

TERTIARY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST FOR MALAWI (TEST)

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2018/19 Annual Report

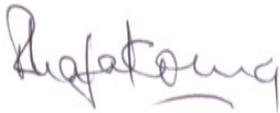
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Table of Contents

REMARKS FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN	3
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.0 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED DURING THE 2018/19.....	4
2.1 Number of scholarships awarded	4
2.2 Status of T4M Scholars	5
3.0 FINANCIAL STATUS AND REQUEST FOR 2017/18	6
3.1 Finance Statement	6
3.2 Financial request for scholarships during the 2018/19 Academic Year.....	6
3.3 TEST Administrative Costs	7
4.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR.....	7
5.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS	8
6.0 ANNEXES	9
Annex 6.1: List of TEST Scholars during the 2018/19 Academic Year	9
Annex 6.2: Voices from T4M Scholars	12

REMARKS FROM THE BOARD CHAIRMAN

Access to higher education in Malawi continue to be a very big challenge for many students particularly those coming from low income families. Each and every year the institutions of higher learning are continuously adjusting their tuition fee upwards making it difficult for resource poor but bright students to continue with their tertiary education. TEST for Malawi identified and provided scholarships to 70 bright needy students pursuing various degree courses at the seven public universities of which 49% and 51% are male and females respectively. The Trustees of T4M would like to acknowledge the continued support from TEST for Africa, Dr Harry L Porter Foundation and Dr Keith Keith Lloyd and Family and the management of the seven public universities. Their continued support has helped T4M achieve its aspirations of providing more support to bright needy females students during the 2018/19 academic year. TEST for Malawi Trustees have worked very hard to ensure quality in administering the scholarship. The government through the Ministry of Education Science and Technology, and all the University Colleges, parents and guardians of the TEST scholars hail the support T4A is providing to the Malawi's education system. On behalf of T4M Trustees I would like to thank T4A for its continued support and helping us to move this far.



Robert Kafakoma
T4M Board Chairman

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Over the years access to higher education by students particularly those from low income household continue to be a challenge. During the reporting period 70 scholarships were awarded to bright and needy students in public universities of which 49% and 51% are males and female students respectively. T4M is thankful to TEST for Africa (T4A) and their various cooperating partners for their help and support. The profile and publicity of the scholarship continue to increase as many prospective students are able to access information about the scholarship on the internet as well as print media. This has resulted in an increased number of applications and phone calls to ask for information about the scholarship. The Board of Trustees for T4M has remained committed despite their busy schedules and has helped the organization to profile itself as one of the reliable scholarship organizations and key stakeholder in the higher education sector in Malawi.

2.0 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED DURING THE 2018/19

2.1 Number of scholarships awarded

During the 2018/19 academic year, T4M received over 3700 applications for scholarships from public universities compared to 3500 applications during the 2017/18 academic year. Due to the budget limitations, the Board of Trustees awarded scholarship to 70 bright needy students from the seven public colleges namely Bunda College (Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources); Kamuzu College of Nursing, Chancellor College, College of Medicine, Malawi Polytechnic, (University of Malawi); Mzuzu University and Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST). Even though the Government through the Higher Education Loans Board is providing loans to students from both private and public universities, most of the very needy students are not easily accessing the loans. Access to these loans is highly competitive and selective to an extent that only few students are accessing the loans and the budget is small compared to the demand. T4M Trustees decided to provide scholarships to only those students that have not accessed the Loans from the Higher Education Loan Board. This entailed working very closely with the colleges in particular their various finance departments to provide information of students that have accessed the loans from the Loans Board. Using this information T4M was able to select those students that are really needy but bright and on the verge of dropping out of school due lack of tuition fees. T4M recognize that the students require tuition, upkeep, accommodation, book allowance and other necessities but with the limited resources and advice from the management from the Universities, the T4M scholarship only cutters for tuition fees. Two students from Bunda College under the Dr H.L Porter Foundation are given an extra K100,000 each per semester for their upkeep upon request from the sponsor. Below in table 1 is a summary of number of TEST students per institution.

Table 1 Summary of Current TEST Continuing Students by Institution.

Institution	Male	Female	Total	% of Total
Kamuzu College of Nursing	0	10	10	14
Mzuzu University	4	0	4	6
Medical College	5	1	6	9
Chancellor College	7	10	17	24
LUANAR(Bunda College)	4	8	12	17
MUST(Malawi University of Science and Technology)	7	2	9	13
Malawi Polytechnic	7	5	12	17
Total	34	35	70	100

%Males=49 %

% Females =51%

Out of the 70 scholarships that T4M provided to the students, 24% and 17% of students were from Chancellor College; Bunda and Malawi Polytechnic respectively.

2.2 Status of T4M Scholars

By the end of 2018/19 academic 25 TEST scholars representing 36.2% had finished their academic work and are waiting their graduation. This means that during the 2019/20 academic year which has already started in some colleges, there are 44 continuing students who are expected to be sponsored by T4M. Table 2 below summarizes the status of TEST students by the end of the 2018/19 academic year.

Table 2 Status of TEST students by Institutions by end of 2018/19 academic year

Name of Institution	No. of TEST Students	No. of continuing students	No. of students expected to graduate
Chancellor College	17	15	2
Bunda College	12	2	10
Medical College	6	6	0
Malawi Polytechnic	12	8	4
Mzuzu University (MZUNI)	4	3	1
Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN)	10	6	4
Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST)	9	5	4
Total	70	45	25

3.0 FINANCIAL STATUS AND REQUEST FOR 2017/18

3.1 Finance Statement

See the attached annual audit report for details

3.2 Financial request for scholarships during the 2018/19 Academic Year

The financial request for 2019/20 comprises two parts. The first part is for the scholarships and the second part is for the administration of TEST which is kindly supported by Dr. Keith Lloyd and Family. T4M has four Bank Accounts with National Bank of Malawi. The banks accounts comprise three Foreign Currency Denominated Accounts and one local currency account. The FCDA accounts are specifically used for the scholarships and the Malawi Kwacha account is used for the administration of T4M. Money for scholarships is transferred directly to the Universities upon receipt of an invoice and in line with the number of approved scholars of that particular institution. The money is however converted to the local currency before being transferred to the colleges for tuition fees.

During the 2019/20, T4M is expected to provide scholarship to at least 70 students despite the increased number of applications for scholarship. T4M has already received over 2000 new applications for scholarships however the Trust will only consider providing 70 scholarships which include 44 continuing students and 26 new students selected from all the public universities.

For the 2019/20 academic year, T4M is requesting the same level of financing of **BP25, 000.00** (Twenty-five thousand British Pounds) from T4A as of last academic year.

3.3 TEST Administrative Costs

Below in table 3, is a summary of the expected administration costs during the 2019/20 academic year. Because of the increased pressure of work in operating the organization, TEST recruited an Administrative Assistant to support the operations of the Trust. Currently Training Support for Partners (TSP) is providing office space and other accessories for T4M. In addition, TEST intends to constantly organize interaction meetings with the TEST scholars in the Colleges as well as with the TEST Alumni. Currently an e-based discussion group for TEST alumni has been created. Some of the TEST Alumni have indicated their willingness to provide financial support to T4M either in form of scholarship or to cover some administrative costs. However this has not materialized yet hence the need for more interaction with the Alumni.

Table 3 Administrative budget for TEST 2018/19

Item	Unit Cost	Total (MK)
Personnel		
Admin Assistant	150000	1800000
Equipment and Supplies		
Stationery	450000	450000
Internet and phones	100000	100000
Toner cartridges	350000	350000
Publicity and awareness activities		
Transport to the colleges	450,000.00	450,000.00
Total		3,150,000.00
Less available funds		195,000.00
Total Request		2,955,000.00
		BP3000.00

Exchange rate: K890= 1 BP

4.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT DURING THE ACADEMIC YEAR

A number of challenges and lessons were learnt during the 2018/19 reporting period including the following:

- All the colleges continue to revise their tuition fees upwards. This has an effect on the number of students TEST can support even though the demand for scholarships continue to increase.
- In line with the budget that T4M is assured for scholarships, the Trustees of T4M decided that the number of scholarships remain the same or decrease to a manageable size. At the same time T4M should only focus on providing tuition fees since it is the main challenge for many students in the colleges. T4M recognize that paying for tuition fees alone will not remove all the problems and financial needs of the needy students in the colleges.

- The establishment of the TEST Alumni what-up group has improved communication and information sharing amongst the alumni group. The group is planning a fund raising activities. The actual date of the event has not been revealed yet.

5.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The 2018/19 academic year has been another great year for T4M. T4M provided 70 scholarships to bright needy students in the public universities of Malawi. Out of these students 36.2% have completed their courses and will be graduating soon. The establishment of the whats up T4M alluminia has improved communication and sharing of information between and amongst the TEST scholars. The big challenge during the academic year was the high demand for scholarships which continues to exceed the resources available under TEST. The Loans Board for Higher Education which was established to provide loans to students in tertiary institutions is not fully reaching out the majority of the deserving students hence putting pressure on the existing scholarship schemes such as T4M. Special gratitude go to T4A, Dr Keith Lloyd and Family, Dr. Harry L. Porter Foundation, Fund Raiser and all those that provided financial support to enable the Trust provide scholarship to the needy in Malawi.