

Dr Portia Nomfundo Nyathi

Institution- NUST (Bulawayo)



My name is Portia Nyathi from Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. I come from a family of 7 children. I am a responsible, innovative, self motivated and confident lady with high integrity who recently attained a degree in Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree at the National University of Science and Technology (NUST). Thought out my five and half years of studying, the financial barrier had embraced a negative position on my studies but I soldiered on and never gave up. It was during my 5th and final year when I was told devastating news that I would not be allowed to write my final exams due to financial circumstances. For a moment I felt a crashed dream, wasted years and broken heart. However I never gave up and I continued to pray.

Through the help of one of my mentors I sent an application letter to Ms T Mkwanazi. I remember her first reply was that she would try her best to help and I should believe that all will be well. Glory

be to God, I was blessed with dedicated sponsors Mr R Ngungu and Mr Peter Hill. Today I am proudly Dr Portia Nyathi and words cannot express how grateful I am for your generous kindness.

Personal profile

My academic and leadership journey started from a very tender age in primary school from where I received numerous academic prizes. Throughout my high school days, I continued to work hard and I was a prefect, 1st team basketball captain and a board member in the Interact club as a the Head of Discipline.

At tertiary education level I was involved in community work focusing on my passion which is promoting a vibrant community health. As a committed member of an organisation called Zimbabwe Medical Students Association (ZIMSA), I was elected the National Director for the Public Health Committee for the year 2016/2017. ZIMSA is an organisation for medical students nationwide (NUST, University of Zimbabwe and Midlands State University) who work together to promote health awareness in the community. I worked with my team from all universities organizing and participating in various projects that empowered our community on health education particularly focusing on diseases causing great morbidity in our country i.e breast cancer, cervical cancer, hypertension and diabetes mellitus. We also gave career guidance talks to high school students in Zimbabwe.

BUBI OUTREACH WITH ZIMA-MATEBELELAND

On the 27th of February 2016 ZIMSA, NUST got engaged for the first time to join Zimbabwe Medical Association for a medical outreach. Inyathi hospital in the district of Bubi was the host of such a glorious event as there was a turnout of patients that overwhelmed the medical practitioners. There were specialists in all areas from Psychiatrists, surgeons, obstetricians, pediatricians, ophthalmologists, dentistry and the radiological department. The event was well organized as there were allocated rooms for each specialty and also tents for patients to use as waiting rooms. Umzingwane Lions, ZIMA in collaboration with the Ministry of Health were the sponsors of the event. Patients of all age groups received consultation and free medication sponsored by various sectors. There were also surgeries performed by the general surgeons and the ophthalmologists while the dentists tried all they could to finish the never ending queues of people needing tooth extraction. We also managed to bring new life into the world as there were deliveries performed. The whole event was a success considering the all patients were attended to with no one left out. The Member of Parliament of Bubi district then ended the long day by throwing all the hardworking medical practitioners a party as we enjoyed drink and food while sharing events of the day.



Featuring in ZIMSA NUST newsletter



Career guidance talk

I was also elected as the Minister of health in the NUST Students Representative Council (SRC). During my term, I was involved in organising blood donation campaigns, HIV testing programs and health expos held at the university as well as decision making concerning the health of the students e.g. clinic and medical aid services. I was also one of the representatives from the university participating in the African Union Model Summit held at Women's University in Africa in 2015. I also volunteered to be peer educator at the university year 2015.

I have also voluntarily impacted in the community through being an active member of the NUST Rotaract club. In Rotaract we participate in clean-up programs, visit old people's homes and orphanages such as Emthunzini wethemba

children's home where we spend quality time with them and donate as well. My passion for making a difference in my community has not gone unnoticed as I was given an internationally recognised award, 'Everyday Hero's' award by St John's ambulance for showing excellent service as a student doctor.



Volunteering for Rotary club



Award given by St Johns Ambulance

Despite pursuing a challenging academic program I also find time to participate in other extra-curricular activities. I was a member of the NUST basketball first team. Participating in this sport has greatly improved my ability to work in a team environment. During sporting games I also voluntarily offer 1st aid service if students

sustain injuries. I also participated in the Miss NUST beauty pageant 2014 whose theme was 'Promotion of breast cancer awareness', where I came out as the 2nd Princess.



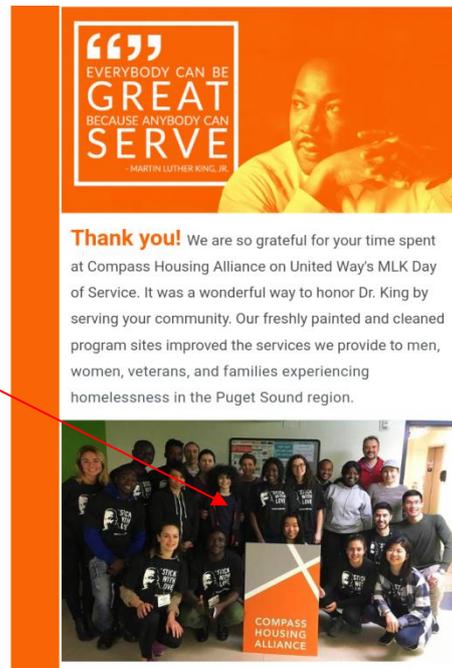
Excelling in basketball representing my university in Johannesburg South Africa



Miss NUST 2014

Last but not least I was one of the 4 students selected by the US Department of State to represent my country in a cultural exchange program. I spent 6 weeks in the United States of America where we travelled to Washington DC, New Orleans and Washington State. During this program I learnt more about leadership, the American culture and other African cultures as there were students representing other African

countries as well. We also had an opportunity to do community work at food banks and cleaning services during Martin Luther King day. It was during this visit that I had the honour of meeting Mr. Hill, who was kind enough to be my host and has now become my sponsor.



Volunteering at Campus Housing Alliance that helps homeless individuals in Seattle, USA



Community service project at Westside baby, Seattle USA



Currently I have started my 2 year internship to attain a full practising certificate as medical doctor. Once again thank you Ms T Mkwanzai, Mr Ngungu, Mr Hill and to all the sponsors helping us to reach our dreams. May the Lord fulfil the

desires of your hearts and may you not grow weary while doing good for in good season you shall reap if you do not lose heart.

Thank you, Ngiyabonga.