Dear Mr. President,

My name is Tanaka Chonyera. I'm the 2018 DSTV Eutelsat Star Awards winner and a former student of Maru-a-Pula. I am writing this letter to you because I see a vision for this country, and you see it too. We see a Botswana that's Africa's hub for technological innovation—a pioneer in the fourth industrial revolution; We see a Botswana that powers all of Africa from its abundant solar energy—generating billions in revenue; We see a Botswana that leads the ongoing space race pushing humanity forward—giving Africa a dominating presence in space and sending Botswana's first astronaut to space. Mr. President, I want to help lead this country to that future, it already exists in my mind, now the world needs to catch up. But everybody has ideas, and we can all be ambitious. The difference with me is that I know exactly how I'll do it. I've been planning it for years and I'm going to show you. First though, I little about me:

I'm 20 years old and completed my A-Levels at Maru-a-Pula last year. I'm currently studying Aerospace engineering at Michigan State University. Mr. President, the future I see is very important to me, and it is very important to everyone in this country. I grew up here, I schooled here, and I represented the country in the DSTV Eutelsat Star Awards, beating thousands of applicants across the continent and putting "Botswana on the map" as an article from the Botswana Guardian wrote. Another wrote, "Botswana's future astronaut is born" (see attachments below—I encourage you to read them if you haven't already) and I proudly represented the country on my trip to Paris in January this year to watch a rocket launch in French Guiana (my prize for winning). One judge for the competition—astronaut Paolo Nespoli—said I would be the next Nobel Prize winner! The video of that can be found here: https://www.facebook.com/DStvGhana/videos/1949925211980809/?t=334.

I see you have plans to have Botswana launch satellites into space. Well, my winning essay for the competition was about satellites, and for the past 10 years I've been building rockets that have achieved vertical flight. You can see my work here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mgs1joIvpq4. I'm perfect for the job!

As the captain of MaP's STEM team, I presented the rocket at an international STEM competition in South Africa. MaP came first overall, and I won gold for individuals. For the same competition the following year, I designed and built a solar parabolic concentrator that produces electricity cheaply and reliably. Both projects have been decorated with awards.

Mr. President, I kindly ask that I be considered for this amazing opportunity to work with you to lead Africa's space race. I believe—through my accomplishments—that I have proven my dedication and capabilities several times over. I believe that I can continue to be a valuable asset to the country. I know I'd be able to aid in the country's development and create hundreds if not thousands of employment opportunities. World class businesses and institutions for Batswana. I have already begun registering companies in the real estate, telecommunications, energy and electronics industries. I'm going to turn Botswana into Africa's Silicon Valley. It would mean the world to me to have yours and the country's support because no matter what, I will lead us to that future. I would love to meet with you if possible and discuss all the plans I have for Botswana—there are many! **#PushaBW**

Botswana's future astronaut is born

Maru a Pula student wins DSTV Eutelsat Star award

PHEMELO RAMASU
BG REPORTER

It has been a couple of days since Botswana's very own Tanaka Chonyera was crowned the winner of the 8th edition of the DStv Eutelsat Star Awards competition.

The 18-year-old, a Maru-a-Pula student won in the essay competition category, convincing the judges. He knew his writing stuff as well as the subject matter very well.

Oozing with passion and knowledge for his subject, remarks Paolo Nespoli, an ESA (European Space Agency) Astronaut who chaired the adjudication of the awards, the young man has blended his passion with research and study.

"This has resulted in sound knowledge and understanding of the subject matter," he said.

Since inception the competition has drawn over 8000 entries from the region, and East Africa has produced 7 overall winners and runner-ups. For this edition, students from senior secondary or unified schools were asked to write a creative essay or design a poster based on the topic: "Currently, satellites are being used in a variety of ways but there is always room for expansion and growth. Write an essay or design a poster on areas you believe the full potential of satellites has not yet been tapped into or embraced."

Priscilla Marealle of Tanzania was crowned the winner of the poster category. For Tanaka, the wait to the big announcement of the winner was a nerve wrecking one. There was even a point when he thought that he didn't make it, only for him to realise that it was previous winners and not the 2019 winners who were being posted online.

Walking through the grounds of his school, where he is currently enrolled for Form 6, it is evident to see that his peers respect him. His friends are patting him on the back, and celebrating with him this big achievement that will open many doors for him. His family is equally excited that finally after all these years, his passion has paid off.



The sky is the limit for the young astronaut. [PIC: BOTSANG MOITOI]

Chonyera wins a trip for two to Paris and is happily taking his mother along. His other prizes include going to witness a rocket blast into space in order to place a satellite into orbit.

The winner in the poster category wins a trip for two to visit the South African National Space Agency and MultiChoice facilities. The two winning schools attended by the overall winners will be rewarded with a DStv installation, including a dish, TV set, PVR decoder and free access to the DStv Education Package.

He tells this publication that since the big announcement last week, it has been a crazy couple of days.

"I am ecstatic," he tells ***Style***.

Sharing the events of the past couple of days, he explains that he got a call from Nespoli, and thought that it was just a formality. In his mind, he thought that Nespoli was just calling the top three. The night before the winner was announced it was nerve wrecking and he barely slept. On the day that he was announced the winner, the internet was not at its happiest moments, it kept buffering, and that meant he was unable to properly watch the live streaming on Facebook. "This opportunity will open a lot of doors for me. It has also given me confidence in myself that If I want to do something, I know that I can get it done," he says, explaining that he wrote the award-winning essay on his own.

He points out that prior to the win, whenever he suggested something, no one took him seriously, but now things have changed as his opinion is more valuable. He now wants to study Aerospace Engineering at one of the top universities at either Massachusetts or California. He explains that ever since he was a child, he has been dreaming about building a space ship. "I love space and space technology. And I want to do it for Africa, as right now I don't think there is a country in the continent that has a significant Aerospace programme. I want to see a rocket being launched in Africa," he explains. His mother, Florence Chonyera, is equally excited.



"We have always supported him and all of his ideas," says his mother explaining that he previously won at a competition called Lebone Derby in South Africa. "Parents should never pour cold water over their children's interests but should keep encouraging them," she says. According to Themibile Ndzinge, who is the Corporate Affairs Manager of MultiChoice Botswana, this is Botswana's first win in the essay category, after producing a runner-up in the poster category in 2016. The runner-up was a student at Lotsane Senior Secondary School.

"This shows that we have extremely talented children," she says.

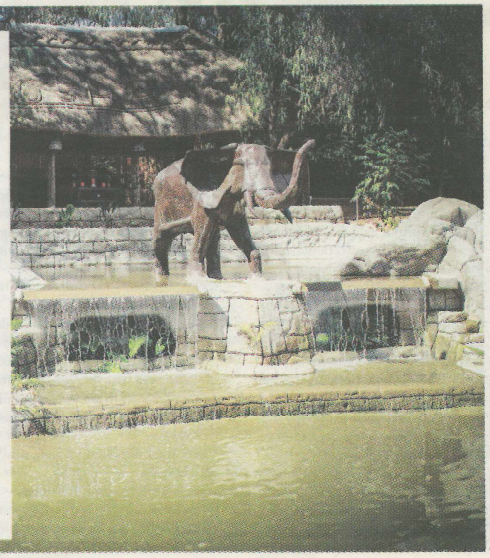
She also says that it was equally exciting to note that the competition was won by someone who was passionate about the subject, and was not just entering for the sake of winning. "This makes the prize even more special," she explains, highlighting that the awards belong to Africa, and not just a specific region. She points out that from all the submissions in Botswana, his was very special. "All the essays were great. But with his, you could feel the passion, and he articulated the topic well," she says.

Mosha

From page A

Gaborone Resort and Casino was one of their clients at their old premises, and the rest as they say is history. She also reveals that their beauticians are qualified, and that they are the best in the industry. The beauticians are trained on all the treatments that are available at Mosha, and they also undergo regular training. the prices, according to her are reasonable. "Regardless of whether you come here for a full day or a few hours, you will get value for your money. We want to make sure that our clients are relaxed and happy," she says.

The outlet has specials for everyone on Wednesdays (20% of all treatments) as well as 20 % discount of all treatments for all pensioners through out the year.





Empire returns to FOX, DSTV Channel



ELEGANT LIVING

Patricia Nkwane

PRESS THE RESET BUTTON

Do you feel like you are mindlessly doing the same thing in your work, business or general life? Do you feel like all you have been doing is not bringing any positive rewards? Do you sometimes feel like you are trapped in a rut? Do you find it easier to remain comfortable in the status quo than to go out and face challenges even if it sounds like a good opportunity?

If the answer to any of the question above is yes, then you are defiantly stuck in a rut and this is your possible time for reset. A rut is a by-product of depriving ourselves a chance to follow what we truly love or who we truly believe ourselves to be. Our reasons differ, for some people it might be bereavement, to recover from a long illness, trying to salvage a broken heart, recovering from an abusive relationship or just that you are ready for a career change. Whatever your reason might be, it is time to reset. Below are some practical steps that you could put in place and break free from your rut and be able to achieve your purpose in life.

Align your actions to your purpose

We often fall into a rut whenever our daily actions seem not to be aligned with our biggest purpose. When your day to day action and your purpose are aligned then it gives you a reason to get up all energetic every morning knowing fully well that what we are about to do is driving us closer to where we want to be in life. Even in your own general life it gives you the permission to go after what you truly love knowing fully well that there is a future linked to it. I remember back in the days, after completing my tertiary I got a job in a bank as an operation assistant, within a month I had been transferred to office of clearing which is the back office. The job was not so hectic but it was so exhausting for me, I felt drained, I complained every morning about my job and about literally anything that had to do with the work, but truly speaking, my purpose was not being fulfilled by the job, it was nowhere aligned to my daily routine. I am a people's person. I work by inspiring, healing, motivating and transforming people's lives, that's what refuels my energy but for some reason the work I did then surrounded me more with people's accounts, their moneys, their remittances than them. I felt like I was mindlessly doing the same thing over and over again; when I eventually left the work I got involved with motivational speaking, I volunteered my talks in schools which involved travelling on buses and staying up at night to prepare, but I never at once complained. I was fulfilled because eventually my daily routine was aligned to my purpose and my bigger dream. Find your purpose and channel your energy towards it.

Learn from your past

You are probably thinking, hold it right there, did you just say past? Yes, I said past. Of course it is unwise to dwell in your past mistakes but looking back over at the actions and the decisions that led to those mistakes can often help you figure out what might work for you.

Do not expect a quick fix

Many a times when we go through a lot, we always resolve to what could work fast and produce quick results but most of the time those are what lead us back into another rut. Make a breakdown of all that you would love to achieve. Be sure it is all bite-sized because you don't want to take big pieces that you could never be able to chew. Work on it. I often say to people, dreaming, planning and success should never replace work because work is what takes a mere dream all the way to a successful idea. Be smart on your goals, set goals that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound. Always remember to be intentional about everything you set out to do.

#BEUNSTOPPABLE

Get hold of us at sales.elegantliving@gmail.com

DStv Eutelsat Award's Botswana winner sets Africa's sights on space

It's 12:00pm on a Wednesday afternoon and the skies over Kenya are crisp and clear. The Bateleur Super Heavy is ready for take-off. In 10, 9, 8…." Seconds later the rocket blasts off, arcing east over the great Congo River basin, breaking the sound barrier. The launch heralds another successful rocket launch from African soil.

This is the future envisioned by Tanaka Chonyera, the inspiring 19-year-old aerospace dynamo from Gaborone, Botswana, who last month returned from a once-in-a-lifetime trip to French Guiana to watch a rocket blast into space to place a satellite into orbit.

Tanaka was the standout winner in the essay category of the 2018 DStv Eutelsat Star Awards. A partnership between Eutelsat and MultiChoice Africa, the recently discontinued Star Awards aimed to stimulate interest in science and technology as well as to inspire innovative thinking among secondary and high school students, enriching young lives across the continent.

Tanaka's essay which was a response to the Star Awards' question on how humans can utilize satellites in a more efficient and useful way, proposed using satellites as refuelling stations, as electromagnetic inductors, or as giant solar farms beaming energy back to earth saving the finite land we have available. In Tanaka's essay he displayed an extremely in-depth understanding of the world of satellites and more importantly, a passion for not only astronomy but for providing solutions which will benefit the human race.

As the category winner, Tanaka was whisked off to Paris for, among others, a tour of the Eiffel Tower, still considered one of the greatest engineering feats of our time, followed by a visit to French Guiana for a live rocket launch.

"Seeing a 60m tall rocket launch is mind-blowing. It's like staring into the sun. It's quiet for five to 10 seconds, then you hear this thunderous roar, then everything starts shaking and you feel the vibrations in your body even though the launch pad is 5km away. I can't even describe it. These are the most powerful vehicles humanity has ever built, and to see one launch is truly life changing," Tanaka gushes, recounting his trip that marked the culmination of the eighth and final edition of MultiChoice's DStv Eutelsat Star Awards.

More than just a sight-seeing adventure, Tanaka rubbed shoulders with visionary thinkers who, like him, want to change the world, starting with Africa. From CEOs with aspirations to revolutionise African internet connectivity, to rocket scientists who engaged the budding aerodynamicist over technical subjects such as electrical compulsion and the challenge of managing space debris, Tanaka peered through the wormhole at his future…and is completely hooked.

"I have loved rocketry my whole life. It's the classic story of the kid who breaks things down just to build them up again. At eight years old, I tried to make a rocket out of baking soda and vinegar. It blew up in my face, but ignited my lifelong obsession with rockets and space. By nine years old I was reading my sister's physics books, and by 10 I had conceptualised the name of my aerospace agency, complete with its own logo, and decided which subsidiary companies I would launch under this umbrella venture to fund an aerospace programme for Africa.

"I have since launched all these companies, and following this trip to Paris, am more dedicated than ever before to pioneering a space revolution in Africa. Yes, we make satellites here on the continent, but we don't make rockets and we don't launch them. There are plenty of excellent destinations from which to launch rockets, like Kenya, which is on the equator so you get the speed boost of the earth's rotation, and has plenty of useable land. There is no reason why we as Africans shouldn't be doing this ourselves. The resources are there, the expertise is there. It just needs one person to bring it all together. I plan to be that person. I am going to pioneer spaceship building and rocket launches from Africa," Tanaka says seriously, acknowledging that there are not enough positive African role models in science and technology.

This is fuelling his drive to additionally position himself as a source of inspiration for his generation in science and tech innovation in Africa, for he is equally passionate about the untapped potential of Africa and Africans.



AMBITIOUS: Young Tanaka Chonyera in Paris

He wants to inspire Africans to be proudly African and to reach for the stars knowing that they can be anything they want to be. As a continent, we no longer need external validation or others' leads to follow. We can, and should, carve our own paths.

"I have a vision to build cutting-edge research facilities in Africa, like our own particle accelerator, and to start my own non-profit preschool, primary school, high school and university that encourage free thinking and questioning the status quo of everything we think we know. I also want to open a technology centre for Africa's brightest minds to stretch the limits of their innovative and creative thinking, and bring to life those ideas that only exist in their heads. So many people have great ideas to help society but there is no funding. I want to secure that funding to encourage innovation among young Africans because honestly, I think amazing work will come out of that," he says, emphasising the incredible potential that exists for greater self-sufficiency in Africa, especially in the area of renewable resources.

Not even the sky is the limit for this ambitious Maru-a-Pula High School graduate. He is about to embark on his university studies in aerospace engineering, which he will complete while running his existing telecoms and solar power businesses to raise funds for his African space agency dream.Winning the DStv Eutelsat Star Awards has cemented Tanaka's path and the visionary change he will bring to Africa, reflecting MultiChoice Africa's objective of using science and technology to enrich African lives.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime shot, especially being the last edition of the awards," Tanaka says. "It has literally changed my life. I know now for a fact, anything is possible. I'm going to achieve every single one of my goals. It's going to be an exciting journey, one which has already started thanks to MultiChoice Africa and Eutelsat."

PMR ready to dress you

From page A

He is happy that people support his brand, though others could not resonate well with the Maun *Ko Motjiii* brand, as they were not from Maun.

"I had to introduce Maun *ko Motjiii* because it is general and more accommodating to everyone. This was because people who are not from Maun were interested in my products but couldn't buy because the first PMR products identified them as Maun representatives yet they are not from Maun," he explained.

His different products include; T-shirts, caps, bucket hats, pants, hoodies, jackets and vests, because they do not want to leave out anyone.

Because of the support that he gets, he keeps on developing their merchandise by always adding something new. The brand has been rocked by well known individuals including; Dipsy Selolwane, Onalethata Tshekiso, both former national football players, artistes like Thero Setsile, Scar and HT Tautona, who is actually the brand ambassador. He takes pride in the fact that the products accommodate any season, so people always look forward to the new merchandise.

He appreciates the fact that during most events held in Maun, people put on this brand. "Nothing has humbled me enough like to see a lot of people wearing my brand especially during events," he said. His target audience is everyone who loves Maun , stays in Maun and anyone who visits Maun as a tourist.