

REPORT ON AMECA SCHOLARSHIP

I am Emmanuel Wickson Moyo a third born son in a family of three boys and two girls. Grown up in a village and raised in a family of God fearing and practising small farming to earn all basic needs. Through hard work at secondary school and support from parents and family I managed to pass the Malawi School Certificate of Education with good grades which allowed me to go for tertiary education.

It was a nice time for me when I was selected to study diploma in clinical medicine at Malawi College of Health Sciences from 19th April 2021 to 5th April 2024. The training has prepared me to be a successful clinical officer.

Diploma in clinical medicine is a three years medical program. The aim of the program is to train middle health workers called clinical officers responsible for disease diagnosis, drug prescription, operations, reviewing patients in wards and hospital management just to mention a few. The program comprises of four major courses which are internal medicine which deals with all diseases affecting people from 13 years and above which do not require operation. The second course is paediatrics which deals with all diseases affecting children up to 12 years that do not require operation. The third course is obstetrics and gynaecology which deals with diseases affecting reproductive system of women, caring and monitoring of pregnancy and all issues of labour. The fourth course is surgery which deals with all diseases that require operations regardless of age. Apart from these major courses, the program has other minor courses that include chemistry, anatomy, physics, mathematics, calculus, statistics, physiology, clinical chemistry, biochemistry, medical ethics, medical communication, parasitology, psychology, sociology, basic patient care, entrepreneurship, medical research, nutrition, anaesthesia and health management.

During the training I found internal medicine, surgery and obstetrics and gynaecology to be simple to understand and master the contents. Paediatrics was a bit challenging because children are not able to narrate the history of their sickness. Management of children diseases depends much on guardians' history of child's sickness, clinical judgement, laboratory investigations which sometimes take more time to be out which results in late management of the condition.

As everyone has ambitions in life to fulfil, but most of these die before being fulfilled due to lack of support. My desire to become a clinical officer was about to be a history due to lack of school fees. Thanks to modern ways of accessing information (internet) when I came across a number of charity organisations like AMECA, medic to medic and others to which I applied for sponsorship. It was AMECA only that paid a listening ear to my application and gave me a full educational sponsorship which covered school fees for the whole program, subsistence allowance for accommodation and meals and a modern laptop for easy studying and preparation of assignments.

The scholarship has helped me a lot in the sense that I have finished the studies without being chased out of school due to lack of school fees. It helped me to pay for accommodation in time and buy meals at the right time of need. It also helped me to study and prepare for assignments in time. It has really helped me to achieve my desire to become a health worker and be able to support my family, parents, relatives, my community, my country and the whole world in general financially and provision of quality health services. It is a win for everyone.

After a successful completion of my studies, now I want to focus on people with problems of prostate enlargement, prostate cancer, urethral strictures, bladder mass and bladder cancer by campaigning for quality health care to the those affected and asking for support from well wishers to come in to eradicate these problems in Malawi. These health conditions mostly attack old age group who normally have little support and financial security that can help them to fight the disease. I learnt with concern during my hospital allocation in Zomba central hospital to know that its Zomba central hospital only in Malawi that manages these conditions. Patients are being referred from far districts in order to get medical help from the facility, which most of them do not afford. I will lobby for support to have these conditions being managed in all central hospitals and almost all district hospitals across the country to make sure people receive the required management in time and also reducing their hospital costs.

In conclusion I want to thank the management of AMECA for making it possible to train health workers in Malawi which has helped to improve quality of health care.