comprehend.

The future of the economy of Africa will be shaped by Nairobi and Kenya in major ways. The future

of Wesleyan-Arminian-Holiness theology and message will emanate from Africa. The shaping of the Church of the Nazarene's future will rise or fall from Africa.

In the center of all of this is Africa Nazarene University, educating thousands of Africans, beginning here a future of service to transform Africa and the world. It is not just education happening here, as important as that is. It is also Holy-Spirit filled transformation of lives, taking that Christ-centered message with them to live their lives to the glory of God.

Therein lies the true hope for the future of Africa and the world! You are LIVING hope, ANU community, to a world mired in malaise and death! You are part of a centerpiece, an epicenter, of hope for Africa and the world.

Never underestimate or undervalue your presence and contribution! You are significant, essential and urgently needed! The hope centered here can change the world! Lord, let it be!

# WE CANNOT GIVE UP ON HOPE: BUT WHAT KIND OF HOPE?

By Stanley Makhosi Bhebhe, Ph. D  
Vice-Chancellor



As we gather today under the theme “Tumaini” it is worth noting that for the last fifty-years or so, no subject has been as of much debate, discussion and indeed invested in as much as the subject of hope in relation to Africa. Cynics often point out that if we were to quantify the financial costs of these conferences and workshops that have been convened over the last fifty-years around the world, to investigate this most asked question (Is there hope for Africa? What hope for Africa?) we would have enough resources to educate the millions of Africa’s children who currently go without schooling.

It is our observation that the question of hope in relation to Africa, is often raised in the context of paradoxical views of Africa’s place in the family of nations. The predominant view has a narrative of Africa as a continent caught up in a paralysis of “challenges” ranging from Natural disasters; ignorance; chaotic governments; endemic chronic poverty and endless wars and disease. From this perspective, these engagements, and conversations about hope for Africa are then often underwritten by attitudes of afro-pessimism and afro-paternalism. Can something good come out of Africa? And more often than not what sets the tone for these conferences and gatherings is the assumption that any negativity from or about Africa is in fact affirmation of a character flaw in the DNA of Africa’s peoples, rather than for such negative happenings to be seen as just an aberration. Notions of hope that emerge from conversations premised on these views are what I call false hope.

The other trigger of false hope is the overly optimistic appraisal of Africa’s prospects of prosperity and place amongst the nations of the world starting from antiquity to the present day. In an article published in September 2018, in Quartz Africa, Efosa Ojomo refers to one such view by Ghanaian economist George Ayittey’s, in his writings in Africa in Chaos, “When Africa gained its independence from colonial rule in the 1960s, the euphoria that swept across the continent was infectious. It was best evidenced by the late Dr Kwame Nkrumah, the first president of Ghana. “We shall achieve in a decade what it took others a century...and we shall not rest content until we demolish these miserable colonial structures and erect in their place a veritable paradise.” So many decades down the road, Africa is nowhere near achieving all these claims that were supposed to be met within a decade. This same false dawn can be witnessed in recent years in initiatives such as the “African Renaissance” “the Silencing of the Guns” the Launch of the “African Continental Free Trade Area” (AfCFTA) all of which have not yielded the results they held promise to deliver.

The pithy question then, is, if the tension between optimism and pessimism about Africa persists even today what can we learn from this paradox? Can we talk about hope for Africa constructively, passionately, and inspirationally? Is there hope for Africa? Our response is that yes, we can talk about hope for Africa! And yes, we must proclaim hope for Africa because hope is an essential part of life and according to Victor Frankl the one ingredient without which life has no meaning. It was Frankl’s observation that almost all those that survived the holocaust were people who had something significant yet to do in the future. That is the power of tumaini, the confident hope. In the words of Gideon Strauss, (September 13, 2016 ) “To say that one has hope for the future of Africa is not to deny or

underestimate the very considerable challenges Africa faces, many of which are made in Africa and many of which are the consequence of a global context marred by idolatries ancient and modern, the predatory hubris of European colonialism, and the ideological distortion of global market dynamics and international politics. Practicing hope for the future of Africa demands honesty and attentiveness in the study of the challenges the continent faces, seriousness in the cultivation of the skills necessary for courageous action in addressing these challenges, but above all, guileless trust that our efforts in history are both meaningful because of who we are as human creatures and ultimately sustained and guided by divine providence”.

Ultimately, we embrace the idea that real hope is not waiting to see what happens and hoping that it turns out well. True hope is not about ‘hope so’ but about ‘know so’.

Such pseudo notions of hope stand in stark contrast with what is embedded in the concept of “Tumaini” confident hope. Tumaini summons us to look back to our lived experiences as Africans and to draw from that well, the inspiration to honor our forebears and to bequeath to the next generations the wisdom from these lived experiences for their own inspiration. We reflect on our past not to shackle ourselves nor the next generation we want to bequeath hope to with the heavy chains of past illusions of grandeur and catastrophes. We fully agree with Bishop Donald Mckeown (Jan 2022) in his observation marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Bloody Sunday killings, that, “The future belongs to those who can generate hope from the past rather than despair.” Indeed, we draw from the past, but only to suckle from their wisdom born out of their collective experiences, the principles, that should inspire redemptive hope.

In an article published in the Global Citizen, on June 16, 2021, Khanyi Mlaba poses the rhetorical question; “Why Does SARAFINA! (the movie) Still Resonate for South Africa’s Youth Today? In response to her question, Mlaba, then proffers that ...”it is difficult to put into words just how much the movie SARAFINA! means to South Africans. (The movie) A tale of how the youth of 1976 had the power to stand up for themselves and the rest of the country during South Africa’s darkest days. The movie is a cinematic landmark that describes South Africa’s history with oppression and prioritizes Black storytelling. It is also a hopeful tale about persevering to achieve what looks to others to be an unreachable goal. It reminds the youth that their voices and their actions have power”.

Indeed, we agree with Mlaba that we look back not to be conformists to yester years’ slogans but rather our going back is a call to fidelity to the principle, that, central to human struggles at whatever level must be an unwavering commitment to social justice. (Micah 6:8) He has told you, human one, what is good and what the LORD requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God. (CEB) Without social justice, all human struggles risk becoming brutal, self-serving, meaningless, and yes inhumane. In our view, hope as embedded in the meaning of (tumaini) can never be about struggle just for the sake of struggle, but rather about the positive imagination of what the victory that is in conformity with God’s vision of social justice beyond struggle would look like. This is a thought well captured by, Gideon Strauss, in an article, Is There Hope for Africa? (September 13, 2016); “To say that

one has hope for Africa is to recognize that a key element in the future of Africa will be the life of communities of faith that recognize and proclaim that hope is ultimately anchored in Christ, whose present and future reign is the ultimate context within which courageous action finds its meaning and direction. The hope for Africa is a Christian hope, nurtured in the celebration of the sacraments, the study of the biblical scriptures, the practice of prayer, and finding courageous expression in every human vocation and in our vocational contributions to the common good.”

When struggle is infused with confident hope (*tumaini*) it inspires trust in community and in the agency of all of us in the pursuit for social justice. Without hope the darkness of our fears can easily overwhelm us into the inertia of despair and the dehumanization of struggles for social justice as immortalized in the imaginary soliloquy between SARAFINA (played by the legendary actress Leleti Khumalo) and her imaginary hero Nelson Mandela. After SARAFINA and her comrades are exposed to some of the worst brutality that can be imagined, they lost their deep-seated values of social justice and trust in community only to become as murderous as those they were struggling against. In her imaginary soliloquy Sarafina says to Nelson; “I killed a man, Nelson. Is that what you want? Did I kill him? I was there; I wanted to kill him; I hated him so much, I wanted to kill him. But then I saw his eyes. See what they have done to me Nelson? They filled me up with hate but not enough, I have to be so full of hurt there is no room for anything else. Make me num Nelson; Make me num”. SARAFINA’s predicament of losing herself to the brutality and meaninglessness of struggle is a reminder of the importance of hope that is anchored in social justice. Again, as Gedeon Strauss, (September 13, 2016 ) has observed, “To say that one has hope for Africa, as I do, is not only a confession of belief but also a recognition of a calling. Hope is not only the virtue of anticipating the blessing of a loving God; it is also the theological virtue that serves as the precondition for the exercise of courageous action. Classical Christian virtue teaching recognizes hope as an infused virtue, primarily a divine gift, not primarily (as some other virtues are) the result of sustained habit. To accept the gift of hope is to accept the calling to courageous action”. This calls for all human struggles to continuously sanctify themselves by maintaining fidelity to God’s call for social justice.

Another principle we draw from our concept of *tumaini* is that hope is a call to a life of purpose. Because we are more than convinced that embedded in a purpose driven life is the idea expounded by Frantz Fanon, that every generation has a duty to find and honor or betray its historic generational mission, we carry the burden to ensure that whatever the historic generational mission today’s generation curves out for itself, is one that is anchored on God’s missional purpose. In the words of the theologian, Kurien Kunumpuram, (2011) “The Church’s task is to work along with God for the creation of a new human society which is consciously rooted in God, which is characterized by freedom, equality, love, justice and peace and which lives in harmony and communion with nature.”

Biblical hope is based on knowing God and knowing that we are in this world by divine appointment for a divine purpose. In the words of John Piper, “God created me—and you—to live with a single, all-embracing, all-transforming

passion—namely, a passion to glorify God by enjoying and displaying his supreme excellence in all the spheres of life”. So we confidently declare hope for Africa because we know the God of purpose and we believe in His eternal mission and His desire to accomplish that mission through the agency of human social action. The veracity of this fact is fully affirmed in the book of Jeremiah. (Jer.1.5) “Before I made you in your mother’s womb, I chose you, before you were born, I set you apart for a special work”. And just in case Jeremiah didn’t quite get it, God reminds him again in (Jer. 29:11) “I know what I am planning for you, says the Lord. I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future”. Biblical hope is a testimony to God’s grace and His faithfulness to His covenant with His people. It has nothing to do with whether the environment and circumstances are positive, bad, or hopeless. (Hab. 3:17-19) ‘Fig trees may not grow figs, and there may be no grapes on the vines, there may be no olives growing and no food growing in the fields. There may be no sheep in the pens and no cattle in the bans. But I will still be glad in the Lord; I will rejoice in God my savior. The lord god is my strength. He makes me like a deer that does not stumble so I can walk on the steep mountains.” The essential message of Habakkuk is that biblical hope cannot be moved or swayed by the environment or circumstances or what the eye sees because the God from whom it emanates is the immutable sovereign Lord who in character and deed is faithful.

To the graduands and comrades, we are celebrating today, we implore you that the real struggle ahead of you, is the struggle to keep hope alive as you inspire your generation and the generations after you to find their historic generational mission in God’s mission and in service to humanity. We do so with confidence because we know that you have the skills, the passion, and the vision for the Africa you want.

According to the findings of the 2022 African Youth Survey conducted by the Ichikowitz Family Foundation across fifteen (15) African countries including our own country, Kenya, “African youth remain focused about their personal and entrepreneurial ambitions. Three-quarters of youth know what they want to do with their lives, and a similar proportion have plans to start their own business within the next five years. Similarly, youth are optimistic that their quality of life will improve in the future with three-quarters saying that they expect their standard of living to get better over the next two years, and two-thirds believing that they will have a better life than their parents”.

Your superpower, however, as you passionately take your positive vision into the world will be how anchored in God’s eternal mission your passion and vision are. We urge you to optimize the advantage you have already gained from your Christian Liberal Arts Education here at ANU to anchor this passion and vision in God’s eternal mission. I, together with John Wesley, “continue to dream and pray about a revival of holiness in our day that moves forth in mission and creates authentic community in which each person can be unleashed through the empowerment of the Spirit to fulfil God’s creational intentions.”

MUNGU IBARIKI AFRIKA! NGARISIMUDZIWE ZITA RAYO! YIZWA IMITHANDAZO YETHU! MAY HER DAUGHTERS KNOW YOUR PEACE AND LIVE IN YOUR ABUNDANCE!



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# I KNOW WHO HOLDS TOMORROW!

Prof. Rodney L. Reed  
Deputy Vice Chancellor of Academic and Student Affairs

**W**hat will the world look like in 2050? What will Africa look like in 2050? Futures are notoriously hard to predict. The Word Collage below provides a snapshot of what some reliable sources on the internet have to suggest about what the future may look like for Africa and beyond.





And these don't even include the specifically religious views about what the future may look like. We could build a completely separate Word Collage for that:



So what are we to make of this? If you study these Word Collages carefully, you will notice that there are some predictions that are exactly the opposite from others. Are the prospects for the future gloomy or happy? Exciting or fearful? Should we be optimistic or pessimistic? Should we make our homes fortresses, hoarding all the food stuffs and buying all the guns we can afford to protect ourselves from a coming catastrophe? Or is the appropriate response to the future to trade our gas-guzzler in for an electric car, and invest in the securities market in high tech and green energy stocks? Should we do as most Kenyans desire to do and buy land at all costs or should we sell all that we have and move to a mountain top and wait for Jesus to return?

What to do about the future?! It can be so perplexing! I am not much of a believer in prophets and their prophecies. But I am a believer in God. And that God is a God of hope! He is the Alpha and Omega, the God of the past, the present, and the future. There's an old hymn that speaks to the hope that God gives for Africa and the entire world, the chorus of which goes like this:

*Many things about tomorrow,  
I don't seem to understand;  
But I know who holds tomorrow,  
And I know who holds my hand.*

We may not know what our future holds, but we, the people of faith, know who holds the future and that give us hope!

To the Graduating class of 2022, you may not know what your future holds. You may not know about tomorrow, but I pray that you learned during your days at ANU who holds your hand as you "commence" into it! And with God holding your hand, you can do "all things"!

# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2022!

Titus N. Mwanthi, Ph.D  
Academic Registrar

This year's graduation theme "Tumaini: Visions for Africa's Tomorrow" is one of the building blocks for a future solid Africa. This denotes unity in Africa, a peaceful and prosperous continent. Where there is hope there is future, there is life. The continent of Africa is full of success stories, from the moments of acquiring independence to the moments of building nations and economies. Africa has lived to see victories in many spheres including establishment of governments that have subsequently created schools, hospitals, industries, agriculture, infrastructure and thriving economies. All these and many other achievements that the land of Africa has realized came about due to education. Education opens one's mind through acquiring knowledge and skills that are necessary for providing solution to the problems facing the society. These are essential ingredients for fighting ignorance and poverty eradication from the face of the world.

Africa has walked a journey of growth and development through promoting peace, security and enabling environment for socio-economic development. Africa Nazarene University has been and continues to be part of these success stories through training, research & innovation and community service. Africa Nazarene University prides in producing competent graduates who continue to impact the world in a great and positive way. Since its inception in 1994, Africa Nazarene University has grown from one school to the present five schools and with more than 30 academic programmes. This has seen the university channel



out thousands of graduates to the job market that are impacting the world in a big way. Some of the milestones that the continent of Africa prides in include girl child education and empowerment, food security, peace and security, industrialization, infrastructural development, economic growth and many more.

Talk of innovation, some of the success stories include MPESA which is a platform for mobile money transfer that was invented by a young son of Kenya. Talk of girl child empowerment, women have taken leadership roles in many professions and careers in Africa. The Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya is a woman. There is hope in Africa. Africa has proudly produced female Heads of States and Presidents of nations. The opportunities ahead of sons and daughters of Africa are enormous.

Once again, Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2022. The future is promising!

# ANU ONLINE: Global experience in content development, quality assurance, and instructional design in online learning.

By Kahenya, NP, Ag. Dir. ANU Online

**A**NU online made great strides in the smooth transition of face-to-face learning to online learning in the wake of COVID19. This transition was significant in ANU in ensuring that learning activities were sustained as the world continues to grapple with the realities of COVID-19 in disrupting what we viewed as normalcy.

Despite the numerous challenges that faced the players in the online learning realm, ANU online managed to weather the storm. ANU online and by extension ANU has leaped dividend in its collaboration with international partners in promoting and enhancing capacity among the faculty. ANU was a key participant in the SPHEIR project, Partnership for Enriched and Blended Learning, PEBL. It was a collaboration project led by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) that worked with various project partners, including: the Commission for University Education Kenya (CUE), Commonwealth of Learning (CoL), the Staff and Educational Development Association (SEDA), and the University of Edinburgh.

ANU faculty Dr John Kamau, the PEBL ANU lead person Paul Kahenya, and by then ANU faculty; Dr James Obuhuma, Dr Victoria Mukami, and George Ngala, benefited from grants totally to almost KES 1m to develop blended learning modules. The team developed two blended learning modules that are available in Open Education Resources, Africa, OER Africa. The modules were on principles of management, and introduction to database management.

The faculty also received awards through SEDA's professional development on Supporting Technology-enhanced Learning STEL. The faculty are distinguished scholars on effective use of educational technologies that enhances student learning by 'enabling greater autonomy, creativity, and widening opportunities. Quality assurance is key to sustainable blended



learning. Two faculty were beneficiary of capacity building on quality assurance in blended learning in higher education by the Commonwealth of learning, Canada. ANU adopted blended learning mode. This was to ensure that quality learning was enhanced and accessible to all. It was the reality of what the future of learning entails. ANU interpret blended learning as the thoughtful integration of classroom face-to-face learning experiences with online experiences (Garrison and Kanuka, 2004). ANU also views BL as a pedagogical approach that combines the effectiveness and socialization opportunities of the classroom with technologically enhanced active learning possibilities of the online environment, rather than a ratio of delivery modalities (Dziuban, Harman and Moskal, 2004). Despite the challenges in the implementation of BL, ANU has made significant strides towards attaining this goal.

ANU faculty involved in ensuring quality online learning received a major boost from Handong Unitwin Fellowship for two years running. This is a collaboration between Handong Global university and UNESCO. The fellowship worth KES 2m benefited ANU scholars Dr E Roche, Dr R Ogutu, Dr J Nguere, Dr J Kamau, and the Ag. Dir. ANU Online Kahenya paul. The fellowship involved capacity building in developing of online content that include high quality text, and audio-visual lecture content of thirteen modules that are available in ANU LMS and Handong

Global university website. The team through their lead person Ag. Dir ANU online received a one-on-one consultation with Emeritus Prof Kwon of Hanyang University. The consultation focused on the changing role of the stage on the stage. The paradigm changes in the roles of university teacher to that of producer. That an online facilitator needs to be a producer of new ideas, creative, and able to design learning for the future learner. A future that most of us are not even aware of. That the today learner needs to be a prosumer. Somebody who can produce and consumer content. Today's online professor should focus on learning that is high-concept and high-touch. Effective online learning maybe be better off adopting the design-thinking or empathy model. For the learning process to be effective, one should adopt an instructional design that builds on the potential and the uniqueness of culture of our society.

These global perspective to content design and development, and instructional design will play a great role in ensuring that ANU Online attains its key strategic goals of academic excellence and quality online

offerings in its quest to be a leader in online learning locally and globally. Indeed COVID-19 triggered us in redefining normalcy not only in our personal lives but also in the realm of learning in HEIs. For ANU and other HEIs some three key issues that featured in the PEBL partners' contribution at the SPEHIR Forum 22-23 March, in Nairobi, need to be at the top of our conversations: Need to review the role of academics as agents in curriculum and pedagogy reforms, how to build a more resilient higher education system that contributes to social and economic recovery and resilience post Covid-19, and what needs to change in the enabling environment for HEIs to maximise their potential.

#### Resources

Principles of Management – African Nazarene University | OER Africa

Introduction to Databases | OER Africa

<https://www.hufocw.org>

Creating quick, responsive videos to help students grasp difficult concepts in maths in Kenya | by INASP | Digital Universities in Africa | Medium



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# THE MAKING OF FUTURE-READY PROFESSIONALS

Dr. Victor Boiyo, Dean of Students ANU

Unemployment is one of the greatest challenges in developing countries. As young scholars exit the universities, the subject of unemployment is one of the worries. Though there are many reasons cited for unemployment in Kenya, lack of technical competencies and skills has been flagged as one of the major reasons. This revelation triggered the Ministry of Education of Kenya to roll out the establishment of the Office of Career Services in all universities and tertiary institutions in 2018.

The conversations on the role of educational institutions in the job market and in particular preparedness for industry emerged as early as the end of the 19th century. The focus was on placement-oriented services. The social and technological dynamics of our time are a significant driver for much-required change in how career services are delivered. The objective should be to prepare young people for the world of work and thus contribute to the achievement of vision 2030.

Globalization, technological advancement, and demographic changes are increasingly changing and impacting education, training, and labor-market systems. The way individuals learn, and work has significantly changed while at the same time the job market is constantly changing. These dynamics require that individuals become lifelong learners adapting skills necessary for coping with change that comes with labor-market evolutions.



To be a lifelong learner, one needs to be engaged in a process of learning, unlearning, and relearning which puts one on to continuous improvement. Futurist Alvin Toffler famously wrote, “The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn.” Anyone willing to travel this journey ought to

Reframe mindset. Adopt a culture where everyone believes they need to improve, not because they are not good enough but because they can be even better. This is embracing the mindset of continuous improvement

Shed the hero mentality: the burden of ‘know it all’ makes one miss out on the opportunity to learn from others

Ask more questions. This helps one move outside to gain a new perspective and more options.

# Transforming Africa through Women's Participation in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

By Prof. Orpha K. Ongiti  
Dean, Postgraduate Studies, and Director of the  
Institute of Research

I affirm Mahatma Gandhi's quote: "The future depends on what you do today." The question: 'is what you are doing today preparing you for the future?' Though no one knows about the future, one should at least have a vision for their future based on current trends. Thus, today's graduands should be prepared for the future based on the current social and economic trends. That notwithstanding, I take this opportunity to congratulate the class of 2022.

'You have worked hard, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and earned your degree. I equate your degree to having acquired 'wings' to enable you fly to your 'future'. A future that you will design and become relevant contingent upon the rapid dynamism of the world changes which hinge on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).'

Graduands, as you start another phase of life, I would like us to understand the importance of STEM in the social and economic development of the African Continent. Over the past several decades, it has become evident that STEM is an important determinant of a country's economic development and security. So, African countries must embrace STEM in the curriculum, to be as competitive in the global market as desired. This does not minimize specializations in humanities and social sciences but, also having skills in one of the STEM fields is an added advantage. The graduand's acquired knowledge, skills, and the right attitude, and through lifelong learning and teaching, should enable them fit in and participate in the STEM oriented future society.

Let's focus on the status of STEM and the position of women both internationally and locally. STEM occupations are projected to grow over two times faster than the total for all occupations in the next decade. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) 2019–29



employment projections show that occupations in the STEM field are expected to grow 8.0 percent by 2029, compared with 3.7 percent for all occupations. STEM workers play a key role in the sustained growth and stability of the U.S. economy and are a critical component to helping the U.S. win the future.

While Africa holds nearly 17% of the world's population, its Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) abilities lag the rest of the world. Yet, Africa with the world largest young population (over 60% of Africa's population is currently under 25) has great untapped potential to transform its own and the global economy.

It is through the STEM fields and innovations that the Africa Union's Agenda 2063 will transform the African continent over 50 years. No wonder in the 21st century, scientific and technological innovations have become increasingly important as we face the benefits and challenges of both globalization and a knowledge-based economy. To thrive in this new information-based and highly technological society, continuing students and graduates must develop their capabilities in the STEM fields and innovation.

Conversely, according to the African Development Bank, less than 25% of African higher education students are in STEM fields, with most students

studying humanities and social sciences. This is partly due to unaffordability of the implementation of the STEM fields; thus, the necessitation of student mobility to schools outside Africa for STEM training and employment which leads to Africa's 'brain drain'. The STEM brain drain condition has perpetually made Africa lag in addressing its economic and social problems with a blurred future.

Due to lack of domestic STEM workers, most STEM jobs in Africa today are outsourced to other countries, including the U.S., China, and India. Besides, more than half of STEM funding comes from international players. Inasmuch as such projects support African development, in most cases they are not designed to support Africans, leading to the economic future of the African continent remaining unresolved. Despite these compelling facts, women are lagging in the STEM fields globally. For instance, women make up only 28% of the workforce in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), and men vastly outnumber women majoring in most STEM fields in tertiary education and in the job market.

The number of females graduating from tertiary education is below 30% for many Sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries. Perennially, data shows that there is a "leaky pipeline" in the education systems leading to few women in STEM careers globally and that includes Kenya. While there are more women taking the STEM fields, especially mathematics in basic education, the number reduces as they advance to tertiary level, hence minimal output to the labor market. Subsequently, women lag in their contribution in scientific work and technological innovation. Accordingly, most women will be bystanders in the future technology-driven world economy as they will remain in jobs that are likely to be replaced by technology. Studies have shown that women lag in the STEM careers due to lack of mentorship, gender stereotypes, societal beliefs that STEM fields are for men, 'chilly' climate in the STEM careers, lack of supporting policies, and negative attitude. To realize the envisioned participation of women in the STEM careers, the cited barriers should be addressed. Otherwise, most African countries will not overcome poverty with the exclusion of women in the STEM careers.

For Africa to participate fully in the future technology-centric world, improvement of STEM education, careers and the participation of women is inevitable. This will require the collaborative work of governments, organizations, communities, businesses, and individuals like you and me; for instance, concerted efforts in the training and mentorship of both men and women to take up leadership positions in science careers. A supportive environment that caters to work-life balance for STEM staff is essential. The formulation and implementation of gender-responsive policy frameworks, such as gender-mainstreaming in STEM at educational, institutional, and societal levels should be embraced. Lifelong education for the graduates with no skills in the STEM fields yet should be encouraged. This calls for today's graduands to consider and actively engage in acquiring knowledge and skills in the STEM fields to remain relevant in the future technological world market.

In a nutshell, for the continent of Africa to optimize her participation in the world economy, investment in the STEM fields and ensuring that her men and women are actively engaged in pursuit of STEM, academically and career wise is no option. The onus is on the African governments to nurture and engage its youthful population in the STEM fields and careers. It is important to go beyond designing more gender-responsive policies to actively mainstreaming gender into science, research, and innovation. Incorporate gender equity into education by empowering female teachers to empower girls to take up STEM courses. Women scientists should act as role models and mentors to foster a sense of belonging among women in STEM. Resocialization of the society and in particular, women, on the importance of the STEM fields is critical. We need to hear the success stories of women in the STEM careers to attract women into science-oriented careers. I encourage the class of 2022 to play a role in applying the knowledge and skills they have gained in Africa Nazarene University (ANU) to transform Africa; thus, the motto of ANU: "What begins here transforms the world". My parting shot which concurs with Abraham Lincoln's statement: "You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today."

# TUMAINI: LEADERS FOR AFRICA'S TOMMORROW

Dr. Charles A. Khamala, Senior Lecturer School of Law & Program Leader Criminal Justice and Security Management



The education system tries to rationalize socioeconomic disparities through promising rewards on merit. If you study and work hard, you can achieve the “Kenyan dream.” This “dream” also promises to punish criminals. Yet, according to Robert Merton’s strain theory (1938) the reality is that after finishing one’s schooling, the capitalist economic system hardly provides sufficient opportunities or means to conform with the “dream” legally. Instead, discontented people are forced to abandon society’s legitimately approved means by which to earn money. Innovators invent illegitimate means of wealth acquisition, i.e. “hustling.” Ritualists retain legitimate means of wealth acquisition, but relinquish the lofty ideal of earthly gains, instead awaiting riches in heaven. Retreatists drop out of society by rejecting both its legitimate means as well as its lofty goals. They consume alcohol and drugs. Finally, radicals seek to break capitalism altogether and replace its unbridled competition and acquisitive goals with a more equitable, fairer and inclusive constitutional arrangement. One based on deliberation, cooperation and redistribution. Rebels are outlawed by treason offences.

Labeling certain individuals as criminals is not a neutral or objective activity. The capitalist criminal justice system is a tool invented by the rich to prevent not only theft by the poor, but also to repress rebellion. Budgetary allocations for its operations are secured by taxing its beneficiaries, i.e. elites. The ruling class’ policies deploy police, courts and prison warders to

uphold apparently liberal markets. Therefore, the masses are told to work hard, earn wages and buy property through “willing buyer, willing seller.” However, ambitious graduates are denied employment or opportunities of receiving affordable credit and cannot crack the market. Hence for generations, the underclasses are compelled to supply labour in factories, straining to enrich the owners of capital. Such exploitation is enforced by protecting private property against theft.

In authoritarian states, distorted criminal laws falsely label protesters as criminals. Political entrepreneurs unfairly branded as wrongdoers may not be inherently “bad” or any different from innocents. Jesus was crucified for violating blasphemy laws. Yet he was virtuous and preached love and tolerance. His political “crime” was that he discredited norms of hegemonic power brokers, the San Hadrian (Pharisees), that constrained religious and expressive freedoms.

# FOSTER FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT

By Dr. Eric Osoro  
Chair Education Department  
Africa Nazarene University

‘Tumaini’ can loosely be translated to mean ‘hope’ in English. Hope is an active process of conscious and unconscious logical thinking. It is a positive emotion we feel when we envision a brighter future thus often helps us through hard times. What pushes us to take steps to create a better tomorrow through sustaining optimism and resilience is Hope itself. Hope has remained to be one of the major things that many motivational speakers, preachers, academicians and business men use to motivate the masses in the world.

Motivational coaches will always tell you how the world is full of opportunities for all of us. Looking at what has been happening in the world of late then we are left with nothing other than having hope of conquering the many economic, social and political challenges facing the world.

For one to develop hope there is need to be systematic and intentional in all that one does. It is against this background that this article outlines some of the very important steps that can be followed so as to embrace hope. The young and the old need hope especially in the current circumstances where the world is faced with multi-faceted challenges ranging from pandemics, violence, war, ethnicity, corruption, fear of the unknown, economic meltdown and many more. The first step is to be prayerful. The Bible says in Matthew 21:22 “And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” Mark 9:29 And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.” Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, “whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Prayer is very key in whatever one does. Before you imagine doing anything, aspire to achieve something, one must begin by asking God for guidance, direction and grace.



The second step should be setting up of Goals. Any journey that has got no destination is useless. Progress can only be measured toward achieving a goal. They do help one to beat procrastination, motivate, achieve more and in measuring progress. The goals that are achievable but challenging at the same time.

One needs to learn to appreciate self and make it a habit to cheer up whenever encountered with challenges. It is wrong to always remain a pessimist. Learn to be optimistic in life. Happy are those who appreciate themselves. By acknowledging challenges and plateaus in life one is likely to come out of a tough situation or hardship stronger.

Look for role models to emulate. Who is a role Model? A role model is someone who inspires others, mainly younger generations, to follow a lifestyle, value-system, career path or acumen. Role models are important because they help one to psychologically make sound decisions that will affect life. They provide inspiration and support whenever it is needed. This is what one requires whenever faced with numerous challenges that sometimes seem to pull us down.

Finally, it is advisable to avoid having a fixed mentality. People who have a fixed mindset are more often with a belief that “one’s intelligence and talent are inborn”,

they tend to pass judgment that no matter how hard one works, there is no room for improvement and thereby not ready to face challenges. This is rather a backswept way of thinking that many of our youths find themselves in. One must have a growth mindset to face new challenges and to improve on his or her intelligence as well as other traits. A growth mindset provides an opportunity to think, believe in self growth and development. At times, a fixed mindset may make one believe that in life it is always success whereas on the other hand failure takes the lead which ultimately rounds to a setback experience.

Indeed the last two and a half years have been a challenge in all spheres with education being affected so much that the world had to change to the new normal. In the academic realm, rigidity to technology had been the order of the day for a long time and embracing the same technology was never welcome up until the moment COVID-19 hit the world. After the pandemic, hope became the song of the learners, the teachers, the parents as well as the governments. In the midst of hope, complaints of slow internet, lack of computer knowledge etc., became a story of the past for this was to be the only available way to continue learning.

Hope gave birth to creativity and innovations and there has never been such an urgent need in living memory

to maximize one's creativity to respond to life's matters than it has happened during the pandemic. Hope is the booster of one's capability and enabler of planning for responses. Majority of the people seemed to be so prepared but ultimately a few were able to make the necessary adjustments to cope up. Many of the university students felt like this was going to be the end of their education while others thought they would spend more time in college to complete their respective Certificates, Degrees and Diplomas, but to their surprise technology came in handy to mitigate this challenge.

This was a wakeup call to educational institutions all the way from the elementary levels to institutions of higher learning across the globe. Hope became the remedy that was administered across the world, among families, friends and acquaintances. For sure hope became like the "Balm of Gilead" we find in Jeremiah 8:22 with the ability to reduce inflammation in our hearts, soothe the skin, protect the immune system, eliminates pain, speeds healing, soothe the stomach, and detoxify the body. Just as the parable of the Sower, many fell on the wayside while others gave up but hope is still keeping you and I alive.

# REIMAGINING TOMORROW'S FUTURE TODAY

By Evans Kipkirui Langat, ANU Students Services Assistant and Class of 2015.

“Everybody thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing oneself” Leo Tolstoy. The future, folks, lies not ahead of us but in us. For this reason, investing into regular, progressive, and consistent value addition in ourselves goes a long way to shaping up Africa as a prosperous continent and beyond.

Ladies and gentlemen, growth projections for the 21st century global economy is skewed largely in the direction of the youth who are not just young at heart, outgoing, committed, disciplined and God fearing, but also that believe in their dreams and are willing to pay the ultimate price to realize these in due time and for posterity.

The best breeding ground for such transformative leaders and agents of change for this age group is none other than the institutions of higher learning, where academia is integrated with industrial training and students get opportunity to apply their entrepreneurial acumen through engagement with innovation centers, incubation centers and industrial parks.

Part of the Republic of China's dreams under president Xi Jinping is to lead the world economy by 2023. Major indicators thus far demonstrate the possibility of realizing that dream because the leadership believed and invested heavily in their people and institutions, with special focus to better systems, procedures, and processes.



My advice to you today is that no one is interested in your steep climb but rather, the world and indeed God is fully interested in your small, calculated, and steady progress and positive impact on humanity as part of the great commission bestowed upon each one of us. If all of us could therefore choose to be a person of CHARACTER, make daily decisions with COMPETENCE, and ensure all your engagements with COMMUNITY is of value, then automatically the world will be TRANSFORMED for the better.

Finally, we all know that a snail always leaves a MARK, and it's obvious that God values you more than a Snail, therefore leaving a positive mark must be the great option for the next generation and for God's glory.

# TAKING THE ANU MOTTO TO THE NEXT LEVEL THROUGH ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Virginiah Musawa  
Manager, ANU Alumni Relations

**T**he book of Habakkuk is a clear reminder of the importance of writing visions and waiting for an appointed time for their accomplishment.

Habakkuk 2:1-3 I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint. Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

Visions are clear when they are written down. There is a sense of ownership and desire to act on the things that we put down on paper. Two years ago, when the pandemic hit and suddenly all institutions needed to adapt new strategies for operational continuity, I was not so sure what this meant for my young department. I was worried, I prayed about and actually, against the pandemic. I was so new in this department, and I had not figured out many aspects of it. I barely knew two hundred alumni, yet I was needed to engage with over 10,000 alumni. I felt lost and discouraged. A month passed and another and the third month. I remember taking my notebook and re-writing things I needed to achieve within certain timelines. I started learning how to carry out successful webinars and calling for help from any person that would listen. Sooner rather than later we had our very first alumni webinar dubbed "Virtual Alumni High Tea with the Vice-Chancellor." It was a great event with 95% of all invited alumni attending from all round the globe. That event marked the beginning of a series of online webinars for Africa Nazarene University (ANU) Alumni.

I did not know this would be a starting point for many great online events that would benefit the ANU alumni fraternity all over the world. This platform has continued to link ANU Alumni to endless opportunities of work via networking, opportunity to mentor students, learn new skills in demand in the evolving global careers marketplace.



As we strive to excel in alumni engagement, we are learning everyday many ways in which ANU Alumni continue to transform the world as is the motto of the university, "what begins here transforms the world." We are shining bright like the stars in the global careers marketplace through our innovation and execution of great ideas.

Just last month, two alumni from the Computer Science department, School of Science and Technology, ANU made national and international headline news as trailblazers in the field; with Kendi Ntwiga (class of 2007), former Country Leader at Microsoft Kenya appointed the Global Head of Misrepresentation at social media giant Meta based in Ireland while the African Development Centre (ADC), Microsoft's premier engineering hub, announced the appointment of Catherine Muraga (class of 2002) as its Managing Director. I got to listen to the two ladies recently in one of the alumni webinars dubbed ANU Alumni Ladies Night and realized the power of writing your vision.

In line with the examples above, I am highly encouraging the graduating class of 2022 to write their vision board. Here are few tips to consider as you do that: Clearly write down the steps leading up to where you want to be in the next 5 or 10 years.

Courage to take up new tasks (do not be afraid to start and ask for help) Consistently work on your plan with diligence Get mentors- you can easily get middle level managers or established professionals from the alumni group.

Do not walk alone  
Congratulations class of 2022  
Welcome to ANU Alumni Association

# BELIEVING IN OURSELVES IN TIMES OF FAILURE

By: Denis Kariuki  
ANU Student Organization Chairperson  
L.T.M. Main Campus Ongata Rongai

The concept of failure is a myth. Failure is nothing more than a “missed mark.” It’s either an unrealized dream or a half-formed vision.

Even if our goal isn’t entirely accomplished, it’s not a cause to lose up on ourselves. However, we need to assign a label to our accomplishments because we are creatures of judgment. We’re keen to see how we match up with others. In certain circumstances, we do this as a way to reinforce a negative self-image or as a means of motivating ourselves to better.

No one has ever succeeded by dwelling on their failures. Despite this, paying attention to available information and opportunities is effective. Consider all of the astoundingly beautiful and valuable things that have resulted from alleged shortcomings in the past. In the words of Helen Keller, we frequently spend so much time focusing on the closed door of pleasure that we miss the one that has been opened for us.

When we encounter what we label “failure,” it serves as a wake-up call to dive deeper. It’s a call for us to tap into our inner resources. Lemonade is made out of the sour oranges that recently dropped from what we assumed was a lemon tree. Such an analogy explicates the leitmotif of not giving up.

However, it is simple to become mired in self-pity and blame ourselves for not having “made it.” At times, it is vital to handle unpleasant emotions such as despair, grief, and frustration. However, it would be preferable if we could move on swiftly. We must move on to preserve the potential contained in any “failed” event. We become more critical people due to our successes and failures. To have faith in oneself, it is essential to realize that we are not what we produce. Consequently, we are a synthesis of our human and spiritual selves. As vibrating beings on a journey, we are accumulating a range of life lessons.

Ever heard of the Old Persian fable of ‘The Scorpion and the Turtle’?

One lazy afternoon, a turtle was swimming happily along a lake. As the turtle was nearing land he heard a scorpion hail it from the muddy shore. A scorpion, being a very poor swimmer, asked the turtle if he would carry him on his back across the lake. The turtle thought it was the craziest thing he ever heard, “Why would I carry you on my back?” he boomed, ‘You’ll sting me while I’m swimming and I’ll drown.”

“My dear turtle friend,” laughed the scorpion, “if I were to sting you, you would drown and I would go down with you and drown as well. Now where is the logic in that?”

The turtle pondered this for a moment, and eventually saw the logic in the scorpion’s statement. “You’re right!” said the turtle with a smile. “Hop on!” So the scorpion climbed aboard and the turtle paddled his big fins in the water. Halfway across the lake the scorpion gave the turtle a big sting, and he started to drown. As they both sank into the water the turtle turned to the scorpion with a tear in his eye. “My dear scorpion friend, why did you sting me? Now we are both going to drown...” the turtle was gasping for air. “Where is the... logic in that?” “It has nothing to do with logic” the scorpion sadly replied, “It’s just my nature.”

Everyone wants to be deemed “worthy” in the eyes of others. Success and failure are two typical evaluative criteria. That is acceptable, as it is a natural aspect of life to generate and express new ideas. As long as these factors define or determine our unique worth, we have lost sight of our true selves. From the story, the turtle knew very well that it is the nature of the scorpion to sting. However, the turtle decides to take a risk of failure and gains the courage to trust the scorpion. The turtle survives the scorpion’s sting thanks to its

protective shell. If you were the turtle, would you ever trust the scorpion ever, and fail again? The advice would be, next time, fail better.' It is crucial to have confidence in ourselves at all times, especially when we feel the lows that accompany failure. There is always room for improvement, regardless of how significant or minor our achievements or setbacks may be. "Success is the progressive realization of a worthy goal"

When we can harness the force of self-belief and self-advocacy, we provide an opportunity for our enhancement to grow and aid us in facing life's worst setbacks. Failure consists solely of a closed door. Closed doors are not a novelty for you. There is nothing novel about the most recent development. It is

identical to the one you have previously encountered. Alternatively, it may be a problem in another element of life.

Recognize and rely on your resilience to continue advancing. Start looking for strategies to increase your network at the same time. It keeps you from becoming mired in remorse about something that has already occurred or a consequence never intended to happen. Do not feel alone or fearful. We are surrounded by a vast, supportive, energetic universe. In conclusion, as the Law of Rhythm states, everything in life is in perpetual motion and flux. Following the Law of Gravity, there will be an up where there is a down.



## ANU 2ND ANNUAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2022

**27-28TH OCTOBER**  
**9:00AM - 5:00PM**

*"Transforming Africa through Local Solutions: A New Paradigm for Research, Innovation and Development"*

### SPEAKERS



Dr. Jemimah Onsare, the Ag. Chief Executive Officer of National Research Fund (NRF).



Professor Goski Alabi



Dr. Anthony Mveyange, Executive Director, PASGR



Dr. Otieno Jowi

### CONFERENCE SUB-THEMES:

Authors are invited to submit original works in relevant fields, including, but not restricted to the subthemes given below:

1. Religion and Ethics.
2. Industry and Innovation
3. Information and Communication Technology.
4. Legal, Cultural and Social Development.
5. Environment, Natural Resource Management, Climate Change, and Food Security.
6. Humanities and Social Sciences (Education, Science, and Technology, Governance Peace and Security, Mass com, Community Development, Counselling Psychology)

### IMPORTANT DATES:

ACTIVITY	DATE	TIME
Call for Abstracts Submission	23 <sup>rd</sup> May 2022	5:00pm
Abstracts Submission	15 <sup>th</sup> May to 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	
Communication on Accepted Abstracts	3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2022 - 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	5:00pm
Pre-Conference Online Training on Research Paper Writing	10 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	9:30am - 12:30pm
Full Papers plus their Power Point Presentations Submission	3 <sup>rd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	5:00pm
Release of Conference Programme & Book of Abstracts	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	5:00pm
Oral Presentation of Conference Papers	27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	9:00am-5:00pm
Issuance of Certificates for Conference Participation	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	4:00pm
Publication of Presented Papers as Conference Proceedings	30 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	5:00pm

For registration click [here](#)

For pricing click [here](#)

For submission of abstract click [here](#)

For more information contact  
+254 778884309 or [conference.anu.ac.ke](mailto:conference.anu.ac.ke)



AFRICA NAZARENE  
UNIVERSITY

# ANU ALUMNI



*What begins here, transforms the world*

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ASPIRE 2022

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## PICTORIAL



ANU Vice-chancellor Dr. Bhebhe officially welcomes 2022 Kajiado Gubernatorial candidates Hon. Ole Lenku, Hon. Nkedianye and Hon. Kago to the gubernatorial debate hosted by ANU, 25th June 2022



The official launch of ANU Legal Clinic, 6th April 2022



A model in smooth transition of power! ANUSC Leadership 2021\_2022 (1st - 3rd left) handover to the 2022-2023 leadership team (1st - 4th right)



2022 Kajiado Senatorial candidates pose on stage with representatives of the management of ANU following the Senatorial debate on 17th June 2022 hosted by ANU Debate 3



One of a kind alumni reunion! Now working with Nazarene Youth International (NYI) at different locations across Africa, these alumni spent the week of 11th - 18th Feb 2022 in Nairobi on a work trip that included



Lawyers, Scholars and Constitutionalism

## PICTORIAL



When you finally get to show off your dance skills during ANU Cultural Week



ANU 2022 Soccer Tournament finals pitting team Allen and team Lunar against each other. Team Allen emerged victorious!



When it's ANU Cultural Week and you're proudly Burundian!



The amount of talent witnessed on the Miss and Mr. ANU 2022 runway was incredible and transcended fashion! Well done to all the contestants!



Merab Adisa, BA Mass Communication. '23 and Shaquille Mwasharif, BSc. International Business Management. '23, Miss and Mr. ANU 2022\_2023



ANU Forces - 1st runners-up, Kenya University Sports Association (KUSA) National Rugby Championships 2022

# WE MUST STAY THE COURSE!

Anna Muange, B.Ed. Primary with Special Needs.  
'22

The guest of honor, Hon. Justice Martha K. Koome, EGH, Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya; the Chancellor, Dr. Jerry Lambert; Chair of the board of Trustees, Rev. Donald Wesley Gardner; Chair of the University Council, Rev. Dr. Gabriel Benjiman; the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Stanley Bhebhe; members of the Board of Trustees, members of the University Council, members of the University Senate, distinguished guests and speakers, parents and guardians, the distinguished graduating class of 2022, ladies and gentlemen, greetings!

On behalf of the graduating class, I convey sincere gratitude to Africa Nazarene University for giving us the opportunity to learn and grow into competent citizens who are well equipped to be the change our world needs; our parents, guardians, sponsors, and well-wishers whose support made our educational journey possible amidst many odds; and finally, our colleagues and peers at ANU and beyond for the shared experiences, friendship, encouragement and helping us dream.

I am absolutely humbled to be standing here on behalf of the graduating class of 2022. Thank you all for joining us on this auspicious occasion. I remember the moment I learnt that I was the valedictorian, class of 2022. I was over the moon; the feeling was amazing. Then it dawned on me that I had to address hundreds of people, "what will I say?" well... God has guided me. We have had many shared experiences at ANU. Moments of school pride when colleagues, some sitting in the audience here today won accolades in various competitions; team spirit as we cheered on our sports teams, gave back through community service. We also have had our own unique experiences, a combination of good and bad times including, sometimes, last-minute studying for exams. I hope the times of laughter and joy far exceed the not so wonderful times.

It has been a journey laden with hard work and sacrifice. We began as full-time students, school-based students and others, part-time students. Then Corona Virus happened and there was a complete shift in the way of doing things. Were it not for our adaptability, that disruption would have gotten in the way of our success. I can confidently say that we are a special lot; a people



who can embrace change. To quote the Irish author James Joyce: "Better pass boldly into that other world in the full glory of some passion than fade and wither dismally with age". I believe we as the class of 2022 have exemplified this statement. Of course, we could not have done this without the unending support of our lecturers, family and friends. We must bring this same dynamic spirit to this next chapter of our lives, our professional careers. To be the change makers that will bring our dreams and aspirations for Africa to fruition.

When I think about Africa, I envision a continent whose education system is built upon equality and quality. I dream of an Africa that acknowledges education as the key to a peaceful, inclusive, goal-driven and successful society. For us to attain this, there must be transformation in Africa's leadership. Leaders in Africa must prioritize education; quality education at that. They need to acknowledge that failure in governance is a reflection of failure in the education system which translates to failure in the society. The vices that choke our continent can be fought by taking pride in our diversity as Africans, acknowledging our common future and a reset of mindsets towards making our motherland a better place.

Class of 2022, our graduation day was once only a dream, but because we stayed the course, here we are, celebrating. Today marks the end of an extraordinary chapter in our lives. I am certain that many of us are anxious about starting the next one because unlike a storybook, we cannot skip through the pages of life to see how long the next chapter is going to be. It is my hope that we are going to take charge and journey that chapter along the character-moral highway. Always remember that it is our choices that show what we truly are far more than our abilities. What we make of ourselves, what we make of our lives is to a great degree a matter of choice - our choice and our responsibility.

Congratulations class of 2022! We made it!

# VISIONS FOR AFRICA'S TOMORROW

Stephen Kamau Nderu, B.Sc. Procurement and Supply Chain Management. '23

A few years ago, I set off to college on a journey of intellectual discovery. I had a lot of unanswered questions as to what possibilities Africa Nazarene University, located in the big city of Nairobi held for this boy from Muranga County who had a big vision for the African continent. Coming to ANU unfolded a package college experiences I'll live to cherish. My time here cultivated in me leadership skills and a passion to forge a path towards active leadership in the community. In so doing, I have developed a personal sense of responsibility for participating in shaping the Africa we want. This vision must be enhanced through integration of youth leadership. We must redesign the current nature of citizen engagement on the continent - be proactive in the setting of the agenda for our governments and work to hold them accountable.

I am convinced that quality youth engagement is crucial for sustainable development. I am also convinced that advocating for African cooperation can unlock unprecedented growth in Africa in two ways: One, redesigning political, economic and social discourse in Africa, and two, bridging the gap between public policy leaders and young thought leaders, for I believe in establishing and promoting a system that encourages and enables citizens to collaborate with governments to achieve mutually-defined goals. I am convinced that there is no further time to waste since "what begins here in ANU transforms the world"

To me, my Africa Nazarene University experience is evocative of a lit candle. I'd give it the scent of roses because just like roses, it bloomed despite odds and thorns. As this candle slowly dims and its feckers of light go out, I reckon the beginning of the end to my undergraduate experience. This candle has been a



lot of things. At times beautiful, scary, hot, super-cold at times, challenging and exciting. The blend of everything and anything goes without saying, and it's an EXPERIENCE.

# ADVANCE SENSE OF PURPOSE TO TRANSFORM THE WORLD

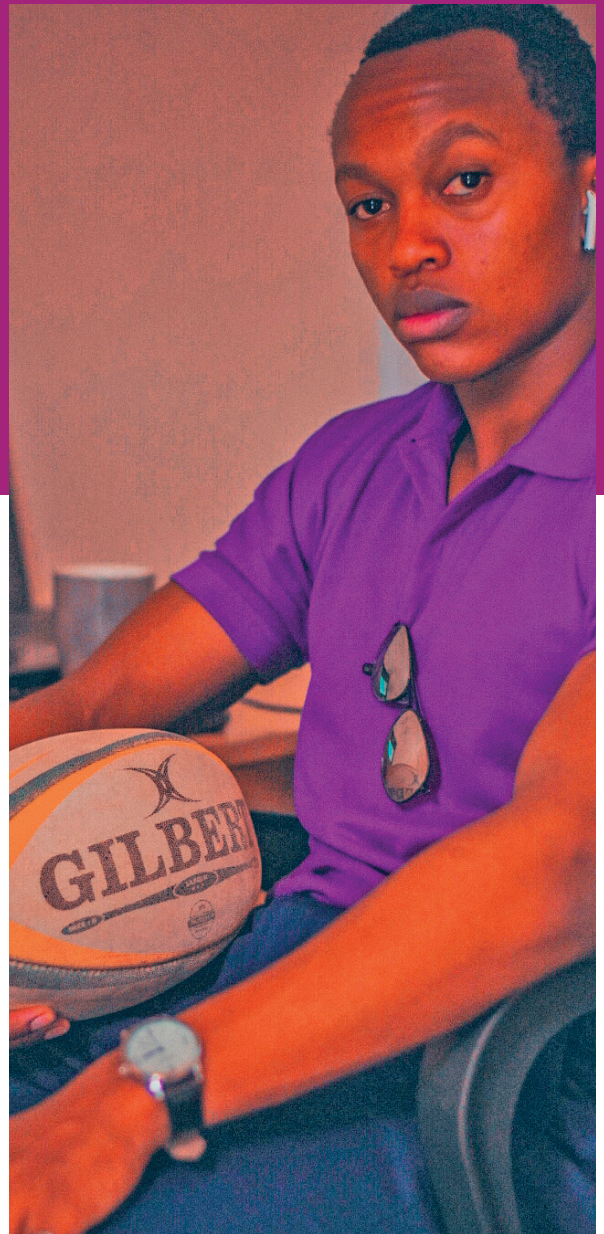
By Jeremiah Wandati Mbatai, BCom, Finance. '22

Someone asked 'what are the richest places on earth?' Kenyans might think of Nairobi suburbs; Burundians - Bujumbura suburbs, and Rwandans, Nyarutarama. Funny as this may sound though, the richest places on earth are gravesites. Underneath these graves lie talent that was never utilised, skills that were never fully applied.

Martin Luther King Jr (1929 - 1968) was a man that is believed to have lived with an advanced sense of purpose. He was an ordinary man, a complex man with several layers to his character. There was the pleasure loving King who loved nice clothes, food, dance and mischievous behaviour. There was the practical King wanting to solve people's problems and think things through thoroughly.

These different layers are a part of human nature, true of everyone. Often, they conflict within which causes us to have different moods, sometimes doubt. This causes us to agonise over decisions. Sometimes we also imagine that we are not worthy of roles we have been called to play. At some points in life, we lack a sense of cohesion and direction, and this inner chaos actually causes us pain. We often wander through life never quite realising our potential. To soothe this pain of aimlessness, we might enmesh ourselves in various addictions or even pursue different new forms of pleasure.

In this dilemma, the only solution is to find a higher sense of purpose, a mission that spurs us in our own direction, not that of our parents, friends or peers.



Martin Luther King expressed this by saying 'we have a responsibility to set to discover what we are made of, to discover our life's work, to discover what we are called to do. And after we discover that, we should set out to do it with all the strength and all of the power that we can master.'

As we class of 2022 go out there to transform the world may we all find a purpose as Friedrich Nietzsche once said "man would rather have the void as purpose than be void of purpose"

# AFRICA OF INFINITE FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

Dancan Wafula, BCom, Marketing. '22

**W**hat makes Africa great? Is it the people, cultural heritage and diversity, wealth of natural resources, the magnificent tourist attractions?

I find it so rewarding speaking, with true passion, about the greatness of our continent - Africa. Her uniqueness lies, to a great extent, in her rich endowment with natural resources including precious minerals such as diamond; Gold; Iron; Oil, and natural gas. Africa is the world's second-largest continent; also renown as home to the oldest recorded remains of early its habitants to the first species of humankind in history according to Sir Charles world's longest river, River Nile? Fascinating, right?

It is crystal clear that Africa possesses greatness; perhaps more than any other continent and carries great potential for growth and development. I visualize Africa with and the right aptitude and capacity investments, as a continent with endless opportunities; from Agriculture to Sustainable Technology, peaceful co-existence and a diversity of cultures that enhance life experience for all.

With the current trajectory in technological advancements, Africa is transforming from traditional knowledge to modern science and transformative technology that will further enhance industrialization, food security among other sectors; in essence, improving the quality of life. A continent that is free from poverty, and harmful customs that enable gender-based violence, forced marriages, economic exploitation among other practices that undermine the rights and dignity of people.

Rosabeth Moss Kanter once said, "A vision is not just a picture of what could be, it is an appeal to our better



selves, a call to become something more". Therefore, it is our responsibility to build a continent where the next generation will be happy with what it is and build on it for the future.

"What begins here, Transforms the World". The ANU motto is a call to action for us as a community to envision Africa and the world's future of great possibilities and work at realizing these visions.

Darwin's evolution theory. Well, did you know that the world's largest, hot desert – the

Sahara is in Africa? Did you know that the largest waterfall in the world is lies at the border of Zimbabwe and Zambia, the Victoria Falls? Did you know that Africa is the home of the

# BROADEN YOUR MINDS, THERE ARE LOTS OF JOBS OUT THERE!

By Henry Otulo Lisege, LLB. '25

Two articles in the media this past year still depress and elate me in equal measure. They show how the world has changed while some of us are clueless about the changes. The reality is that your technical qualifications may no longer be useful in making sure you have food on your table: the world has gone soft skills. The biggest impediment to this new phenomenon is the unaware, undiscerning employer who is neither bold nor invested enough to encourage the worker to develop soft skills but is quick to blame the education system for churning out irrelevant skills into the job market. What is the point of complaints that doctors, lawyers, teachers, or engineers are trained poorly when all you need them for in your setup is public relations and customer care, the world's top-dollar career?

Samuel Gachini, a PhD student, lamented that he is jobless in an article titled Learned but jobless: PhD student makes ends meet in taxi business (Daily Nation, Friday, July 19, 2019). The unawareness of what the world needs today in this article is so depressing, but Gachini has done well: it is the dream of many a youth to go to school and to get to drive their own cars. Gachini has done both, ironically, courtesy of his joblessness situation.

Mary Muthee is a trained medical doctor, an article titled 'The medical doctor with a passion for customer' (Saturday Nation, July 13, 2019) says, but she left a well-paying job in her field because the bug of customer experience and public relations hit her. The awareness of the doors soft skills can open today in this article is so refreshing, though Mary is driven by passion, it goes to show that technical skills alone may not be the be-all and end-all especially in the new decade that just begun.

The life stories of Gachini and Muthee speak to broadened minds; only that Gachini has not realised this and is still looking for a job! Circumstance or passion led both Gachini and Muthee to work in customer care and public relation jobs where repeat customers are key. Largely, quality customer care and public relation skills are also equated to great leadership which the Bob Collymore phenomenon shows works wonders on the corporate scene today.

The late Bob Collymore, immediate former Chief Executive Officer of Safaricom PLC, is celebrated today on account of his soft skills. While you are still hankering after qualifications from Ivy-league universities, he gave



up an opportunity to study at a leading university in the United Kingdom because he was ineligible for scholarship. But this did not stop him from making a name for himself on the world stage. I have argued that not everybody is so gifted, and so I urge all of us to go to school and aim to broaden our minds and get the exposure, and not just aim to get employed. This, I believe, is what informs the change of the education curriculum in Kenya to Competency-based in order to bring out our talents.

I work in the telecommunications industry and there are legions of sales, public relations, and marketing job opportunities; and I am depressed when I read in the media about qualified graduates looking for jobs they say they cannot find. In this industry, the driver is sales and marketing and the customer care and public relations]. Basically, success in sales is about repeat customers, and a good salesperson earns more money in commissions than any fixed-salary employee in most organisations would ever earn in a lifetime. We should urge graduates to broaden their thinking and dissuade them from waiting for the government to create technical jobs for them.

It is time for a paradigm shift- technical skills alone may not get you anywhere in the job market today as those jobs are few and far between. You do not necessarily have to work as a teacher, doctor, lawyer, or engineer if you are so trained. Grass will grow between your legs if you wait to get the job that matches your technical skills; this is akin to preparing to live in penury all your life: pecuniary benefits have since moved to soft skills. The world today is interested in how well you can communicate and articulate issues; your analytical and critical-thinking skills; your interpersonal and public relations skills and how well you can work in a team setting; your initiative, leadership, confidence, and problem-solving skills; your adaptability and flexibility; and your attitude and work ethic.

# CONTEMPORARY LEADERSHIP

By Dominic Onderi Nyabuto, B.Ed. '22

A contemporary leader is someone who is influenced by their collaborators while they work together to achieve real change. They also know that in an uncertain time like this, their desires to grow and expand must withstand a lot of pressure, uncertainty and chaos. This contemporary leadership style is most sought after, in the present times.

It believes that leadership is so much like parenting in the present times. Leadership is viewed not as individual effort, but also takes into consideration the group influenced and the joint effort put in by all to bring desired results. Leadership is a set of functions covering at least three variables: the leader, their followers and conditions dictated by the situation. Leadership is a plethora of combinations formed by these variables. So, according to leadership theorists and experts, whilst management is considered a rational social activity, a formal leader concentrates their effort to achieve organizational goals. A manager acts according to the determined responsibility and procedures, and does not actually create something new in contrary; whereas, a leader, forms assignments and seeks for innovation.

A visionary leader dreams about the future and translates dreams into specific, achievable goals; is able to articulate them with great inspiration and thus win over the commitment of others. A visionary leader must espouse personal integrity; a radiating sense of energy; vitality and positive core values.



They exercise moral leadership when elevated in power rather than becoming corrupted by power. They maintain good relations with their charges; adopting a deeply caring approach to people, inspiring people to better themselves, giving them a new sense of hope and confidence, transforming old mental maps or paradigms, and creating “out of the box” unconventional and innovative strategies to actualize new vision through broad and systemic thinking and keeping the big picture in mind. These are some of the highlights of this type of leadership; the type of leadership that will turn the vision and dreams we have for Africa into reality. Students in schools, more so our universities, ought to learn contemporary leadership skills and decision making so that they can be fit for leadership in our 21st century.

# ADVERSITY

By Brandon Muchori Nyagechi, BA Criminal Justice & Security Management. '24

The average teenager is faced with seemingly endless challenges to their wellness. These days, no taking heart. Gloom and despondency linger, so prevalent and perhaps getting worse you can almost reach out and touch it. Terms such as depression are commonplace. An abstract conviction selling like hot cake in demand at every corner store. Good old rejection is at the top of that list. Often a swift punch right where it hurts. When you first met them, the energy was good, all the signs that it works out. They made you believe that they are interested. You interpreted that wrong. Fueled by false high hopes, you made a move. Only, the other person did not see you that way. After putting your heart on the fine-thin line, you end up devastated. Alone and feeling useless. Don't. Do not dare wake up. Sleep has never been better. You know it is sad, really disheartening that a few days ago you couldn't get even a wink of sleep. The passion had devoured everything in its path, regular or odd. It took you hostage; made you feel its fiery flames and the terror it carries too. The dark. The silence. Chills. The hardest time to be alive, three thirty in the AM. Insomnia. Your beloved, prepossessing consort who always saddles you down.

It was heaven delivered express to you. Custom, just how you liked it. You were so high. You were surely cruising, love was easy. Love was beautiful and it kept you going. Attraction in its virgin form, utter bliss. You couldn't see it even if it was coming straight at you. The little things you swept under the rug, the red flags you were quick to shush. They came at you, every skeleton in their closet. They didn't teach it to dance, and it came out. Shattering and spattering every little lie you had believed. It went south, it died out, but you still fixate. Your fixation on them makes you reminisce and now you can't get a move on.



Most of the time, you cry yourself to sleep. A seductive pull to self-damage tugs at your senses. It hankers you to put yourself down, right at rock bottom. Physically or psychologically. You think you are sick. You believe that too. Your mind becomes a prison, the walls of that prison are covered in fabricated deception. It is fiction. It could be different you know. If you raise your voice and speak up. If you avow that you are fragmented, panic-stricken and insecure over certain emotions, you will get help. We all have unresolved issues, demons and battles we face every day. That, however, does not mean that we are alone. Power in numbers, in the words of Alan Walker: 'we are unity'.

# HOPE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT.

By Michelle Otieno, B.Ed. Geography & Kiswahili. '24

**M**y name is Michelle Otieno; a second year student at Africa Nazarene University (ANU), pursuing Bachelor of Education with a double major in Geography and Kiswahili. I am the current Miss Environment ANU 2022/2023. I am passionate about environmental conservation and mental health, and dedicate a lot of resources to activism for these causes. Working as the school's ambassador has been amazing in that I have represented the school in a multitude of diverse events for environmental management. Before and even with the title, I have been able to undertake activities such as tree growing; rivers and land clean ups; uprooting of invasive species and many school tours that educate primary and high school students on environmental care.

'TUMAINI' is a Swahili word that means 'hope'. I would like to talk about my hope for our future Earth. As someone who is also passionate about modeling and pageantry, I want my craft to have a purpose not only for me but for others as well. That when I walk in front of people, I represent something deeper than the walk. What came to my mind was modeling for the cause of conservation. I believe that to be a queen, one needs to have the virtue of love. One, this love is for oneself and loving oneself regardless; believing in oneself and having high self-esteem. Two, this love is for others and being able to think about others' welfare. Thinking of a purpose for my modeling, I naturally gravitated towards representing the environment agenda. Becoming a conservation model.

Since then, I have taken the initiative of presenting the environment agenda at every pageant I attend; seizing every opportunity to share my motive, purpose, agenda, and championing action for the environment. To do justice to this role, I have been doing my research: studying about climate change and the global environmental crisis. I have consequently been



able to educate primary and high school students as well as my peers at universities about environmental stewardship and care. Even as I explore bigger pageants and opportunities, my main goal is for the important matter of environment consciousness at the center of every conversation.

My hope for Africa is a thriving environment for us all and our future generations. I believe all this can happen if we all honor our part in caring for the earth. Let us re-use plastics, let us not dispose of trash anyhow, let us grow more trees, let us take part in environmental clean ups, let us sensitize the community about environmental care. Let us be part of the solution and not the problem. There is hope for the Earth. There is hope for Africa.

# HOPE IN THE COMPETENCY BASED CURRICULUM

By Anne Kiniaru, B.Ed. Primary Option with Special Needs. '22

The Ministry of Education, Kenya, changed the school curriculum from the 8-4-4 system to the competency-based curriculum (CBC) in the year 2017. As a primary school teacher, I can confidently say that this has brought hope not only to our country, Kenya but the entire African continent. The 8-4-4 system was encumbered with many challenges, including increased unemployment rates. It concentrated mainly on acquisition of knowledge. Of what benefit is it to have knowledge that finds no application in the workplace? Cases of dropouts from school was rampant due to unhealthy competition. If one was not an 'A' student, then there was barely any space for them in society. Also, let's think about the increased vices in the community. Unfortunate scenarios regularly visit our screens. Indeed, there was need to review and change our education system.

The review gave birth to the competency-based curriculum. This curriculum came to change the situation and give us hope. Its focus is the competency of learners rather than the content. What should a learner do with the acquired knowledge? Let's take an example from music grade 4, a strand on rhythms and melodies. After a teacher facilitates the lesson, the learner applies that knowledge to compose and perform a song. In the process, talent is discovered and nurtured. Take this example and think about the future, we can genuinely anticipate having musicians who will not have to pay other people to produce their songs. The issue of the practicability of knowledge runs in all the learning areas. This system will produce self reliant citizens.



CBC emphasizes eight core values integrated in every lesson. The values will curb the rampant vices in the country.

With all the people in Africa possessing the values of integrity, responsibility, respect, unity, peace, patriotism, social justice and the greatest of them all, love, the world can only be such a beautiful place. Let's keep up the hope that CBC stays and blooms for all the countries of Africa to embrace it. Let's have Tumaini for our future generations.



# THE FUTURE IS FEMALE.

By Beth Wesonga, BCom,  
Marketing. '23

The first time I got on an escalator, I was terrified because I did not know how to operate it, but it was the only, fast way to get to my destination. I focused on my goal, my destination. It also helped to watch the people who were ahead of me. With my head questioning every step of the way, I finally made it to the top. My experience reminds me of a phrase that is commonplace today, the 'future is female'. I am sorry to say, I doubted it, especially for Africa where the political systems have historically been male dominated. We have a dream, yes, but it would be very difficult to achieve. But isn't that the beauty of dreams?

January 2021 marked a huge milestone towards that dream for women all over the world, when Kamala Harris was elected the first female vice-president of the United States of America. Women all over the world were inspired and delighted at having a woman hold such a powerful position in such a powerful country. In Kenya, May 2022, one of the coalition parties vying for the country's Presidency unveiled a female vice-president candidate, Martha Karua. Regardless of the election outcome, this signals progression towards the dream.

Women in leadership has been an active topic of discussion on various platforms across Africa; with the idea being to encourage women to embrace leadership. Women have executed various leadership roles in Africa; for instance, the democratically elected president Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia; President Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania and Kenya's Chief Justice, Martha Koome. These contemporary women



leaders keep alive the light that was historically lit by the likes of Albertina Nontsikelelo of South Africa and Mekatilili wa Menza of Kenya just to name a few, who fought for our freedom alongside our fore fathers, demonstrating woman leadership long before it was a notion society took notice of.

Women play an important role in cultivating peace, security and freedom in the society. However, they seldom get recognition for their contribution. But women like Tanzania's 6th President are proven leaders. We have a long way to go but, as we have a dream, as Martin Luther King II said, we have nothing to fear.

# IS AFRICA SAFE IN THE HANDS OF ITS 21ST CENTURY CHILDREN?

By Benson Otieno, LLB. '22

I cannot speak for angels or preach for Paul about Africa, but I can tell you that Africa's fields are ripe for harvest, but who will carry the sheaves away?

I picture a lovely, wealthy, and healthy mother Africa unable to feed her children because of her tainted conscience. I foresee a Mother Africa who is unconcerned about teaching her children civic ethics. I observe African sons and daughters who have received technical and theoretical training but have no access to social and political skills and knowledge. I observe African sons and daughters who grow up to be excessively individualistic and oblivious to society. Then I see Africa succumbing to corruption. Oh, the misery of civic illiteracy and immorality.

We can talk about the potential and power of regional integration for Africa's economic prosperity, or prospect of catalyzed technological development and skills. But we must be reminded of Thomas Reid's 'Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man,' published in 1786, which included the adage, "A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. To illustrate, I take a pragmatic example of how this aphorism manifest in GPA calculations throughout my undergraduate studies: indeed, the strength of the GPA is determined by the worst grade achieved, even if the other grades on the list are excellent.



Corruption is the weakest link in Africa's strong chain, and it is a cancer brought on by bad governance and bad politics. Indeed, corruption is a symptom of a larger problem: a lack of civic ethics. However, teaching civic morals in primary schools is the solution to the lack of public morality. Traditionally, grandparents would sit grandchildren around the fireside and impart wisdom through tales and poems. However, that institution for passing over the baton to future generations has been eroded.

Hence, we must not only consider Africa via an economic lens, but also concentrate on improving our leadership and politics, as well as exploring cultural and linguistic linkages, in order to catalyze Africa's long-term growth potential.

# KENYA, A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH

By Kipyegon G. Koech, LLB. '24



There has never been a better time than the present to be born Kenyan. Such a bold statement to make you might think, but it's true. Perhaps the name 'Kenya' reminds you of BBC's recent documentary titled 'Kenya's Hidden Epidemic' that addressed gender-based violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. Maybe you think of Vice's own 'Kenya's Police Killing Epidemic'. To some, it might be thought of food prices that have gone through the roof in the last few months and very likely, the never-ending reports of corruption. How then is it good to be born into these conditions? Is there a good side to Kenya? Kenya is gold for two reasons: her potential and aspirations. However, our myopic tendencies as citizens has led us to enrich outsiders with our resources whilst we remain poor. Kenya's external debt as of the year 2022 stands at KES 4.1 trillion, with China accounting for 67% of this figure. China has, over the past decade, invested a lot in African countries through the Belt and Road Initiative and Kenya is at the top of the list. They have been involved in infrastructure projects that includes roads, railways, ports and dams. What gives? What is it that China sees in Kenya that we may be missing? In this scenario, Kenya is like the famed 'Lady in Red' that Chris De Burgh sang about.

Here's the problem I see with this scenario, though. The risk is too great of history repeating itself and selling out our land for peanuts and falling back into the claws of colonialism. With the shadow of debt looming over the country, loss of some of her assets/autonomy in case of default on any of the loans is plausible and this would effectively return us to a colony status.

Kenyans are brilliant people. One of the decisions I applaud the Kenyan leadership the most for is investment in education. In January 2003, free education at all public primary schools was introduced in Kenya. Five years later, secondary education in the country took a similar course. Consequently, the

number of university enrollment doubled between 2012 and 2014. Hopefully, we shall see the same happen with institutions of higher learning in the future but as for now, we give credit where it is due. The Ministry of Education unveiled the competency-based curriculum (CBC) in 2017, with the aim of unlocking learners' full potential as opposed to its predecessor of thirty-two years, the 8-4-4 system which was more about grasping theoretical concepts than practical application of what is learnt. The fact that Kenya took the step of correcting a heavily flawed system is further proof of the pursuit of knowledge for all here.

Kenya has set her sights on building world-class cities. Just like Akon City set to be built in Senegal and Uganda, Kigali Innovation City in Rwanda, and Hope City in Ghana, Kenya's Silicon Savannah also known as Konza City is slowly but surely taking shape. Engineer John Tanui, CEO of Konza Technopolis says, "Konza will be a world-class smart city, powered by a thriving and progressive Information Communication Technology (ICT) sector; superior, reliable infrastructure, and business-friendly governance, policy and regulatory frameworks". The project has faced its fair share of challenges but will definitely open gateways for employment, education, and economic flourishing. Sadly, most people have their eyes closed to these things. We want to rely on incentives from politicians who instead of fighting to hold on to our resources, are selling out Kenya for dismal personal gain. If this persists, we will still be crying about historical injustices a century from today. Such is life, those who are not wise with what they have in hand will always suffer. If you are wise enough, you now know what to watch out for in the coming polls. Remember, just because we cannot see it, doesn't mean everybody else isn't. Kenya is a diamond in the rough.

# LEADERSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: AFRICA'S ROADMAP TOWARDS TRANSFORMATION

By Joshua Kalamu, BSc. In Environment & Natural Resource Management – Environmental Science. '22

Global constructs of a reimagined planet earth abound. Different concepts are continually being developed in building the ideal tomorrow, and Africa can no longer be ignored in this global reinvention. Having a negative history of governance problems and resource misappropriation, it is high time that the “mother of mankind” shifts her ideals. All is not lost, though, as there is hope in the youth of Africa, for a better tomorrow. A generation of transformed minds, and rekindled possibilities. Carrying the wisdom and lessons of previous generations, Africa's youth are well equipped with the skills and motivation to lead the continent into a better tomorrow.

It has been quite invigorating, hearing calls for the involvement of youth in leadership dominate public discourse. My greatest desire is that the political voices leading the charge, move past verbal enthusiasm, into actualizing leadership that is anchored on the youth. I am especially keen on the journey towards environmental sustainability, and sustainable development. Has leadership in Africa done enough to inspire and facilitate action towards sustainability? Fortunately, there are standards that have been developed to guide us towards the vision of a global green economy. Africa's youth are already taking their position in this charge, promoting environmental and socio-economic development in the continent.



Picture with me a scenario in which government intervenes effectively for resource efficiency and clean production practices across industries. Africa would end up salvaging her natural resource base, whilst firmly on a path to poverty eradication. Seeing the youth in Kenya proactively engaged on matters of sustainable resource management such as agroforestry and agricultural production bringing us closer to our food security goals is quite inspiring. Nevertheless, interventions must transcend agriculture – there is a lot of advocacy work to be done. One does not have to wade into politics to push for development and implementation of sound policies. They can start by volunteering to community development programs and, small strides such as this, coupled with a renewal of perspectives in our communities will lay the foundation for a better tomorrow.

# LEARNING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC: REFLECTIONS ON LESSONS FOR TOMORROW

By Ngure Githinji, MBA-Project Management. '22

I joined Africa Nazarene University (ANU) to pursue a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in project management in September 2019. This was my first foray into distance learning. I did expect to have some contact learning as well as regular access to the campus, physical resources, and facilities of ANU. This was true of 2019 as I had some sit-in sessions and sit-in examinations at the Nairobi Campus of ANU in the month of December.

In March 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic became a reality in Kenya. The ANU fraternity had to adapt to this new reality and figure out how to effectively teach and learn using digital and online resources where there was little to no physical contact. In May 2020, ANU migrated to a fully online mode of teaching and learning which included integrating zoom sessions and online examinations. I even did my project using purely online resources and online data collection.

One of the programmes I am involved in at Don Bosco Youth Educational Services, Pedagogue.21, is concerned with teaching and learning for the 21st Century. We ask what the nature of work, life and jobs will be in 2050 and beyond. The honest answer is that we do not know. How then can educators, learners and people in general prepare to face the challenges of the labour market and society in the later part of 21st Century if they don't know what to expect?

The principles and strategies used in Pedagogue.21 and my own experiences as a student form my reflections on learning for the future.

Adaptability is key to learning. COVID has taught us that we must be ready for anything and adapt to new realities. Once a new reality is accepted, there is no going back. It is highly unlikely that teaching and learning shall revert to the 'traditional' method



of purely face-to-face. The value of digital and online resources cannot be overstated.

Self-learning is something we must embrace. This is how we identify our own learning requirements, set learning goals, locate relevant resources, and assess our own knowledge. We need to cultivate the competencies to learn how to learn. This goes hand in hand with lifelong learning. Learning is an integral part of life. One of the core principles we must incorporate in life is continued learning.

We need to pay attention to the 4Cs for the 21st century. These are communication which is the ability to share and receive information with people from various backgrounds; collaboration which is the ability to work with others; critical thinking which is the ability to come up with your own answers rather than relying on other's answers; and creativity which is the ability to use your imagination to find solutions. The importance of these 4Cs has been amplified by digitization, the internet and the fourth industrial revolution.

Jacques Delors in his report of 2001 to UNESCO called Education: A Treasure to Discover, aptly summarised the tenets of teaching and learning into four pillars: learning to know, learning to do, learning to live, and learning to be. There has never been a better time to reflect on these as now.

# MY VISION FOR AFRICA AND HER YOUTH

By Keith Albert '25

Projections show that by 2050, Africa's population will double. By 2100, one in three people on Earth will be African. By the end of the century, sub-Saharan Africa—which already has an extraordinarily young population—will be home to almost half of the young people in the world (The Economist) The need for youth involvement has never been more urgent.

Africa's young leadership means opportunity and innovation for the continent's future. It's a massive opportunity because, by definition, the youth bring fresh ideas to the table. In the context of Africa, we see that freshness of ideas is manifested in the type of entrepreneurial spirit that is taking place across the continent. And this spirit of fresh ideas holds the seeds of promise and progress in all sectors of African life.

Innovation is critical as well. Thoughtful leaders understand the power of transformative innovation. And young African leaders, who have grown up in an era of innovation and disruption, know that innovative ideas manifested into solutions hold the seeds of great prosperity for the continent and its people.

However, there is far much more to be done in terms of inclusion, for opportunity and innovation to take root in the widest and most meaningful sense. Both these concepts cannot be fully realized without a rethink and a new interpretation of inclusiveness. For example, we need new approaches to financial inclusion to ensure that brilliant ideas progress to execution and are not snipped in the bud due to lack of access to financing. If this is properly addressed, we can begin to see prosperity unleashed in a broad sense.

As we forge ahead, I would like to see African leaders understand that sustainable development and environmental conservation can only be promoted in an atmosphere of peace and stability. Ethnic strife



and civil and cross-border wars must not be allowed to continue destroying human life and our fragile environment, in which sustainable development is supposed to be rooted. The process of democratisation is slow, and the strategies in which governments support rather than supplant competitive markets are still far away. I would like to see this corrected.

I am looking to see collective self-reliance being actualised. The present alarming dependence on money and supplies, either in grants or loans from outside, has to be curtailed by promoting self-reliance. Labour is generally assumed to be abundant in Africa. This is not entirely true. Seasonal distribution is not even, and brain drain is alarming. Quite often, labour is not available at an affordable cost. Therefore, human resource development is crucial in terms of skills and availability. This calls for pragmatic education and adequate incentives.

I would like to see local talent and skills valued and promoted. To alleviate the challenge of brain drain from Africa to the West in search of greener pastures, African governments must value local talent ahead of expatriates. Two key agenda on the international relations front should be a paradigm shift from 'aid' to better trade and productive economic partnerships; and investment into climate change mitigation proportionate to the respective economies' carbon footprint. Graduands, be the change; for what begins here, transforms the world!

# PROTECT AGRICULTURAL LAND!

By Kamau S Wangui, BCom. '23

Agricultural land will continue to be important to both rural and urban populaces and thus should not be considered as prospective future land for urban living. Agricultural land should be deliberately protected for the sake of future generations.

There have been various influencers for the subdivision of agricultural land into fragmented portions. First, a high rate of urban population growth, compelling encroachment of residential developments into neighboring rural areas, a good example being Kiambu County. Secondly, agricultural land prices soared by 650% within a period of 10 years: pieces that were valued at KES 1 million in 2006 were valued at up to KES 7.5m in 2015, according to a study by Syagga and Museleku (2018). This is probable to persuade the landowner to subdivide and sell off pieces of their agricultural land to land speculators. Thirdly, housing developers have been procuring land from farmers and subdividing it into smaller portions.

What would have been productive agricultural land is therefore, passed up precipitately. Fourth, agricultural land owners sell their land to meet basic expenses and needs like paying hospital bills among others. According to a study done by the Government of Kenya (GOK) 2016, majority land owners live below the base international poverty line of a dollar a day. Fifth, among numerous other reasons, subdivision occurs due to land inheritance by siblings who divide it amongst themselves. In some cases, the families are dysfunctional or do not have agricultural interests so do not continue agricultural practices.



Whilst it's grim and redundant to dwell on the above trend, going forward, individual titles should have limitations on minimum allowable sizes depending on the location. Large pieces should be encouraged and user changes and subdivisions should be judiciously appraised. Also, government and the private sector should support agricultural enterprises to so as to make agriculture economically viable, competitive and attractive. National and county governments should develop policies to guide minimum agricultural land sizes in agro climatic zones. Lastly, to reduce the stimulus for urban housing on agricultural land, urban revitalization strategies should be energized.

# RETHINKING AFRICA'S FUTURE POST COVID-19

By Valentine Otieno, LLB. '22

COVID-19 took the world by surprise. The pandemic inevitably changed the perspective of many people about the future. If it has not, it should have. It came as an unprecedented threat that paralyzed business; the health sector; occasioned mass layoffs as businesses scaled down operations; frayed family linkages due to social distancing; saw a rise in criminal activities and so on. Africa's socio-economic plight was further exacerbated by mitigation measures against the pandemic such as country and city lockdowns, and social distancing.

Africa at large should ask herself how the pandemic challenges her future and what opportunities it presents. The question that begs, therefore, is whether Africa's future is tainted blurry and uncertain over COVID-19 or whether the pandemic is a turning-point for the betterment of the continent. The unprecedented emergency underlines the concept of 'futuring', that is, the way people and societies perceive and act on their future involves uncertainty. As opined by Ghanaian scholar Epifania Amoo-Adare (Amoo-Adare, 2020): "COVID-19 is very much about the abrupt encounter of our 'extended present' with an 'unthought future'".

In pursuit of a new normal, Africa embraced online and digital platforms to sustain daily operations at work, school and in an array of social situations. Though rewarding, this migration posed a lot of challenges as well. The digital divide became all too apparent. With access to telecommunication products and services and electricity a prerequisite in this new normal, the vast majority who lacked access to these facilities lagged behind. Technology should be the great equalizer and not a symbol of pedigree of division. Unfortunately, the gap between the haves and have nots in Africa is expanding, compounded by lack of to the internet and intelligent, connectivity devices for the later (Roese, 2021).



Paradoxically, despite the adverse economic and social devastation of COVID-19, it provided an avenue for African countries to exploit innovation and digitalization. In restructuring after COVID-19, stakeholders and policymakers must endow in innovative technology to evade grapples to inclusive development (Daurte, 2018). For it is prerequisite in overcoming myriad developmental threats such as health, poverty, unfair competition, governance, food security and economic diversification.

Digital solutions cannot be achieved in vacuum! African countries must therefore integrate elaborate regulatory frameworks, digital skills, infrastructure investment with priority given to financial inclusion. It is also critical for policymakers to aptly address legal complexities and any societal ethical impacts of technology including digital privacy and data.

# THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IS HERE, WILL IT BE DIFFERENT THIS TIME FOR AFRICA?

By Joy Mugambi, LLB. '22

The fourth industrial revolution is here with a bang! The tenets of the 4IR are: the internet of things, artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum computing, cloud computing, and other disruptive technologies such as blockchain and other technologies. Globally, most economies have highly capitalized on these technologies. However, it is yet unclear how far Africa has deployed the 4IR technologies for her economic takeoff.

Due to mobile technologies, the work place and workers have been reinvented where we now have people moving from the traditional workplaces to the non-traditional, such as remote working, co-working places and e-commerce. We now find people transiting from the conventional jobs to the unconventional jobs such as digital content creation, where we now have brands for instance collaborating with influencers for marketing rather than traditional marketing agencies. Artificial intelligence is finding application in nearly all domains of our everyday, for instance, the smart gadgets we daily use for work and leisure and helping us be more efficient. Disruptive technologies such as blockchain are being widely used in the payment systems where we now have high acceptance of digital currency and cryptocurrency, with countries such as Nigeria being the first in Africa to have their first Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) thereby increasing financial inclusion. Blockchain has also been used in land registries due to its immutability to help eliminate corruption and land fraud in the land registries which comes with duplication of title deeds. Ghana is a pioneer African Countries employing this technology.



One of the factors derailing the integration of these technologies in African economies is a pushback driven by fear that that these technologies are going to take away existing jobs. But this is not the case. We have seen in the recent past how technology has aided in the development of the financial services with the development of FINTECH companies. This has helped achieve financial inclusion especially to the unbanked. LegalTech is also another fast-growing sector, which is utilizing sophisticated software such for document automation, contract review, case and document management among other things. African governments should invest in relevant skills development among the youth that will match the 4IR needs so as not to stifle innovation.

With the innovation however, people should be aware that bubbles burst and therefore due diligence is urged. With that said, technology is the bridge to achieve the vision for Africa's tomorrow, seize it!

# THE POWER OF UNITY

By Denis Muturi Muchunku

**C**an we solve problems with the same thinking we employed that resulted in them? The vision for a better tomorrow is impended on providing solutions to today's problems. The future of Africans lies in the actions taken by Africans, every day.

Africa has all resources needed to solve all the problems facing her people, organizations, and the environment. However, there is a lack of unity among the African people. Incohesive cultural norms traditions, values and beliefs have made it difficult to unite and mobilize the available resources to achieve the common goal of a great Africa.

To achieve the vision of a great Africa calls for self-realization for every individual African and recognition of the legitimate differences amongst them. This will result in a proper understanding of each other thus making it easier to focus on the common goal of a prosperous, united Africa. Coming together is the beginning; keeping together is progress and working together is success. The leaders of African nations are key to beginning the process of bringing the continent's people together, embracing peace and support within and between the nations.

On the global stage, international organizations that advance causes such as equality; fighting discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion or culture are an important ally to the goal of a united and



prosperous Africa. The moment we as Africans train our focus on eliminating detrimental, divisive beliefs that bring about fighting between communities and between nations, presenting as boundary disputes or cultural clashes, then and only then will the power of being unity make the impossible possible and the common become uncommon.

Finally, I conclude by quoting Andrew Carnegie, "Teamwork is the ability to work together towards a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments towards organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

# THE VISION OF AN EAGLE AND TRAJECTORY FOR AFRICA

By Rodgers Akoko, LLB. '22

The term 'Vision' conjures up in my mind an two-fold concept: On the one hand, the eagle's eye; and on the other, trajectory. In order to score any achievement, it is vital to perceive, to have a sense of direction and a destination thereof. If any one of these three factors is lacking, then achievement becomes difficult; near impossible. This is the backdrop against which the envisioned future of the African continent need to be conceptualized and contextualized.

The eagle is a *sui generis* type of bird. It possesses numerous interesting traits that we exhaust here. Some of the key, outstanding traits of this particular creature are, its intelligence; the ability to turn its head 210°; eyesight eight times stronger than that of humans; a grip that is ten times stronger than that of humans and, being a symbol of peace and freedom, which is consistent with the Bible as being a sign of divine power and mercy. Just imagine, isn't God a wonderful creator? We cannot as individuals of the mother land, Africa, we are called to draw inspiration from the characteristics of the eagle. Suffice to say, let Africa soar high like an eagle!

Now that we have the capacity to visualize Africa's future similar to the vision of the eagle, the next thing becomes the steps we need to take in order to get there as a continent. Of course, the expectation is that Africa will be in the category of the globe's most developed,



independent, technology-oriented continents. This is only achievable if we, the African continent as a whole do not lose the sense of direction and keep stepping up on the right track.

One of the Pan African leaders of all time, Marcus Garvey, when asked whether he was an African or a Jamaican, gave an interesting reply. He went on to state, "I will not give up a continent for an island!"

# TOWARDS ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL PROSPERITY IN AFRICA

By Valentine Ochieng' Angwang'o, B.Sc.  
Procurement & Supply Chain Management. '22

As responsible citizens of this 'Black Continent', we are familiar with the reality of where we are and the considerable gap that needs bridging between reality and our ambition that needs bridging. Leveraging technology and investment in skills development is a good place to start. These are some of the output from our institutions of higher learning that ought to be scaled up with targeted educational programs. This will ultimately improve peoples' living standards and boost African economies.

The power of knowledge extends beyond the scientific through to the socio-cultural. For instance, ongoing research in the areas of counter-terrorism and conflict resolution contribute to redress on important social challenges and help in maintaining internal and external stability throughout the African Continent. There is more room, I believe, for affirmation of African cultural heritage and traditions and encouraging African people today to learn more about their heritage and hold on to it amidst pervading globalization.

Finally, we must uphold transparency and collaboration in the stewardship of resources with a view to attaining our goals. All of us must take up our part in this push for Africa's takeoff.

"Yesterday I was clever so I wanted to change only the world. Today I am wise and therefore I am changing everything." Rumi. Let us change everything to uphold Africa!



# TUMAINI: VISIONS FOR AFRICA'S TOMORROW

By Salome Ndwiga, BA. Counseling

‘Tumaini’ is Swahili for ‘hope’, and an apt title given the context of this article; symbolizing looking within and not outside of Africa to create our future. Comparative to other continents, Africa is seen as lagging in some spheres. It is perceived as encumbered with poverty and challenges. Most of the time, it is viewed through the lens of the past and current situations which blur vision for a positive future for the continent.

However, Africa, in the actual sense, is a continent with a bright future and which is full of hope as it is manifest in her enormous wealth and people. It has the capacity of growing and even outshining other continents provided that the resources, material, and human capital are fully tapped into by Africa's own and not pilfered elsewhere.

All in all, this promising future for the African continent cannot be realized without deliberate plans backed up with requisite action by Africans themselves. The very first step? The people of Africa daring to dream; believing in that dream and thus making all the effort it takes to realize it.

Secondly, Africans must resolve to embrace better, transformative leadership through good governance that upholds democracy; and all African leaders must strive to grow unity and acting in unity instead of detrimental rivalry and outdoing one another. This also involves resolving unfounded ethnic conflicts. Furthermore, capacity building and reinforcement of the right mindset, that is, belief in Africans' capacity to build up their continent without reliance on external aid, material or technical. This goes hand in hand with mitigation of brain drain from the continent.

There is hope for Africa! Yes, there is “Tumaini” for Africa! But the continent must accept the challenge to aspire and do more and more to live out this noble dream!



# VISIONARY LEADERS

By Ng'etich Chepchumba Maiyo, BA,  
Counseling Psychology. '22

Being a visionary leader, begins with having a vision. What is it you want to see in Africa? What changes need to be effected for us to get there? What does the future look like after these changes have been effected? Is it pleasing or not?

Leading with a vision to better the lives of your constituents should be mantra of our leaders. When a leader thinks about the needs of others and does everything possible to ensure that they are well taken care of, the people will always want you as their leader. The opposite is true. The notion of se of going after a leadership position to amass wealth; no matter how that wealth is gotten, should be a thing of the past. We have to be the agents of that change, beginning with ourselves and our immediate environment before we can change Africa. The scripture should be the driving force behind this transformation in us. Proverbs 15:27 "Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live." We need to be leaders who have vision and integrity to see the companies, organizations, universities, and our countries become better; for our generation and future generations to come.

I want an Africa that has its leaders truly considerate of the people. Where we do not fight each other just because we can. Where women and children thrive because the economic environment is designed to allow this. Where we can sit together and not worry about what the other person is going to do to me next. It is an Africa in which peace reigns. An Africa that gives hope to her people. When we all strive to be leaders who do not accept riches by unjust means, we become leaders who bring hope and change and unity. The world becomes a better place and our children have leaders to look up to that are inspiring.

Let us be the change that we want to see in the world!



# MOLDING AND ORCHESTRATING THE FOUNDATION

By Thaimu Koroma, BA, Criminal Justice and Security Management. '22

**T**umaini: Visions for Africa's Tomorrow – at its core, this is about building a better Africa and giving hope to her citizens. It encompasses Africans recognizing what it means to envision positive change; orchestrate and mold foundations for generations yet unborn. With this in mind, vision is fundamental in that it presents inspiration for the future of Africa. In this, all of us have different roles in relation with each other as we mold and orchestrate a significant future for all.

Visions for Africa's tomorrow encompass some of the frameworks and regulations Africa should put in place to structure her development agenda and shed the image of a continent wanting for prosperity. This could be achieved if we measure and document our wins and capacity even as we plan for the future. Contemporary Africa's resources are growing; and she stands tall as an integrated, prosperous and peaceful continent, driven by her citizens and representing a dynamic agent globally.

Every hope and vision we have for Africa must be consistent with a continent that is culturally confident; economically developed and politically stable, - these are some of the areas that practically all Africans think need redress. They are right. The **honors** is on us to mold and orchestrate our contemporary foundations so that present and future generations know a beautiful Africa.



# WHAT IS IN A VISION? O' AFRICA

By Melvin Kioko, LLB. '22

In two thousand and four, the people of the United States of America were headed to the ballot. Barack Obama was on the rise as a democrat and when he was given a chance to address the national convention - a new season was awakened. A season of Hope. He posed a great question to the American electorate, "In the end, that's what this election is about. Do we participate in a politics of cynicism or do we participate in a politics of hope?"<sup>1</sup>

Africa has been oscillating between the same problems for the past several decades. Our forefathers who fought with blood and sweat for self-rule and in an orotund acclaim that self-rule was better than the colonial regime must be turning in their graves. They had a vision for a better continent and you could hear it in their alacrity speeches and in their diligence to rescue her. A vision where poverty, ignorance and disease would be a thing of the past. A community of men and women who are free to express their humanity and culture.

As I see it - everything depends on leadership. Africa is blessed with a surfeit of natural resources and human capital, yet there is still not much to show for it. That is why I highly opine that we need to change our vision, how we view the future of Africa. As the raconteur Chinua Achebe limpidly stated in his parchment 'The trouble with Nigeria', "the exigency in Nigeria or Africa in general is the leadership."<sup>2</sup>

This includes having the foresight to change the crop of leaders and politics we hail as progressive. We need to rethink the role of the youth and women in governance.



My hope is that we will carry on this conversation at the dinner tables, classrooms, court rooms, chammas, churches, universities and in the media. My hope is that the freedom fighters will look down at us with smiles of approval at our attempts to run with their vision.

My hope for Africa's tomorrow is 'you' the reader will take a leadership role and rise to the occasion. And that, my friends, is the "Audacity of hope." The author is the Chairperson of the Africa Nazarene University Mentorship Association.

1 Barack Obama, "The Audacity of Hope" (Democratic National Convention, Boston, Massachusetts, July 27, 2004).

2 C. Achebe, The Trouble with Nigeria, Heinemann Publishers, 1983, pg. 1.

# YOUTH AND LEADERSHIP

By Quinter Juma, B.Ed. '22

Prof. Rosabeth Moss Kanter postulates that “Leaders must wake people out of inertia. They must get people excited about something they’ve never seen before, something that does not yet exist.” Our generation is often referred to as ‘Millennials’ but we are already graduating into ‘Generation Z’, according to the Pew Research Center. It is this lot that Africa has hope in to respond to the needs of the continent. Prof. Rosabeth speaks of this group of youth who get people excited about something they have never seen before”.

Generation Z is expected to play a critical role in building accountability for successful economic transformation; representation, and raise the bar for public service. The urgency of all these efforts is not lost on the youth, as they have the most to lose if solutions are not realized. This can well be seen in the number of youth who are striving for leadership positions, be it political or corporate.

Africa Nazarene University (ANU) motto, “What begins here transforms the world” truly resonates for those striving for leadership that will help light up the world and develop their community. Character, the first of her famed three Cs, comes to mind. ANU comrades are well equipped for building a better Africa.

It is time for the youth to carry the torch of leadership. Without an iota of doubt, the youth of Africa and indeed ANU graduates are ready for the responsibilities of leadership. We have been prepared for it. Within the ANU students’ council, I have met some of the best talent! As a leader, I have had the privilege of demonstrating some of these leadership qualities. Take a look at the many personal accomplishments of the graduating class of 2022, and it is clear that we have far exceeded a lot of expectations. My pride



and optimism is tempered, however, with caution; consistency in leadership is critical and only time will prove if we have this.

Indeed, as John C. Maxwell states, “Leaders must be close enough to relate to others, but far enough ahead to motivate them.” - This is an apt summary of our leadership experiences here at ANU, both as student leaders and the student body as a whole. There is need for sustained capacity building for the youth on leadership skills and ignite the spark in them to venture into leadership.

Undoubtedly, the youth will lead Africa, with the necessary investments made towards actualizing the great potential in them. The youth need to be an integral part of the political, economic and civic affairs of their society. Let us go out and be that transformation for the youth leadership of today.

# ZONE

By Ronald Owidi, BBIT. '25

I am the teacher here  
Check my certificates; qualified to teach you  
anything  
Content I drill into you  
Skills you acquire, perfectly, sticks like glue  
Books you're gonna write, recreating  
The one and only teacher who knows; the one who  
knows  
Welcome to learning zone

I am the doctor here  
Check my certificates; qualified to treat you,  
unbounded  
Injections, I push 'em in,  
Tablets, swallowed like nuts, recreating  
The one and only doctor who knows; the one who  
knows  
Welcome to treatment zone

I am the farmer here  
Check my certificates; qualified with every season  
Fertilizer I pour in ;always the tools are clean and  
available  
No weed under my watch recreating  
The one and only farmer who knows; the one who  
knows  
Welcome to farm zone



I am the driver here  
Check my certificates; qualified to ferry all  
Safety is assuring with me on the wheel  
No potholes of worry; gentle will I be  
You may not need even reaching your destination to  
recreate  
The one and only driver who cares; the one who cares  
Welcome to the travel zone



# SHOULD WE BE SANGUINE ABOUT THE PROSPECT OF SPACE TRAVEL?

By Tamara Juma, BA, Criminal Justice and Security Management. '22

## THE EXPLORATION ACT.

As human beings, we are innately curious. This dimension to us is seen from a very young age. Take for example, a toddler who is learning about their surroundings and themselves - they carry themselves as carefree spirits. Just like the tot's, we adults also love to explore - from the known to the unknown, and with this, mixed emotions ignite within us. Should we go to space? 'Yes!' What lies in space? Many knowns, unknowns, and a load of adventure! Is the journey there tough? Definitely! Is it worth it? Absolutely! As much as we have explored the earth, let us also explore Space. Did you know about space tourism - travel to space for recreational purposes? How cool is that? Mind-blowing, right? Your space tour is organized into 3 parts: the Orbital, involving travel at extremely high speeds of about 17,400mph. Talk about your very own safari rally and formula 1 combined experience, but in space! Adrenaline? check! Next is suborbital flights at comparatively slower speeds of about 3,700mph. When doing this, you fly directly up into space and then back down! How exciting! Lastly, there's lunar space travel that involves trips to the moon.

## WRAPPED IN A GLOBE.

As unpredictable as the earth is, we humans have done fairly well to tackle the different balls of flames and waves that have come at us. Where is Space? Well, space is marked by a line called the Karman Line which goes around the earth and is about 62 miles above us. To give a clearer look at how high that is, when one flies in an aircraft, they normally are about 6.2 miles above. Pretty high, huh? Now imagine 62 miles above. Yikes! The daunting altitude may be one of the many reasons that many would be discouraged from experiencing the adventure, but by no means should we avert our focus from the prospects that space travel holds for us. Whether the



exploits proposed by the proponents of space travel will inspire greater good for Earth remains to be seen, but we would do well to give it due consideration and effort, believing, as we always must, that humans will soon figure out the way forward.

## GRAVI-TEA

As hard as it is to get to space, living in space would be even harder. The higher up we go, the thinner the air. This, however, is easily overcome with the right gear. Let us weigh the benefits against the obstacles and have some positive-tea as we dive into space. It is a once in a lifetime experience and many people have been able to go to space and return safely! Since the first moon landing, there have been several hundred probes throughout the solar system, from innermost Mercury to Arrokoth previously nicknamed "Ultima Thule", a planetesimal orbiting far beyond Pluto. Spacecraft have landed on Mercury, Venus and Mars, spent years in orbit around Jupiter and Saturn, and surveyed

Uranus and Neptune. Astronauts have done extensive experiments on the hazards and requirements of living in space-bound habitats. By far, the finest achievement of humans in space has been the five servicing missions that allowed astronauts to repair instruments on the Hubble Space Telescope. Meaning that anyone willing to embark on this amazing journey can safely do so with every improvement in our miniaturization, virtual-reality and artificial-intelligence capabilities. If human civilization comes together and successfully overcomes its current drawbacks, we shall certainly send people to the other worlds in our solar system. If we discover much faster means of propulsion or find a way to prolong human life or invent a means of inducing limitless suspension of life during a multi-century journey, we can send humans to the nearest stars and their planetary systems. If we create human colonies in space, their inhabitants might undergo evolutionary

changes that make them more fit for space travel. If, as is likely to happen soon, we can manipulate the human genome as we like, we could realize a new set of beings adapted for space travel. This is to say that if we keep up with our research and interest about space travel, we can surely be positive that space travel will be duly regulated and will be as easy as flying across continents and back, just more exciting!

#### Citations.

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# EGG, LARVA, PUPA, ADULT; THE AFRICAN BUTTERFLY

By Gertrude Mulinge, LLB. '23

**I**t is sunrise in the Savanna grasslands of Africa. A shrill cry is heard. 'ingee, ingee'. Ululations. 'alilili... alilili...alilili...' one, two, three, four. Yes! They are four in number. A girl has been born! (The River and The Source,1994) An egg has been hatched!

She increases in stature. She becomes ever more knowledgeable. She learns to crawl, walk, and run. She's learnt to sit, eat and drink. She learns her conditioned identity. She is an African woman. Then comes the realization that playing second fiddle to the man is expected. The larva has grown!

She is taught not to dare look men in the eye; to bow and curtsy in their presence; to not air her views in the presence of or against the man; to not laugh loud; to never let herself be. She is taught to compress and suppress who she is. The man has to win at all times! The pupa has been choked!

Up she is grown and off she is married. She has to sit in the kitchen when 'weighty' decisions are being made. Laughable, that in this day and age, she is frowned upon for her desire to get into leadership. Her ambitions to get in power, to be in the limelight and to be knowledgeable are considered catastrophic. She is ruthlessly referred to as the 'toxic feminist'. She is tied! She is shackled! Her tongue is chopped! She cannot speak-she cannot engage-she cannot associate. The adult has been caged!



I envision an Africa where the butterfly will be encouraged to fly. I envision a continent where the African butterfly will be free to flaunt her beautiful colors; to grow and thrive; to see and be seen; to lead and be led; to have knowledge and to pass knowledge. A standing ovation for the milestones achieved in letting the African butterfly fly. Applause to what is still underway. I believe we will get there if you and I allow the transformation to happen. I am trusting, I am hopeful. I believe. Tumaini; Visions for Africa!

# RE-THINKING OUR ECONOMIES: AFRICA'S LESSON FROM RUSSIA, UKRAINE WAR

By Kinyua Wanjohi, LLB. '22

The world's breadbasket countries are at war.

On 24th February, 2022, Russia acrimoniously invaded Ukraine (Reuters 2022). The ramifications of the invasion, plus socio-economic shocks of the COVID-19 Pandemic are a blow to Africa alongside the rest of the globe. Uncertainty exacerbated by the war continues to adversely affect consumer demands and investments globally. Africa relies heavily on imports from the two countries: wheat, sunflower and fertilizer among other commodities (Ali et.al, 2022). Russia is the world's third-largest exporter of oil (Sacko and Mayaki, 2022). The current upheaval in oil prices on the world market, and the inevitable increase in the price of fuel has translated into higher costs of food and production. This exposes Africa to a number of short-term and long-term effects, further compounding the challenges of economic vulnerability already faced by many African countries already struggling with high levels of external debt.

Eleven countries are large exporters of energy in Africa (Ali et.al, 2022). For these countries, the war is a blessing in disguise. For example, oil export amounts to 18.9% of Angola's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). A 20% increase in oil prices will see it add about 4% to its income (Ali et.al, 2022). For energy importers, rising prices hypes inflationary pressures.. Africa has yet to attain her food security goals. Owing to the sanctions imposed on Russia, Africa's commercial relationships with the country abruptly stalled even as the bar of port operations in the Black Sea took effect. With the abrupt import disruption came shortage of fertilizer that will lead to reduced food production, translating to rising food prices. Availability and pricing of produce will also be affected by the disruption in global financial markets and supply chain systems.



For Africa, the current geopolitical crisis should be interpreted as an opportunity to work on our policies and eliminate external food dependency. We own approximately 60% of the global share of arable land (Sacko and Mayaki, 2022). To buffer against external shocks on food security, we must leverage this land and produce enough for consumption and exportation. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), Malabo Declaration of Accelerated Agricultural Growth, and African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), albeit moving us in the direction of food resilience, implementation is lagging. To safeguard against future shocks in the global oil and gas market, producing countries in Africa should invest in improved exploration, production and build reserves that would be a buffer for the region during future crises in the global market. Potentially, Africa can eat bread independently of the world's breadbasket.



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