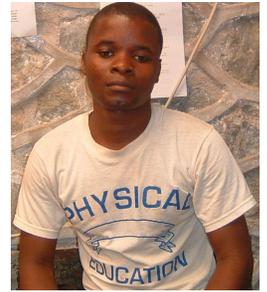


THE STUDENT PLAN/STORY (WILL I BE BACK TO SCHOOL?)

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(Malawi)



I have been working at Nkhata Bay Community Resource Centre (NCRC) where I have been teaching people from communities both computer and internet lessons which are provided for free to them. Now I have just joined another institution that is St Maria Goretti Tele Centre. Here I would like to learn more as there are new advanced machines and to have enough time for my studies as I would like to study Information Technology (I.T) if at all everything can go well.

Why choosing to study IT (Information Technology)

In-fact at first I wanted to study theology but I changed my mind and switched to I.T on one or more reasons. It is a field I already started to show interest as am a Telecentre attendant therefore I see it easy to continue the same field and further my career. However, after majoring into this course I will be able to have self jobs despite waiting for someone to employ me. I can open my own shop selling computer accessories, troubleshooting other`s computers networks or soft ware problems as one way of getting a living and the main aim is to establish first a small school of IT in my area as there is no such institution that offers IT course nearby. I think this will have two or more advantages despite benefiting from income generation through fees that student shall pay, the surrounding community people will be able to learn computer skills without spending money for transport than we do now and it will be part of the development in the society that will also help to bring people access to information through technology.

The Black Future

I was born in the family of ten and both parents are alive to make a total of 12, un fortunately out of ten children am the only one who went to school and finish secondary level but the rest are completely illiterate people and they do not sign

even their own names. So I can say in my family the education ratio is 1/12. This puts me in pain always both in thoughts and physical living because I work hard to make them understand what life is and try to control and support them in many areas in order to try to make them as better as they can. I always try to advise them to send their children to school so that the next generation shouldn't be like them and make life even harder than theirs. Again I also try to tell them the importance of family planning relating to modern life but it is a big challenge to make them understand on this matter and some of them have already not less than five children. These are some of the problems that come as the fruits of ignorance. Here am talking about my own family members as a good example and am talking about one family tree in the society having ten children and now all children have grandchildren of which some of them have already started to produce their offspring as well representing a high growth of family tree without trimming of its branches (family planning) to control its unremarkable growth or without applying manure (education) as continuous permanent source of nutrients which means later in the future if all soil nutrients (current sources) are becoming extinct the tree is shrank and become un health with no hope of recovery (no one to help or support them) Which means even myself if I could not struggle to make myself go to school and be like those of family members education level in our family would be 0/12 representing total dangerous black future.

How did I make it to complete initial stage of Education?

One of the things I do not forget from my child hood are questions that frequently came into my mind *`why are we born poor? And why my parents are poor?`* These questions were coming not just for food for thoughts but because of the poor status did our family had. We children were walking naked because my father did not afford to buy us clothes and mum was busy taking care of little children that therefore we couldn't put her on the list to find the needs of the family. And normally in our culture we actually depend much on father than mom. Such degree of poverty made my father failing to send us to school or feed us well which lead all children to be un educated and sleeping with empty

stomachs was our daily song to dance. Again due to increased levels of poverty some of my sisters and brothers were sent out doing hard labor in order to find a family living while dad was also playing his part because of large number of children he could not make it alone. Now the more the problems we met the more my heart became pain and my head full of questions which my dad could not answer me but beat me if I had to ask him `why are you poor`. Later when I grew up I forced myself trying to go to school where I learned two classes, standard 1 and 2 before second term I was chased out of the class just because my dad did not pay school fees and he did really not make it till I completely leave school. I spent some years without attending any academic activity or class. Later when multiparty system of the government came all primary schools were declared free. Here I found a chance of going back to school though I was older than my class age which made me to be shy while learning but my teacher encouraged me. By the time primary schools announced free secondary schools and other tertiary schools were not till today they are still paid while primaries continue remain free. This gives advantages to many poor families to send their children to school at a free cost. Now after completing primary school there come another stumbling block toward school life as it required school fees to attend any secondary school. I was selected to one of the high government secondary school but I failed to go there till they replaced me with someone. I cried allot thinking that despite being intelligent by achieving what other people fail to achieve school fees was a great evil which blocked me from secondary school doors. I had a broken heart after failing to attend secondary school, at this point again my parents, sisters and brothers had no value to me since they could not make me go to school. One day I left home leaving everybody there and go heading north of the country where my uncle was living with the hope that he may send me back to school, this was an uncle I never saw since I was born as he left home before many of us were born in our family so I followed him using the history my mom was telling us. That year, 2002 there was a great famine in our country (Malawi) I boarded the Ilala ferry and it took me three days to reach north with no food and no money to buy something to eat. I become very feeble to walk even within compartments of the ferry till some well wishers bought me rice porridge to eat. Next day somebody invited me to a lunch down the cabin.

Here I begin regaining my strength till I arrived at Nkhata bay jet where I was going.

Had I Known

I arrived at Nkhata bay Sunday morning 6th January 2002 when the sky was cloudy and precipitating; I got a bit wet and feel cold in a strange destination with all new faces and new language. I felt so lonely till I found where my uncle was living. I had joy upon seeing him and the way he welcomed me was so warmly. In an introduction with joy in me I told him the reason I came there and he assured me not to get worried about school and his acceptance increased joy in me with more percentages. Things started to change when he started to force me to join his church yet I was already a Christian, he began to give me hard labor as one way to make me leave his home. Later after he saw that I persisted in all ways he treated me he openly told me that I had to leave his house just because he was burdened with me as I increased number of the family members to look after. Here I was only three months old in the strange place with no new friends, or a relative except himself and no money to go for rent, still I had no choice but to leave his house and be independent. I was definitely had to go into the street and experience street life of which I would not even want to practice in my life however Nkhata bay was just a town ship with very little development. Luck enough I met a friend who was also new to this town but he had more months old than me and he was running a small business where he was selling cassava and rented a single bed room. I talked to him about my situation thereafter he accepted to live with him until when I found a temporary job at Nkhata bay Southern Bottlers limited (SOBO) even though the job was harder than my age I had no choice but doing it.

A Chance Of Going Back To Secondary School

I reached a point when I lost hope that I would be in class again. I continued to work at the SOBO Company where I was earning a little living as it was not secured and permanent job. I was seeing nothing good in my future than growing up and die like an animal without contributing anything in my society or country

as whole, with this thoughts it brought me to a point thinking that I was no more important in this world, no good than die and forget everything so that I should be **nothing to nothing**. One day I sat down on a pillar along the gate of the company waiting for another session of work when I saw certain man gazing at me having apparently recognize me, he asked me a name, upon telling him my name his eyes opened and recognize me. He was well educated man from nearby village where I grew up with my sister and he was a very good friend of my brother in law, at this time he was a district officer of fisheries, a government department. He was very interested to know what I was doing there, I told him that I was working at that company he felt so pity as he knew the job was too tough to my age. He asked me if I would allow leaving a job and going back to school. I laughed thinking that he was just kidding me and then he went. Next day he came back and told me to get prepared to go back to school at such date, it was like I was dreaming. When the day came I told by boss and my work mates that I had to leave job and going back to school, everybody laughed at me with disbelief as they thought I was joking. The morning of Tuesday 19th May it was my first day to be in a secondary school class after many years. It was also a challenge again being a class of under aged people but my teacher again played a very big role by advising and encouraging me the way I could live with those new friends without interfering me and my future.

Who Looked After Me When I Was At School?

Leaving a job was like sacrificing only own child to me, everybody had had an unique question *`who is looking after you while schooling since you left job?`* the answer was no one except alone. Here, I had big responsibilities because I had to find a piece work somewhere to get a living and at the same time I had to go to school every morning as well I had find time for studies. I was always tired which made me to have low progress in my studies as I was only studied when I was about to sit for examination. So one can assume how short the period was for the student to come up with good grades yet I had no option but to continue because my eyes and heart was forward to achievement. Hardships and difficulties were my great enemy in my daily life, thinking of water bills, thinking of money to pay

rent, food, clothes, school necessities and the like gave me a panic life which made me many times to have no time for doing exercises, playing, chatting with friends so to refresh my brain and body instead I was always busy working just after classes or when home I had always to go deep thinking what to eat tomorrow e.t.c . Later on I went for medical checkup after having abdominal pain for a long time and I was diagnosed with ulcers, the doctor asked me lots of questions including if I smoke, drink beer, eat some types of food spices or thinking a lot, I told him none of them except that I think a lot and live with miserable life because of the problems I meet every day. I regret to see that unhappy life left me with almost incurable disease. I believe that all these happened because of my poor background (parents). Had it been my parents did afford to send me to school I could not went through such situations and develop ulcers as I am now.

Will I Ever Go Back To School?

After having gone through all such unpleasant hardships I managed to write secondary school examination and come out with good grades than other school mates who had their parents and guardians who were giving them everything they wanted in school life. Now even if I have MSCE certificate I cannot get any better job unless I upgrade to a diploma or to a degree program in any field I may choose. Any job I can join with MSCE certificate I can not earn money that can be enough to support my family or have savings and no permanent job with it but piece works and some contracts that are available at a time which threatens our livelihood and future. Again at secondary school level there are lots of subjects that are studied by one student which gives students basic knowledge on topics only but cannot help them becoming more creative on any skill or field while in colleges, students have to study a specific field which helps them to be very creative after wards and make them become professionals at that particular field and enable them to create self jobs when they graduate while secondary school graduate cannot do that. This is why I cry every time wish I would upgrade my qualification to a diploma or degree. I believe after having degree in I.T I can find a good job and able to be independent. I can have some savings that can also help

me to pursue my education without bothering people seeking for a support, but all are just dreams as I have nothing or no one to support me to further my studies to such level and I do not know if I will go back to school again or just waiting to becoming old and die. I wish I would be totally different from my parents who are not educated, end up being poor and fail to send their own children to school. At primary school it was multiparty government that helped me to go to school after declaring free primary schools, at secondary level it was a man from my nearby village who sent me to school though he left me on the way before I complete but I made it. Now here it comes college it's a big block to me as I do not have anyone or anything to depend on, my parents are there but are helpless to me because they cannot provide what I want as their child apart from words only. Having experience all such hardships, they have contributed nothing since the beginning till today and even in the future because of their poor status. Only that I cannot despise them because they are poor and because they fail to send me to school I do still respect them and help them some home works whenever I visit them especially now when they are becoming so old than before I feel pity when I look at them the way they look and life they live.

School I would like to attend: Currently I would like to study with AMITY INSTITUTE OF HIGH EDUCATION that many people recommend they say it produces quality graduate of Information Technology, Secondly they have partners here in Malawi (<http://www.hbiholdings.com>) which easy process and prices than having registered abroad. Thirdly it is internationally recognized institution and branches are available in Many African countries (<http://www.amityafrica.com>) including this of my Country Malawi.

Fees structure: After sending application letter and all required documents to Mr Rodrick Mulonya, I am accepted but not yet finish the process unless funding is available and upon asking them about fees he said it is: **\$20 US** registration/processing fee, **\$350** centre fee, **\$1300** tuition per semester and they are other additional learning things that are added by option like printed books and study materials=**\$200/semester**, E-learning Lectures=**\$150/semester** and Foreign study tour to other nations price depends on destination (practical and experience). All fees structures are also show in their website and they differ from faculty to faculty.

My Current Major Problems

As life goes on, they are lots of problems I meet and I do able to endure many of them or solve them but my major challenges that troubles me always are school fees for college education and business as a support when am at school also by the way to pave way for my studies, however it will be again a source of income for some school requirements and livelihood. I believe that I am not able to withstand living situation because of poor qualification I have, had it been I have good qualification I could have been found a good job and get enough living as well.

Idea Of Having A Business

I strongly believe that having a business can make someone be stable in mind and independent. At first I could not understand why some people who are employed are also running some business in town. In fact business helps in many emergency problem while salary you have to wait month end, so I see that having business it will support me in many ways especially in terms of school and living. For example am a Telecentre attendant but the money I earn from the work it's like as change from the market by other people, I cannot make a budget for the whole month with it instead I have to borrow money from other people to make a supplement to my budget and when I have nowhere to borrow the money we go to bed with empty stomachs till when I find something.

The Types Of Business I Prefer To Do

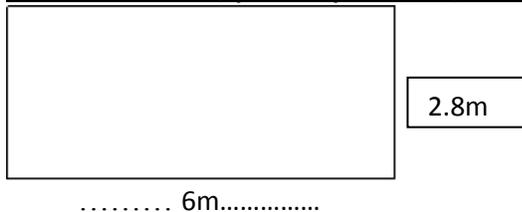
There are lots of businesses, but the problem with other business is that some of them are perishable, others are run by many people with high competition on customers and others have limited market but the one I see and most convenient is poultry which is also part of agriculture. This business is more profitable than other small businesses and it's easy to calculate the profit or lose before you harvest. Since it is part of food it has also high demand on the market and if the birds are of the high quality they don't take long on the market in addition to that it is possible to sell them at a high prices and get more profits.

CAPITAL AND BREAK DOWN FOR THE POULTRY BUSINESS

REQUIRED MATERIALS

1. House
 2. Litters (Rice brain)..... locally Available
 3. Charcoal heater (Mbaula)..... 2x700 = 1,400
 4. Charcoal (Makala)3 x 800 = 3,200
 5. Drinker (Water Tray).....2 x 1200 = 2400
 6. Feeder (Feeding tray)2 x 1200 = 2400
- Total = 9400**

Size of the Khola (space requirement) for 100 chicks



HOUSE MATERIALS

- Bricks 6500x 5 =32500
 Plunks.....22x520 =11440
 Builder.....1x15000 = 15000
 Doors & Frames2x4700 =9400
 Window frames2x3000 =6000
 Gauze wire 4x520 =2,080
 Nails..... 4kg x970 =3880
 Sheets 10ft.....16x2385 = 38160
Total..... 118460

CHICKS100 x 225 = **22500**

FEEDING PROGRAM

- Supreme Starter ...2 bags/50kgs x 10898 = 21.796
 Supreme Grower...2 bags/50kgs x 9987 = 19.974
 Supreme Finisher...2bags/50kgs x 9695 = 19.390
 Gold Supplement..... 1bag/50kgs x 8020 = 8.020
Total= 69180

MEDICINES

- After 1-3 days oldvitamin 1x850 = 850
 After 7 days old.....Gumboro 1x 900 = 900
 After 14 days old..... Gumboro 1 x 900 = 900
 After 21 days oldLasota 1 x 760 = 760
Total = 3410

Transportation for all materials.....**18000** Ave

Grand capital.....MWK 231.550.00

EXPECTED INCOME

FIRST ROUND HARVEST

- 1 Chicken = 1500
 100 chickens x 1500.....=150.000.00
- Total capital**231.550.00**
 Total income**150.000.00**
Totals Difference.....81.550.00

SECOND ROUND HARVEST

INPUTS

- Chicks 100 x 225 =22,500
 Feeds 7 bags =69180
 Medicines =3410
 Charcoal3 x 800 = 3,200
 Transportation.....3000 Ave
Total inputs Exp.....101290

PROFITS

- Total Income.....1500.000.00**
Total Input Exp101.290.00
Total Profit 48.710.00

Profit may increase when I continue to use surplus inputs like charcoal, feeds and medicine; it will be like *the more the surplus the lower the budget for the next session.*

This draft shows that the total capital (**231.550.00**) That can be used to start this business can be produced in the minimum of 125 days (4 months)

This is the only promising business I always dream and expect to relief life hardships neither very quickly nor very late

AVAILABILITY OF MARKET

1. Public (individual families) this is a high demand
2. Restaurants (orders)
3. Lodges (orders)
4. Weekly Women business top-ups
5. Some Institutions/seminary, farewell etc

SECOND BUSINESS OPTION

Otherwise the poultry farming may fail, the other business option I would prefer to do is that of grocery especially after being attracted by the area am leaving now there are a few shops but large number of population that traveling long distance to access shops. So here idea has come to meet the needs of people by the way business is going well.

BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

House Rent	3 Monthsx15000=	45.000.00
Shelves		17.000.00
Table/Counter		6.000.00
Chair		2.500.00
Carpenter.....		9.000.00
Transportation.....		5.000.00
Groceries.....		150.000.00
Grand Total.....		MWK 234.500.00

EXPECTED INCOME

Un known/uncalculated, as it will be assorted items of different values

POSTION OF THE PREMISES

- Near the main road
- Among high density of population
- Near school
- Few shops of the same kind

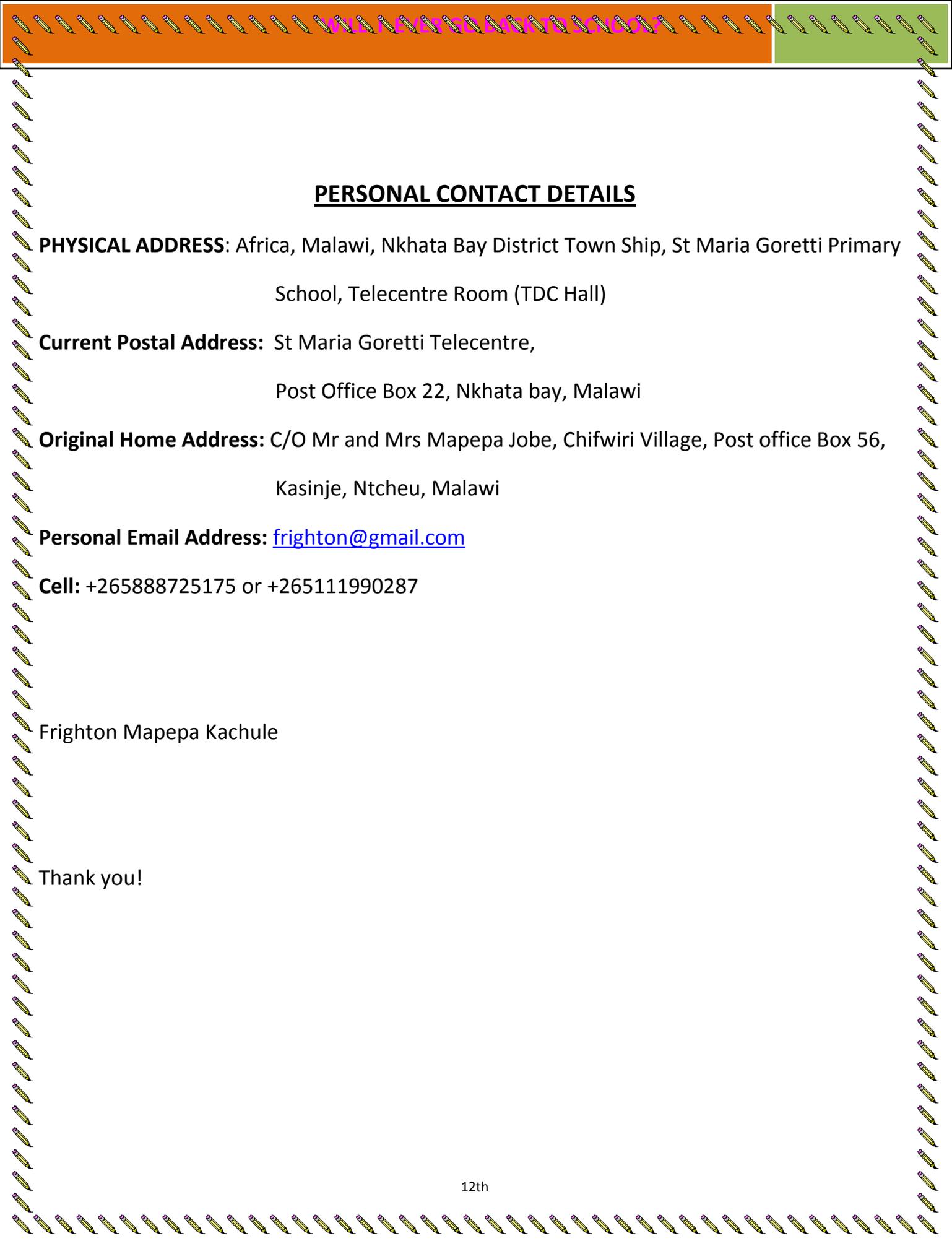
MARKET

- Public
- School pupils

PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING ABOUT SUPPORT

I sincere thank you for every effort that might be taken to support me in either of my challenges which I hope will change my life. I do believe or someone can believe that one is not created to be always helped but to be one day independent and help others in the same way or the other. I believe that to help someone honestly is through provision or introduction of resources to him/her because these will keep one going than **give** and **spend** kind of support. I believe that when one is being helped the helper expect him/her to become mature and independent in the way you are being supported and learn what the helper is doing and do the same to others when you get matured in that particular area. In so doing we are making this world a better and friendly destiny for everyone. So by helping me to have a business it will be a reliable source of income generation which will support me in both school when my studies starts and family that consumes much of my time because instead of concentrating on studies I do waist time thinking and finding solutions to living situation problems which hinders good progress. Helping in college studies is like building my long lasting pillar that will be supporting my life where ever I will be in the world till my death because through the skills, professionalism and experience I will get from this studies will help me to get employed where ever I will be and be able to create jobs through establishment of institutions, shops or seminaries as fruits of my field I studied.

We learn cultures and their beliefs in our respective societies, we also learn different behaviors and skills from any source of them but education from school is something special and without academic education I hope it's when the word ignorance actually comes. People in the society can have high capacity of their cultural beliefs, can have experience in many skills and can do whatever they can but if they have not gone to school they are called illiterate/ignorant people until when there is knowledge of certain academic field in them, which marks to say that education is the key of our livelihood, a permanent pillar of our life, a lamp for our future. So without proper education I feel as if am tied in the sack in where there no any kind of freedom.



PERSONAL CONTACT DETAILS

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Thank you!