

MY PERSONAL BACKGROUND

To start with, my name is Patricia Mbewe and I am aged 34. I was born on 30th August 1989 in Mchinji District, TA Zulu, Gomani Village. I grew up in an extended family as a second born daughter in the family of 2 children and was raised up by a stepmother whom she also had 2 daughters before she got married to my father. Few years later, 2 boys were born and in total we are now 6 children.

Being raised by a stepmother was a bit challenging in terms of schooling because most of the times I could be given tough tasks and usually I was the only child being given all the morning chores before I start off for school. And in most cases I could go late for classes and be punished. At that time my elder sister dropped out from school and got engaged into early marriage.

I did my primary school at Guillime Girls School in Mchinji up to 2003. Thereafter, was selected to Likuni Girls Secondary School where I obtained Malawi School Certificate of Education (MSCE) in 2007. The ill-treatment from my stepmother contributed to poor results during my first MSCE examinations. Despite this, I did not give up but go into class again at Michiru View Girls Secondary School because a career in my mind was to become medical personnel especially being a doctor. After second MSCE attempt, I was at least comfortable to apply for courses at Malawi College of Health Sciences where I was selected to pursue a Certificate in Clinical Medicine from 2010 to 2012.

I was then posted to Mzimba South District Hospital for internship in 2013. Thereafter, started working as a Medical Assistant after 1 year internship period. Then I transferred to Blantyre District Health Office after wedding. Currently, I am working at South Lunzu Health Centre.

In 2019, I applied for upgrading course of Diploma in Clinical Medicine at Malawi College of Health Sciences, but I did not go because I did not have money for school fees since the Government sponsorship was just for few individuals. So I had no any other option but to reserve a place for the next academic year which was to start in February 2022 and during this time, i wrote a letter to the DHO's office asking for any opportunity of a sponsorship. And the time we were called for school, I was hopeless as to think of financial resources for my school fees since our salaries are too little to meet all our needs. I took a 3-day fasting, asking GOD to help me out of that situation.

Then I went back to the DHO's office where I was told to write a letter via email asking for an opportunity of sponsorship. Later after 3 days is when I was told that AMECA TRUST was under my situation. And I was called by Ruthie Markus, who assured me that my fees were ready and wanted to deposit to school account. It was unbelievable, and I did not know how to express my gratitude until when she came over our school campus to give me the check of my school fees. With joy and gratitude I had at this moment, I could really feel the love which my mum had never shown me before. And the love that Ruthie shown me, could be transformed more like the one I expected from my mother.

I worked hard and with full determination and interest that I had in this Health sector, I had a courage to perform well so that I become what I wanted to be. Nevertheless, there were some challenges regarding accommodation and meals. The school management elaborated that the bed and meals are separate from the school fees that we paid. Hence, one was supposed to be paying for bed and look for your own meals from the market. So this has been a challenge because, whenever we were close to having exams, one had to move up and down fetching for food which consumed studying time. But all in all we managed to sail through.

I am really grateful to AMECA Trust for all the support rendered to me because as I am writing this, I passed my examinations which was my first priority in order to show my gratitude. It's my plea that you continue sponsoring me as I already said want to become a **doctor**. So Malawi College of Health Sciences will start offering a bachelor's degree program in clinical medicine. So, if all goes on well, help me out again to pursue my carrier.

Now will be called **clinical officers** in our duty stations. And being a clinical officer, has brought joy in our family because my dad is so proud of me and even my step mum, tells her friends that she has a child meaning to say, she depends on me for the support that I give to them. TO GOD BE THE GLORY FOREVER.