

Wongani Nkhata

Background

Wongani is from a family of 5 children. He is the second born and the first in his family to go to college and obtain a degree. He is from the northern region, but has lived with an Aunt in the central region for the last 10 years after his parents moved to South Africa to undertake temporary jobs. The extended family do farming in the village to support themselves. The money from his dad in South Africa doesn't stretch to support all the family. His parents finished secondary school, but did not go further with education.

Why Dental Surgery?

"I want to take part in improving oral health in Malawi and the world at large. I want to have a dental clinic someday so that people can easily access dental services and stop seeking help from the people who are not professionals, that would also create job opportunities." He has been able to pay for his fees so far through application of the government loan. This is not guaranteed each year and must be paid back with fluctuating interest rates.

Prior to the start of the dental surgery course in 2019, there were just 36 registered dentists throughout Malawi, a country of 19 million people. There are now more trainee dentists in Malawi than qualified dentists, representing great hope for rectifying this situation and building capacity for oral health services.



Dental Surgery (BDS)

School

In Malawi, primary education is free and lasts 8 years. Secondary education lasts 4 years and is not free. **Wongani** went to a missionary secondary school. He had no breaks in his education as his father was able to pay the fees around this time. **Wongani** achieved **10 points** in his Malawi School Certificate (MSCE). Student points are calculated by adding their 6 highest subject points together. The better you do, the lower the score; 1-2 points = distinction; 3-4 points = credit; 5-6 points = pass. **Wongani** did extremely well to achieve **10 points!**

THANK YOU

for supporting Wongani with his education to become a dentist!



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