



Beyond Inspiration

Great leaders start with inspiration but change the society through perspiration. Lack of execution can kill even the greatest of ideas.

Ramoroka NT & Pule IT

Beyond Inspiration



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Book printing sponsored by **National Library of South Africa: Centre of the Book**

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ISBN: 978-0-620-65178-3

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DEDICATIONS

This book is dedicated to all the **Kasi Nerds** in townships and rural areas. Those who have been told that, they have tried all they can to make an honest living but does not seem to get it right. Those that society has rejected, ridiculed and has concluded to being boring, lunatic and anti-social.

Beyond Inspiration is dedicated to the aspiring young leaders with a zeal to move from being inspired to transformation. When everyone is complaining about the lack of leadership in both public and private sector, Beyond Inspiration seeks to cultivate a new breed of significant leaders in society who will challenge the norms and bring the dignity of their communities and country at large.

It goes without saying that Beyond Inspiration is also dedicated to you who are about to lose hope. You who have tried and done almost everything in your power to become better and create success for your life but you are always asking yourself why you fail to make it in life.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to God - our foundation and source of inspiration whom without His wisdom, this book would not exist. To **Agape Youth Movement (AYM)** Agents of Change who are always thriving for excellence and breeding a new generation of leaders. Your efforts and great deeds are noted and recorded in the higher realms.

An African Proverb says “**if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together**” and indeed, if we really want to cripple down the three main challenges (poverty, inequality and unemployment) facing our Africa at large, we need to hold hands and work together.

We also thank the **National Library of South Africa (NLSA)** for firstly believing in us to write this book and secondly for supporting us in the project to make it a success. Let the massive support you have given us, extend to other incredible writers in our generation. With a population of over 52 million citizens, we believe that there are over 52 million untold stories that can position South Africa as a nation of great leaders.

To our families, friends and community leaders who have supported us and Agape Youth Movement since its inception, we are forever grateful for giving us a platform to share our thoughts and express our creative work with you. Thank you for your patience, love and appreciation of the work we do even when we are absent from most of your gatherings due to the cause of transformation of thousands of lives in South Africa. Enkosi (Thank you).

Lastly we acknowledge the hardships, disappointments and misfortunes that have groomed us to become who we are today. It would erroneous not to mention that this book would not exist if we did not go through pain and a hate speech. We appreciate you reading this book. You have made a wise decision to buy this book.

PREFACE

It was during the year 2012 when **Agape Youth Movement (AYM)** launched an inspirational and leadership programme for high schools and communities across Gauteng Province called Power Talks. The purpose of the programme is to motivate and inspire learners in high schools to change their lifestyle from bad to great.

The success of the programme led to the leadership of the organisation to decide on launching it on social media using Facebook as a major medium of communication. This was done through posting motivational messages and inspirational stories on a daily basis at seven (7) o'clock in the morning.

Late 2013, Power Talks (www.aym.org.za/powertalks) were offered through electronic newsletters reaching over 2 500 subscribers. This is done through sending motivational and inspirational messages every Monday morning. Subscribers to the newsletters receive weekly motivational messages straight to their emails. There was a need to deliver the power talks in a form of a book.

When AYM did a national tour in 2014, we discovered that some of the reasons why people fail and give up in life is because:

- They lack motivation and inspiration to continue even when it seems as if all the odds are against them
- They are demotivated and discouraged to do anything about their situations even after attending many seminars and conferences
- Some of them gave up on applying for jobs, some gave up on life and were at the edge of committing suicide

It was for these reasons that we have decided to package our Power Talks in a book with an attempt to inspire as many South Africans as we can and to **#BringBackHope** in our society.

Not all young people are able to come out a motivational session and go out to become successful in all their endeavours.

This is not a motivational book but a transformational book written to unearth the greatest potential you possess. We hope this book will help sharpen your skills and expose your greatest potential.

INTRODUCTION

You have just attended a motivational seminar or heard "one of the most powerful inspirational talks" in your life. You are all fired up, ready to go out and conquer the world. With great excitement, you share your life-changing experience to your friends and they too can feel the passion through the tone of your voice. "Go for it. You can do it!" they cheered. It is only fair to feel and react the way you do, after all you are human.

Two days later you wake up and realise that all the goose bumps you felt are challenged by the reality you are faced with. You look around your environment to draw more inspiration, you still believe that you can make it, but reality and motivation are two worlds apart.

"How do I move from being inspired to having a proper plan of action on how to transform my life for the better?" you worryingly ask. The frustration grows and you feel as though you are right back to where you were two days ago.

"Motivating your audience is not enough, you should inspire them to change their belief systems and act upon decisions they make through a transformational process rather than an information sharing session." - **Billy**

Selekane

Being motivated and inspired is not enough. In fact there is so much inspiration you can draw from your life that can transform your life for the better. You need to move beyond inspiration.

Life as we know it is a journey without no predicted destination. It has its ups and downs. The challenges thereof can push one to the limit. It sometimes hits you so hard to a point where you utter words like "I wish I was never born."

We often fail to understand that life is not a smooth road that we travel on without any potholes. We try things out, we sometimes fall and try again and fall again. What is important in life is not how many times we attend seminars, workshops, summits and trainings. It is not about how many times we fall, but that each time we fall, we should learn, rise up, and become better people, and live inspired lives from our failures.

Each day we can draw inspiration from simple things and people in our society because ***“life’s most important lessons come from ordinary people.”*** We, sometimes wait on big events to occur or even celebrities to come inspire us to live better lives whereas we neglect lessons taught by those who are near us.

Our way of looking at things and people around us should change. The way we see problems we go through should change. Our thought patterns and imaginations should be inspired by the little things we ignore in life. Those are the important ones we can acquire wisdom from.

Failure leads to success

“It is not over until you decide so. Pick yourself up and do it again until you get it right.” – Abuti Rams

Sometimes we get so caught up in success to a point we forget that failure is part of success. We are always focused on achieving the many goals we have for our lives, but what happens when motivation is drained out and inspiration is lacking in your life? You no longer perform at your peak. You feel as though you are a fraud or not giving people the best of your abilities.

You need to be reminded that failure is not fatal and falling is not final. When you go through trials and tribulations, have a different view. Think of them as challenges and tests you need to go through in order to become a better person and live an inspired life.

The famously quoted innovator, **Thomas Edison** once observed that **“Success is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration.”** What this means is that beyond the motivation you have

been given and beyond the much inspiration you got, the only way to make you become successful is to undergo perspiration. This is a process of trial and error. During this process, you are definitely going to go through pain, sweat, injury, wounds and have scars to show for your hard work.

The "Aha moment," when a creative idea comes to you in a moment of sudden inspiration or attending a motivational session, has long dominated our notion of how creative ideas are born. But that idea is limiting, especially when it comes to finding creative solutions for your problem.

When going through chapters of this book will unlock some of the greatest mysteries surrounding success. We will interrogate the most misunderstood meaning and aspects of success, the theories many hold on setting goals and how to best find closure to the things that didn't happen even after working hard to achieve your goals and aspirations.

The book will help unpack some of the fundamental perspirations that you need to go through in order to live a significant life in your generation. We will explore the basic solutions to the underlying questions you have asked yourself, one being “why am I still not successful after all the attempts I have made in my life?”

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Meet the Authors

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Part 1

Identity

*“Finding your identity will unlock all the doors to your success.” – **Abuti Rams***

In life, we have various identities that build our character and help shape our destiny. We often see people go on a journey to find their long lost family members in an attempt to help understand who they really are – because we believe that in order to understand who we are, we need to look into our past.

Many say that people lose themselves after tasting success, but I would argue that “people do not lose themselves but never clearly identified themselves in the first place.” It is important for one to go on a journey of self-discovery before attempting anything in life. If/when you find faults; **pause** and then **fix** them before you **continue** to chase success. Therefore the first step to success is to identify yourself.

There is nothing wrong with being different. We are so afraid of being different as if there is everything wrong with it. In-fact, there is a special reason why you were uniquely created in the manner you are. The varying DNAs and fingerprints tell us that we are all equal however different in our own special way.

The first book of the bible, Genesis 1:26 tells that we were created in the image of God. This is the first identity we should align ourselves with. Understand that the one major similarity every human being has is the spiritual identity. Since “*God is a spirit*” (John 4:24), therefore we are all spirits since we possess his likeness.

Our biological identity is that which separates us through the human features, behavioural patterns and characters shaped by our cultural/traditional norms and societal perceptions. We identify with certain groups of people because we are exposed to that particular environment which plays a major role in our upbringing.

It is for this reason that God instructs you “...*not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind...*” (Romans 12:2 NIV). Furthermore, he says that “***above all else, guard your heart [minds/thoughts], for everything you do flows from it.***” (Proverbs 4:23 NIV).

Science can attest to the fact that we are one of the most intelligent species ever created. The complexity of our reasoning and thinking capacity, the special red blood cells, the unexplainable DNA material we possess and the beauty of our subconscious mind to process events should inform our decisions when someone begins to suggest that we were not created by just a result of chance and accident.

Special and Unique in Creation

One of the most captivating words in the bible that assure us of the love we have from our creator [God] is found in the book of *Zechariah 2:8* where the prophet says “...*he who touches you touches **the apple of his [God] eye:***” Knowing that you are the apple of God’s eye, you will start living a different life.

Never allow yourself to be subjected to the negative talks by people who do not know the real you. Never confess negativity to your life. *Always be positive to a negative.* Never listen to people ridiculing your worth. Give yourself much time reminding yourself how special you are to God.

Many-a-times we try to search for that special one, but we however fail to become special ourselves. This is because we do not believe that we are special enough. We think we cannot amount to anything in life. We assume that others are more special than us. We even go to a point of idolising these people because we fail to understand that they are just as special as we are.

In God’s eyes, we are all equal and special. We cannot be bought by any material thing, be it platinum, diamond, gold or even silver.

“I am just an imperfect being striving to meet standards of a creator who embodies perfection” – Abuti Rams

It is heart-breaking to hear a parent tell his/her children that they are stupid, losers, lunatics and that they can never be anything in life. Your parents or someone close to you may have said that out of anger because of something wrong you've done, however you need to remove that reality from your mind. Do not take to hearts the hurtful words people tell you if they do not know what God has in store for you.

You have a bright future. The moment to start painting a new picture of your actual reality – that you are special beyond measure, that you matter to God, that's the moment you will start Impact by Inspiration.

If you walk on the streets in our communities and hear how many young people have lost hope, you'd be convinced that we never once said "South Africa is alive with possibilities". Indeed we have become a faithless nation with no ambitions and hopes.

The new form of slavery is in mental. We enslave our minds with thoughts that suggest that we cannot do anything special. We belittle ourselves to a point that we make God's existence and purpose in our lives irrelevant.

If you have witnessed your siblings not making it to tertiary let alone matric that should not be your reality. You are not supposed to be affected by such. Look at yourself the way God has created you and not at what others have gone through because you are special.

I want to challenge you to change your language from saying "Ah jo go a tshwana" to say "No, Ga go tshwane!" This is a Sotho saying to mean that not all things are the same. It is not by default that you will be down and out. Things can and should be different with you.

You are unique

Poem by **Unknown**

Think what a remarkable, unduplicatable, and miraculous thing it is to be you! Of all the people who have come and gone on the earth, since the beginning of time, not ONE of them is like YOU!

No one who has ever lived or is to come has had your combination of abilities, talents, appearance, friends, acquaintances, burdens, sorrows and opportunities.

No one's hair grows exactly the way yours does. No one's finger prints are like yours. No one has the same combination of secret inside jokes and family expressions that you know.

The few people who laugh at all the same things you do, don't sneeze the way you do. No one prays about exactly the same concerns as you do. No one is loved by the same combination of people that love you – NO ONE!

No one before, no one to come. YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY UNIQUE!

Enjoy that uniqueness. You do not have to pretend in order to seem more like someone else. You weren't meant to be like someone else. You do not have to lie to conceal the parts of you that are not like what you see in anyone else.

You were meant to be different. Nowhere ever in all of history will the same things be going on in anyone's mind, soul and spirit as are going on in yours right now.

If you did not exist, there would be a hole in creation, a gap in history, something missing from the plan for humankind.

Treasure your uniqueness. It is a gift given only to you. Enjoy it and share it!

No one can reach out to others in the same way that you can. No one can speak your words. No one can convey your meanings. No one can comfort with your kind of comfort. No one can bring your kind of understanding to another person.

No one can be cheerful and light-hearted and joyous in your way. No one can smile your smile. No one else can bring the whole unique impact of you to another human being.

Share your uniqueness. Let it be free to flow out among your family and friends and people you meet in the rush and clutter of living wherever you are. That gift of yourself was given you to enjoy and share. Give yourself away!

See it! Receive it! Let it tickle you! Let it inform you and nudge you and inspire you! YOU ARE UNIQUE!

Perfect in design

*“I have said, Ye **[you]** are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.” (Psalm 82:6)*

According to the creation story, when God had finished creating a human being on the 6th day, He smiled and said he is **very good**. This was to imply that he had created a **perfect** creature that was nowhere close to being an animal or any plant on created before. King David in the book of Psalms assures us that we were all *“fearfully and wonderfully created”* (Psalms 139:14). Therefore, you were designed with purpose!

*“And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was **very good**. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.” (Genesis 1:31 ESV)*

There are people hiding from the world. They live behind the curtains because they've been told they think slow, talk funny, that they are too dark, too pale, too tall, too short, too skinny, too fat and more. These people failed to identify themselves.

Who was anointed to carry the scale that measures who's beautiful and whose not? Whose mind is so great it dictates who's intelligent and who's not? No one.

You will lose your mind trying to fit into people's ideas of perfection. You will lose peace and joy trying to be everyone's favourite. Come out behind those curtains and live! Everything about you is in the right place - your mind, your body, your spirit. Do not try to fix because somebody cannot appreciate it.

The word “**outstanding**” simply means to “stand out” of the many people. At all times, people must recognise you and your gift on earth. There is this special DNA you possess that makes you become different from other people on earth. There is this special ability you have which, everyone adores and no other person can do it the way you do.

“Stand out, even if you are the only one standing.” – Abuti Rams

The late Whitney Houston was known for her high pitching and range. Her voice was incredible in so many ways. Even if there will be others who will try to imitate her voice, they will never hit

the high notes as she did. Her unique voice was recognised afar. By the first line in her song, you'd already know that it is Whitney.

You can only afford to be one person on earth, and that is you! Do not try to copy what other people are. You do not know what they had to go through in order to become what you see in them today. Be you and people will appreciate you.

The greatest crime we have committed is to doubt the innate ability we possess. The ability to create, innovate, imagine, dream and prosper in all aspects of life. We owe it to ourselves and the universe to live beyond our human expectations and limitations.

Though we may live on this decaying planet, however we are not of it. Our DNA simulates that of an eternal being that is not bound by time, space nor matter. The most fulfilling risk you will ever take is to be you. And being you will always, always be worth it. Stop apologising because of who you are.

As you think in your mind, so you are

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...” (Proverbs 23:27)

The mind is an element of a person that enables them to be aware of the world and their experiences, to think, and to feel. It is the faculty of consciousness and thought. It is not physical but spiritual. It has the innate ability to create thoughts. Thoughts can be influenced by the five senses we have as human beings.

What we see, hear, feel, smell and taste can influence the way we think and how we should react or respond. Factors affecting this can be our surroundings. Where we live, where we work and school, the people we hang around with, the people we admire and respect all influence the way we think and reason.

“Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.” (Proverbs 4:23 GNB)

Your life is shaped by every thought you process in your mind. What you think you are, will become. If you tell yourself that you are nobody and you can never amount to anything in life, which is the actual reality you are creating for your life.

The more you speak positivity and success to your life, the more you will become successful. Likewise, when you speak negative things about your life, the more you become.

It is therefore sound enough to conclude that the mind is the battlefield where life and death is decided. The only way to conquer the battle is to feed your mind life-filled thoughts.

“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” (Proverbs 18:21 NIV)

We disempower ourselves with our own tongues. We continue to become weak because we only see our weaknesses and never our strengths. The results of the things we say about ourselves using our tongues are seen in our lifestyles.

You are powerful and Influential

“Never judge yourself based on people’s judgement. Judge yourself by the depth of your abilities.” – Abuti Rams

If you have attended many of my Power Talks in various provinces, you will understand my biggest message to people. I always remind people that they are “powerful and influential”, because I believe that we all have this untapped potential that needs some stimuli to revive.

When you understand who you are and what you are capable of, no one can convince you otherwise. When you are fully convinced of the power and influence you have over situations and people, you start living an authentic life. You break boundaries and never let people set limits to what you can achieve.

How do you know that you are powerful and influential? Can you test your influence? Is it possible to measure your power? Yes!

The simplest ways to measure your power and influence is within your circle (friends). How many times have you said something and your friends have agreed to do it? See power is defined as the ability or capacity to do something or act in a particular way. How many times have you convinced your friends to not watch a certain movie but choose the one you like the most? The little influence you have in your circle matters most on your journey to success.

It takes one to use the little power and influence they have to change situations. You're not powerful to bully people or look down on people. You are given power to move mountains (challenges). The best way to test your power and influence is through going head-on with your challenges.

You are not weak as you and others always say you are because your Creator [God] says *"I have given you the power to trample on snakes and scorpions and to defeat the power of your enemy Satan. Nothing can harm you."* (Luke 10:19 CEV). We have created these realities that we are so weak to do anything.

The bible says *"Remember the LORD your God. **He is the one who gives you power to be successful**, in order to fulfil the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath."* (Deuteronomy 8:18 NLT). This is clearly telling us our creator [God] has given us the power to become successful. You therefore have no reason to say that you were destined to become powerless. Maybe the reason why some of us are so powerless is because we have forgotten God who is supposed to be the one making us powerful.

Listen, God has given us the right to see ourselves as great people with power and authority. It is your duty to call yourself according to your purpose. Although minute in creation, you are called to become heirs of His inheritance, I mean sons & daughters in the royal family. You are of royalty called to partake in the inheritance of the King (our Father). It is therefore not a wrong to look and be a prince or a princess on earth.

Believe and Become

"Level of your success is measured by your belief in yourself" – Abuti Rams

The first step in becoming who you are destined to be is to believe in yourself. Your actions are influenced by your belief system. Your belief is triggered by what you have heard or envisioned. What are you listening to? What are you seeing about yourself and your situation?

It is always difficult to believe in yourself or something you want to achieve when you are surrounded by people who don't. Sometimes you need to change your network [friends] and your environment in order to start excising your faith. When you believe that you can be anything you can, you better have the right surroundings to always remind you of what you believe.

We sat down sometime demotivated by the work we are doing for the community without any remuneration. Going from office to another trying to find the support from everyone we knew. We wondered where this social entrepreneurship journey would take us until a friend of ours Thabang Bhebe reminded us to believe in what we want to become. Our spirits were uplifted and we laughed off the challenges we were facing.

When you believe that you are this and that type of a person, nothing or no one can shift your mind from becoming that you wish to become. It is only a matter of time for you to become.

So go ahead and call yourself a billionaire. It's not a lie but affirmation of your actual reality. We have been given the power to create our own reality. It is only when we start believing who we were born to be, that we will explore our greatest abilities.

Defeating the Average Joe Syndrome

"It takes a renewed mind to become extraordinary" – Abuti Rams

At some point, we have all wished to live an average life. We wished to have [just] an average car, house, money and an average family. We are either not sure who we are or afraid to tap into the deepest level of our abilities.

We wake up each day, trying to live ordinary lives. We succumb to the challenges at hand. We let go easily as if someone is pointing a gun in our heads to leave beneath our greatest potential. This defeats our power over situations. We blend in because it is as the safest way to do when we feel threatened by life's challenges.

In case you were going for the average life, remember that **"only extra ordinary people achieve extraordinary things"**. It is impossible for one to be ordinary but achieve extraordinary things. Every human being on earth who have lived significant lives, chose to live extraordinary lives in order to defeat the average Joe syndrome. The likes of the former president of South Africa **Dr Nelson Mandela, Steve Jobs, Mariam Makeba, Dr Myles Munroe** and many more are some of the significant leaders who have paved a way for us to live extraordinary lives.

It takes tenacity, ambition, passion, confidence, high self-esteem and endurance to become better than the ordinary.

Stop chasing for the average, because soon enough you will settle for mediocre. You will end up taking anything and everything that comes your way. Every guy/girl that passes, you want to be with. You squeeze in long queues trying to get a job that “at least” can make you look like average people. That has to stop!

Do not look for a comfort zone. Go against all odds. Challenge yourself to become better than the rest. Instead of aiming to be like the rest, aim high and never be apologetic about it. Defeat constant desire to look and sound like others. You can only be the best when you do the best from the rest.

Rocklands Story in 2014

By Abuti Rams

My recent trip to the Free State was a great experience to learn and empower young people whom some have lost hope in many areas of their lives.

One instance was when I came across a gentleman in the streets of Rocklands, Bloemfontein who is so passionate about developing kids in his community through arts, however he had one problem. His problem was that he always looked down on his abilities, afraid of being the 'Mr Good' in his community (as some people who tease us when they see us progressing) and as a result nothing he has planned in the past 3 years has not been effective.

As I listened to him sharing his story which was full of regrets, and the many "maybes". Along the conversation I stopped him and said "Aim HIGH!" he asked "what?" I replied "Yes my friend. Aim high. You have limited your abilities as a result you've neglected to look into the power you possess within. Stop acting, doing and aiming low. You are limiting yourself. That's not just affecting your progress but also other people who should be beneficiaries to the amazing work you need to do."

What I've learned is that most of us have brilliant dreams, aims and aspirations which can be solutions for millions of lives in the world. However we are never told or taught to aim high back at home. Most parents do not encourage us to aim high.

Society keeps teaching us to conform to the low standards. We are always thinking of doing things haphazardly and live each day to become the 'average Joe'. We are so afraid of exploring great things and challenging the norm.

A word from Apostle Paul in *Colossians 3:2* says "*Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*" Paul here encourages us that at all times we need **not** to look at the things that do not help us to dream big or envision ourselves as great people in society.

We are always reading and listening to motivational speakers and constantly say "WOW this guy is awesome." however we do not see ourselves also doing great exploits. We set limits to our dreams and aspirations.

Today decide to let go of a habit of aiming low and "set your mind on things above." I encourage you to Aim High and never be apologetic about it!

Further reads:

Romans 12:2 and Joshua 1:9

Re-Identification

Now that you know who you are, you have a task to start living life as you, per purpose you have on earth. Re-identification is a process of identifying yourself once again. Finding your real self. Now with an understanding of who you are and where you fit in the whole picture. It is a process of self-discovery.

Recently there has been a number of cases of identity theft in the country. Many people have lost their identity through fraudulent activities done by individuals with malicious intends. This however does not mean that these criminals have stolen your real and innate identity. They may steal your names and information, however they will never steal the real person you are.

In search for your true identity, you need to ask yourself the following questions with honesty and fairness:

1. What makes you not to sleep at night?

If something keeps you awake at night, it bothers you, it challenges your mind, and that it disturbs your sleep every night. When you think of it, you pay no attention to anything around you. That is the one thing you need to dwell on. Work on it.

For an example, you might be bothered by the number of people who are homeless. You see them every day. You feel pity and have sympathy for them. It is now time to help them out. Come up with ways to deal with their situation. Help them get out of their state. You have been commissioned to assist them become better people.

2. What is that one thing that if you do, you know that it will bring you inner joy and peace?

When trying to finding that one thing that brings you joy, remember that it should also bring joy, peace and happiness in the lives of others.

3. What purpose must you serve on earth?

Finding your real purpose on earth is one of the most difficult things every human being faces. It all starts off as if you can do everything and you are able to perfect all things, however there is one specific purpose on earth that you must serve. That is one thing – when you have done it, people will appreciate, applaud and reward you. Your purpose must be aligned to your creator [God] and your destiny.

4. Are the friends around you in synch with your purpose for existence?

Your associations are key to establishing our true purpose on earth. Who are you associated with? Who are your acquaintances? Are they building or breaking you? Are they rightly-aligned with your true purpose on earth? They are pushing the agenda of advancing your true purpose?

You can never choose the family you are born in, however you can choose the friends you associate yourself with. In your journey of discovering your purpose, you need to make wise decisions. One of them is to choose the right friends who are in synch with your purpose for existence on earth.

5. Do you know your strengths, weaknesses and opportunities?

If you do not know your capabilities, you will never explore your true God-given potential. What are some of the innate abilities you possess? What are your inabilities?

A wise man is he who acknowledges his weaknesses and capitalises on them. As much as your foes may take advantage of your weaknesses, you need to make it your duty to master your weaknesses so that they might not come as a surprise once your enemies are made aware of them. You need to turn your weaknesses into strengths. You need to turn the negative into positive. It is possible, you can do it!

6. Do you know the gifts and talents God has blessed you with?

Each one of us is born with incredible gifts that can help all of us at some point. To think that we you are not born with a talent or gift, is not only incorrect but also an insult to your creator because we are all born with special gifts that will help better our lives and other people's lives as well.

7. Do you know what role you have to play in society?

Being part of the human race, you need to understand that you exist not only for yourself but also for others. Your existence gives support to other people's existence.

A perfect example would be that of a mosquitoes. Don't we all get annoyed by them? But did you know that their existence in the ecosystem, helps protect us? As it turns out, mosquitoes do play an important role in a variety of ecosystems. For example, each year when the snow melts in the Arctic tundra, mosquitoes hatch from their eggs and make up a significant part of the biomass.

Some scientists believe these insects serve as an important food source for migratory birds. As part of their useful role, the larvae of mosquitoes live in water and provide food for fish and other wildlife, including larger larvae of other species such as dragonflies.

The larvae themselves eat microscopic organic matter in the water, helping to recycle it. Adult mosquitoes make up part of the diet of some insect-eating animals, such as birds, bats, adult dragonflies and spiders. They also help pollinate some flowers, when they consume nectar.

Affirmations

I know who I am. I am not what other think and say I am.

I was created to be great. I was created to make an impact in the world. I am destined to have dominion over all challenges that come my way.

Today I change the way I see myself and what I say about myself. I am blessed. I am prosperous.

I am a solution. I am gifted. I am called to live in times such as these to be powerful and influential.

I will not let people identify me by their own standards. I will not be mixed with people who will not relate with my identification. I was born to be great. I am a conqueror. I am a blessing. I am a solution and gift to the world.

Part 2

Purpose-driven Life

*“Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it, or betray it.” - **Frantz Fanon***

Almost every motivational and inspirational speakers have covered the topic of living a purpose driven life in their talks and books. It still remains a mystery for many people since they are still living beneath their greatest purpose on earth. It pains us to see people living lives that are not in-line with their purpose. But how do we see that someone is not living a purpose driven life?

Every human being at some point in their lifetime is faced with one of the most thought-provoking question which they must answer “Why am I here on earth?” This question not only looks into the identity of a human being as covered in part 1 of this book, but it further digs deep into the purpose of a human being on earth.

Are we the unplanned and accidental results of evolution through a natural selection? Or are we the handiwork of a supreme being? Do we owe our existence to the Aztecs or Babylonian gods? Or to some alien creatures from outer space? What is the truth?

Can knowing our existence help us understand our purpose on earth?

If you believe that you were born with a purpose on earth, then you need to understand the analogy based on these three premises:

1. You were born with a purpose. This means you are definitely not a mistake
2. Therefore you need to find/understand your purpose
3. It is only logical to live a purpose-drive life.

*“Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.” **(James 1:23-24 NIV)***

Are the books you read, the subjects you love to talk about and the topics you research aligned with your work? These things are all big signs about what interests and motivates you. Our soul knows when each new week, month, year rolls around that we are wasting ourselves by not activating the special gifts within us that wants to surface. It's like a quiet, unsettling voice that won't be silenced. It worsens over time. Your purpose haunts you each day and night. It yearns to be fulfilled.

“To be what you were born to be and to explore your full potential each day is life’s only goal”.

When you neglect your inner guiding system [purpose], you find alternative sources to make you feel good and allow you to be disconnected from your source. This may be in the form of alcohol, overeating, drug use and overspending. These cheap forms of "borrowed happiness" give you momentary respite from a much larger issue. We masquerade your misery but it never lasts - hence a vicious, repetitive cycle that can be self-destructive.

A clear vision gives birth to a possible mission

During September of 2010 when we have officially launched AYM in Soshanguve – a township in the northern parts of Pretoria. The vision was not just enough to drive the organisation. We had to set a mission, goals and objectives for the organisation to grow and make an impact in society.

We knew where we wanted to see the organisation in a period of 5 years however we failed to understand **how** to get there. This question lingered in our minds because not all of us had the same vision about the organisation, at least we can say that not all of us had a clear vision of the impact we should/must impart in society. In part three, we will further look into *the power of a vision*.

“Having a vision is not enough, there is more to be done.” – Pule Sir

One of the biggest mistake that many leaders do is to hold on to a vision, thinking that once you have a vision, it is all you need to move from point A to B. The reality is that, a vision without a mission cannot be materialised. Our South African government has a vision 2030, however if

role players to the vision do not clearly see it, they will not understand their mission towards achieving it. The vision becomes blurry.

It was Frantz Fanon who once said “Each generation must, out of relative obscurity, discover its mission, fulfil it, or betray it.” The youth of ’76 were able to conquer the Bantu Education System because they had one clear mission. Victory was achieved also when the thousands of women across South Africa who marched to the union buildings on the 9th of August 1956. They were also victorious because they had one clear mission.

The question posed to us is “Have we [ordinary citizens] identified our own struggle in this generation? What will tell our grandchildren when they ask us about our struggle?”

I would like to believe that we’ve got the vision correct by saying that “we have a vision to do this and that”, however do we have a clear mission on how to attain it? What are the strategic measures in place to aid us in achieving our vision? How do the champions of this vision going to clearly articulate the mission to the ordinary citizen on the ground?

Many leaders fail to clearly communicate the vision to their followers and as a result, they become a mission-less people with no objectives to achieve the vision. Objectives bring a sense of obligation to act. When people know what they ought to do, they will have a sense of obligation and responsibility to carry it out.

Miscommunication of a vision leads to misinterpretation that ultimately leads to discouragement and lack of passion. This is what we have experienced in the organisation which led to many making early exits. That might be one of the reasons why members leave organisations. And as much as you try to motivate people to be one with you, when a vision is not communicated properly, there will always be disorder and discourse.

Say you want to start a small company that sells ice cream in your community, however you do not have the team to do so. You then decide to invite your friends to help you achieve that goal. If you communicate your vision about the business to your friends, one of them wants to hijack it, the business idea might not work or do as successful as it is supposed to.

Maybe your vision was to sell ice cream to various communities around your city but the person leading the team decides to only sell it in your community. Your vision will be distorted. You have betrayed the vision of the business. There will be a great need but less supply.

As human beings, we sometimes shift responsibility telling ourselves that we are not good enough, not ready, not perfect, not skilled enough, not talented, or not meant for taking up on the biggest roles. Even Moses faced the same challenge however, God had to prove to him that he was able and ready to lead the children of Israel to Canaan.

Imagine if Moses had refused to take on the role of leadership and give it to someone else. The children of Israel would been led by someone who does not understand the vision God had about them. They would led astray. They would not have made it to Canaan. God had to give them a capable candidate to lead them to the Promised Land. Moses had to believe that even if Israel was born in rags, it was surely destined for greatness.

The art of setting goals

Nothing beats the feeling of achieving your goals. You look back and remember where you came from, how you have spent hours on end trying to shape up your future. The feeling is exhilarating because you now have something to show for your hard and smart work you have done. But what matters most is the art of setting your goals.

There is a mechanism you need to know and adhere to when setting goals for your life, organisation and relationships. Many of us fail not only because we didn't exert enough energy towards achieving our goals but because we have not mastered the art of setting goals. Don't you wish you can just set goals for yourself and find them easy to achieve? There is a solution for you.

Goals are defined as the objects of a person's ambition or effort; an aim or desired result. Whatever ambition you have, when you exert effort onto it, you are bound to achieve a desired result.

I liken goals to oranges in a bag. The bag represents the vision. Each orange within the bag represents goals. When we look at the bag, we see a collection of oranges that make up an appealing bag of oranges. What that means is that without the oranges, we cannot call it a “bag of oranges”.

What you need to understand about goals is that, without them, it is hard to have any mission about a vision you have. All your goals must complement each other in order to make sense of the mission you are trying to achieve. Hence King Solomon in the book of Proverbs says “*Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.*” (**Proverbs 19:21 NIV**).

It is therefore erroneous to set goals without having God's stamp of approval on them. We may have many goals [plans] about your future, however we need to rightly-align them with God's purpose and counsel about your life. It might be one of the reasons why we fail to achieve our goals – be it short or long term goals.

Most people confuse goals with dreams. Goals are not fantasies or daydreams, both of which seldom get past the mulling stage into concrete action; they are simply notions that eventually tend to be discarded.

For instance, the more frequently college students fantasised about a successful career transition, the fewer applications they sent out and the fewer job offers they received. Overweight women who pictured their svelte post-diet selves breezing past the dessert table lost 24 pounds less than those who anticipated wrestling with temptation.

Dreams can play a vital role in helping us form goals if we compare them with an acknowledgement of the impediments. It is never a mistake to have dreams. Dreams creates vivid pictures of our future. They put structure to the ideas we have. Their role is to put meat to the bones.

A research professor at **New York University**, **Gabriele Oettingen** has developed a four-step method that can fully commit you to feasible goals and can help you let go of those that are not.

Oettingen calls the method “WOOP,” as outlined below:

1. Wish

Find a time and place where you can focus for 15 or 20 minutes uninterrupted. Identify a wish in your personal or professional life that you think is challenging but possible.

2. Outcome

Keep holding the wish in your mind and imagine the very best things about making it a reality. What does the outcome look and feel like? Let yourself experience this in your mind as vividly as you can.

3. Obstacle

What is it that might hold you back from achieving the goal? Do not think only of external obstacles such as the economy. Dig deeply to uncover the internal barriers, whether it's a behaviour (standing on the side-lines at networking events), an emotion (anxiety) or a self-defeating thought (I am always the least interesting person in the room).

4. Plan

Name one action you can take to overcome the obstacle. An if-then approach can be helpful. If I am always too pressed by deadlines to attend networking events, then I'll pick two functions at the beginning of the month and schedule them as though they are client meetings and cannot be cancelled. If I feel anxious when I go to the mixer, I'll find one person who's standing alone and introduce myself.

Each goal you have set for yourself was meant to be achieved. It is therefore your duty to master the art of setting goals and make sure you achieve your goals. Do not sit there expecting people to push you to achieve what you are supposed to achieve. You have the potential and the inspiration. Move beyond the inspiration and achieve your goals.

From big picture to daily tasks

“Sometimes you need to stand back in order to see the bigger picture.” – Abuti Rams

Have you ever asked yourself why when you stand close/next to a big picture, you are unable to see all the details however when you stand back, the picture becomes clearer? You are able to see that the big picture have many bits and pieces which took time to become a full picture. The pixels, the creativity, the time and efforts put in putting the picture means much more. You can only see all that standing back.

Many leaders have problem of breaking down the bigger picture (vision) into daily tasks that will be easily attainable. This may be the fact that some leaders are afraid of losing their vision. Sticking to the vision is good, but if you cannot set up daily tasks to achieve the overall goal, you ultimately fail your vision.

Setting up daily tasks to achieve your vision, makes you involve other people into the picture. They not only feel part of the vision but also part of your life. Everyone has this inner drive to be part of something or someone's life. Should you decide to involve them, they will gladly assist in achieving all the tasks at hand.

What motivates leaders is the sense of achieving goals (daily tasks). Each day you achieve one task, you get motivated to achieve another and another one. Before you know it, you have achieved your vision.

Minimise Goals to Maximise Payoff

"If setting goals is good, setting more goals is not better"

One of the most dream killers/vision stoppers is a problem of setting up many goals and end up not achieving all of them at the end of the day. Most people suffer from this problem and they don't know it yet. We know that we can only take a certain amount of work load, but we bombard ourselves with a lot sometimes a bit too much to even kill our passion.

We have seen in our organisation when someone is really passionate about youth development but is unable to perform and execute tasks with ease due to the number of things they are involved in. Sometimes it is more productive to admit that you cannot do everything at once. This calls for a minimisation of goals in order to maximise payoff.

Each beginning of the year, people set New Year resolutions with a belief that they will achieve all the goals. They gather their energies and passion together of what will be the best year of their lives. Three months down the line, most of the goals haven't exhibited. This is because they take too many they can handle.

Without any doubt, we all want to be successful. We have an innate desire to become successful. One of the things we miss in our journey to success is to master the small habits required.

Most of us have been victims of writing down great New Year resolutions and forget about them along the course of the year. We must learn that it is possible to enter into a new year with a previous year's mind-set. That is why we usually repeat the same mistakes of the previous year.

A solution to this would be to create a mechanism of adapting to small habits that will channel your mind into the ultimate goal of being successful. Today decide to create a resolution with a practical action plan. Have yourself the best year and let us grow in love with success.

When you minimise your goals, you simply take each goal at a time. Do not take a big chunk of goals, hope to achieve them all that and pray that God, someone or something will help you on the way. Each time you give yourself a single goal to achieve in a short period of time, you put yourself in a position to achieve with ease and efficiency. You cannot afford to do things “just because”. Minimising your goals will give maximum results for you and people affected.

Getting SMART

When setting your goals, you need to make sure that they are **SMART**.

This is to say, they must be:

1. Simple

We sometimes want to complicate things. We make goals that are very hard to understand. We even fail to communicate them to the ordinary person on the street.

This is evident when people pitch their ideas to a panel of judges at Pitch and Polish sessions. Entrepreneurs are always struggling to clearly simplify their ideas to the judges and as a result, they miss out on an opportunity to receive funding.

Even though their ideas may be brilliant, the fact that they are unable to communicate them in a simplest manner, they are refused to advance.

2. Measurable

When setting goals, you need to make sure that they are not just simple, but also measurable. Are you able to measure the impact of the goals they you've set for yourself? Do you have a proper evaluation mechanism to measure them?

These and more the questions you need to ask yourself when setting goals for yourself.

3. **Attainable**

We also need to look in the aspect of their attainability. Is your goal not too ambitious? Yes it is correct to say that you have faith to move a mountain, but just because you live in a time of technology, what systems do you have in place that will aid you in moving that mountain into the sea? Is it something probable?

We fail to start small because we have a belief that we are too big to do small things. That is an ideology that stopped many people from achieving their goals. We need to understand even Jesus Christ started preaching at the age of 12 in order to train himself in the word and become a better debater of the word at the age of 30. His ministry was a success, it has now lasted over 2000 years and many are now called Christians. Adopting their beliefs and ideology from Jesus Christ's teachings about life but he started small!

4. **Realistic**

The realistic of your goals must be tested. How real is that goal you have? How tangible is it? Can we see it furnishing even when tested in fire?

5. **Time bound**

Put a time frame to your goals. When do you want to achieve, which whom and how to achieve it matters most than many other things.

Goals must have a creation and expiry date. Expiry dates puts good pressure on us to always be at our best to achieve our goals. When you are not pressured to do meet a deadline at work or school, you tend to relax because there is no 'due date' put on your project. That is why an expiry date would give you the edge to push you to bring out the best.

If you have a goal of losing 10 kilos in a period of 2 weeks, then you will make sure you gear your body to achieve it. You need to:

1. Set a clear and **simple** programme of action to achieve your ultimate goal.

2. **Measure** the small successes you aim to achieve. These small successes need to be simple enough to be **attained**.
3. Program your mind to adjust to the changes that will occur on your body. Be **realistic** with your body. Do not suffer your body, but work with the discipline your body can handle.
4. Prepare your mind for the challenges that might come. One of the greatest challenges is doubt and negative talks from people.
5. Be consistent to the programme of action you've set for yourself. Inconsistency will lead you to not accomplish your goals in a **timely** fashion.

The same goes with every goal that you have about your life. You follow the above-mentioned steps in order to achieve every goal you have set for yourself.

Mission

Poem by **Ellen M.H. Gates**

*If you cannot on the ocean sail
Among the swiftest fleet,
Rocking on the highest billows,
Laughing at the storms you meet;*

*You can stand among the sailors,
Anchored yet within the bay,
You can lend a hand to help them
As they launch their boats away.*

*If you are too weak to journey
Up the mountain, steep and high,
You can stand within the valley
While the multitudes go by;*

*You can chant in happy measure
As they slowly pass along--
Though they may forget the singer,*

They will not forget the song.

*If you cannot in the harvest
Garner up the richest sheaves,
Many a grain, both ripe and golden,
Oft the careless reaper leaves;*

*Go and glean among the briars
Growing rank against the wall,
For it may be that their shadow
Hides the heaviest grain of all.*

*If you cannot in the conflict
Prove yourself a soldier true;
If, where fire and smoke are thickest,
There is no work for you to do;*

*When the battle field is silent,
You can go with careful tread;
You can bear away the wounded,
You can cover up the dead.*

*Do not then stand idly waiting
For some greater work to do;
Fortune is a lazy goddess,
She will never come to you;*

*Go and toil in any vineyard,
Do not fear to do and dare.
If you want a field of labour
You can find it anywhere.*

Invest in yourself

If you were given the opportunity to ask God for anything, what would be your first wish? Would you ask for wealth, money or fame? Don't you just wish you were treated like a king or queen? You wake up to enjoy your wealth and not work for anything. That is what most of us dream of. How are you investing in yourself?

"God said to Solomon, 'Because your greatest desire is to help your people, and you did not ask for wealth, riches, fame, or even the death of your enemies or a long life, but rather you asked for wisdom and knowledge to properly govern my people.'" (2 Chronicles 1:11 NLT)

One of the most interesting passages of scripture in the bible is that of King Solomon who was a rich king with many wives and concubines. He literally had everything many of us wish we had. Being a king in Israel mean that he had wealth but to our amazement this well-spoken king, out of all the things in the world, he only asked God for wisdom.

*"Wisdom is the principal thing; **therefore get wisdom:** and with all thy getting get understanding." – (Proverbs 4:7)*

What are you doing to invest in yourself? What are daily things are you doing that are promoting your gifts, skills and talents? How many workshops are you attending? How many seminars in-line with your vision have you attended thus far? How many books are you reading about the things you are passionate about? How many times a day do you think about the things that motivate or inspire you to become better?

Author, inspirational speaker and entrepreneur, **Sanele Zulu** usually say *"the more you know, the more you realise that you there's more you don't know."* (Emphasis added). To invest in yourself, you need to know more. The news channel **eNCA**'s slogan says **"know more"**, because you deserve to know more that you know. Your success is dependent on the level of knowledge you have acquired. If you know more than someone, the more you have an even better advantage than him/her.

“If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed, but skill will bring success.” –

(Ecclesiastes 10:10 NIV)

If you value yourself, you will invest in yourself. You will be worth a great deal throughout your lifetime, both to yourself and to your community. People will identify with your success when you have invested in yourself. People are more drawn to your success and not your ideas.

What you know today is important, but if you don't improve it, it will become irrelevant in the future. To invest in yourself, you need to give more time to yourself than giving it to other people – especially those who do not value your time. Do not spend your precious time thinking and doing things that do not add value but instead subtract value in your life.

Acquire that skill, obtain that degree, go to that dance class, climb that mountain, do another round of mathematics and give more time to practice soccer. Whatever it may be, whatever you may do, make sure that it contributes towards your personal development. No one is going to push you to become the person you want. It all depends on your efforts and dedication to become the person you want.

Even if you were motivated every single day, even after reading this book, it will still need you to take that first step to do things that add value into your life.

Dealing with Failure

“Failure leads to success.”

“Maybe you haven’t failed as much as I have. Maybe your background is not as difficult as mine was. You just don’t understand. I don’t see the use of continuing with this since I’m always failing.”

These are words of some of the people I met and spoke to. Sadly, there are thousands if not millions of those who are also in this state of mind. One person once asked me “what’s one to do when they have done all they can but they still fail to achieve their goals?”

Sometimes we are so afraid of failing that we constantly think of failure more than success. This maybe the first problem we have as human beings. We measure our current challenges with same standard as those of the past. We conclude before we evaluate. We give in before we try again.

Our minds start believing that we are meant for failure the moment we start speaking negative to our situations.

*"I have not failed. I've just found 10 000 ways that won't work." - **Thomas A. Edison***

Think of failure as a stepping stone to success. Sometimes you need to fail hundred times, thousands times or even enumerable times in order to get it right. Each failure gives a new lesson and new perspective to things. It sharpens your reasoning and enhances your ability to deal with problems.

During 2012, we planned to host an event called “Readers are Leaders”. We approached many people in government, business and other organisations to assist us in making it a success. After attending countless meeting, sending enumerable emails and phone calls, we had to pull of the event due to the lack of support and being given the run around.

It took us 3 years to refine our plan and re-pitch the idea to our investors and give it another try. We now have what we call Kasi Nerd – a literature programme designed to empower young black people in public schools to produce leaders who are able to read and write.

Had we taken failure as final and fatal, we wouldn’t have achieved what we have today. The amount of support we have received in just 1 month of pitching to various stakeholders shows how much we need not to give up on our dreams.

Failure leads to success if you learn from it and constantly challenge yourself to be the best. The more you do better than before, the more you produce better results. The more you produce better results, the better to you become. Remember that you cannot fake perfection but all you can do is to do better than yesterday. That will unlock your potential to become better than the rest.

Affirmations

I know my purpose on earth. I now understand the mission I have on earth. I will live a mission-orientated life. I make sure that I work on my goals. I will not be lazy or distracted by things and people to achieve my goals.

My goals are special and are aligned to God's purpose about my life. I will keep on working towards achieving every one of the goals I've set for my life. I have the ability to achieve all my goals.

The word of God says I can do all things through Christ who gives me the strength, therefore all power and authority lies in me to live a mission-orientated life.

Part 3

The Power of Vision

*“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him. The blind man said, “**Rabbi, I want to see.**”*
(Mark 10:51 NIV)

Do you remember the story of the blind beggar Bartimaeus in the bible? When asked *“What do you want me to do for you?”* **Bartimaeus** answered Jesus by saying *“Rabbi, I want to see [have sight, have a vision].”* Jesus’ question looked into bringing a life-long and changing solution for Bartimaeus who was not only blind but also a beggar in the town of Jericho.

Keeping in mind that Bartimaeus was not just a blind man, one important lesson you can draw from his answer is that instead of asking for food or money, he asked Jesus Christ for sight. Above all, he wanted to obtain a vision. By having vision, he knew that his problem of being a beggar would be solved. Money or food was never to be an issue.

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18)

If there is one thing that can wake you up each and every morning to do something that makes you sacrifice your time, luxurious life and fun, it is **vision**. Sometimes people will not understand why you do what you do because they cannot see what you see. And really, you cannot blame them for supporting you at times, because it is really tough to understand what you see. Even the greatest men of God are unable to see the deeper things you see. They are beyond inspiration of the natural eye.

Many wake up in the morning to go to work, school and some to their businesses because they have a vision of a better life. They were able to paint a picture of what life would look like. That is the power of a vision. The power of a vision is the ability to see beyond the limitations of the naked eye. The power is given by the creator and though people may doubt you, what keeps you motivated is that each day it gets clearer and clearer.

Life is a journey we are all born to travel, but travelling it without knowing where we are going will get us lost and discouraged to keep on travelling. We will end up going to places we are not meant to go and end up living lives we are not born to live. But if we know where we are going, if we have a **vision** for your lives, we will never get lost. We will never get discouraged to finish our journey and we will never live the opposite of who we are.

Vision is the ability to see beyond your naked eyes. It is the ability to see the final product of what you want to do before you can even start it. Without vision, you will achieve nothing. *You will only exist, and not live.*

“Each one of us was created with the ability to see the end from the beginning and the beginning from the end.” –

Abuti Rams

Vision gives us hope, courage and the ability to conquer any obstacle that may challenge us or distract us. It gives us the opportunity to plan and know which steps to take to get to our ultimate goal.

Vision and Values: Dedication to Dr Myles Munroe

Vision without values is destiny without discipline. **Adolf Hitler** had a great vision of **Germany**, but he had poor values. He killed 6 million on his way there. It is not enough to have a big vision for your life or organisation, you need to have values to protect it. Vision is protected by values. In other words, vision is interpreted through values.

Vision is a picture of the future. Values are convictions you use to regulate your movement towards the future. Values are principles or standards of behaviour or ideals that regulate a conduct in policy. Values are a belief or conviction considered worthy in itself by a person or by a group. They are your personal and corporate philosophy. They are a standard on which **high standard** is worth. Values are only effective when they first become personal and then standard to all members of a group.

You cannot separate values from a vision. This is why many countries are having a struggle with prosperity and peace. This is because you get a few people trying to live right, and the rest trying to corrupt those who are trying to live right.

Society depends on certain values to function. Values like corporation and honesty. If we are going to live in a successful country, we have to be honest with each other. Business also depends on values to function. Values like integrity, honouring your word and fairness. Fairness means doing things according to the **law** and not according to relationships.

Values may be explicitly stated or they may be unspoken, but they must be recognised. That's why we have a constitution as a country which is the highest law of the land. Values form the foundation of a nation and shape the lives and daily experiences of citizens profoundly. That's why we must adhere to values. They protect the nation, province, city, companies, organisations and society at large.

"The power of ethical values is the key to national development." – Dr Miles Munroe

Question on ethics

Ethics are moral standards and values that form behaviour. Leaders stand for something, but they stand on something and that's ethics.

Beliefs produce your values. Values produce your morals. Your morals inform your ethics and your ethics produce your character. Character controls your lifestyle.

No Vision, No Faith, No Action = No Success

In one of the most famously quoted and powerful texts in the bible regarding faith, the book of *Hebrews* gives a deep definition of the concept of **faith**. It reads *"Now faith is the **substance** of things hoped for, the **evidence of things not seen.**" (Hebrews 11:1)*

The word substance found in the above texts of Hebrews is defined as the **real physical matter** of which a person or thing consists and which has a tangible, solid presence. The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews represents faith as **a real physical matter** which we need in order to obtain hope for our future.

The writer continues to say that faith is **the evidence of things that are not seen. This is to say that faith is a spiritual matter** (*emphasis added throughout*). Faith is not just something you fall-off to when you are in despair. It is a spiritual connection with the creator – God. If any man wants to please God, he would have faith. Seeing beyond the naked eye. We are advised to hold on to faith just like a child holding onto his/her favourite toy and not wanting anything to happen to it or anyone stealing it.

All things that are in the physical, originate from the spiritual. The spiritual realm is that which gives rise to the physical. Remember that we are spiritual beings, presiding within a physical body having a soul. Someone, someday thought of them in the spirit, envisioned them and had faith that they will come to pass. Therefore, all that we see today is a result of acts of faith.

You are an act of faith. When your parents made you, they had faith that one day you will come to existence. Despite the many challenges, the thoughts of having a miscarriage and other things that may affect your existence, they still believed that you will one day come to life. Therefore we need to ridicule that Atheistic idea that suggests that we are just “acts of accident and chance”. Without a vision, there is no faith. Without faith, there is no life. ***You are not a random act of accident but of love*** by our creator who envisioned you, had faith that you will exist and then created you to dominate (see Genesis 1:26).

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." - Lao Tzu

We are told in the bible that “faith without works is dead”. It goes without saying that every result is produced by an action. If you are unable to act on your faith, you will not experience the power of a vision.

Faith without works is dead faith because the lack of works (actions) reveals an unchanged life. There are many Scriptures in the bible that make it very clear that true saving faith will result in a transformed life, which is demonstrated by the “works” we do. How we live reveals what we believe and whether the faith we profess to have is a living faith.

Write it down

“Then the Lord answered me, and said: Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.” (Habakkuk 2:2)

Life is sometimes challenging, it has obstacles that will test you, that will become obstructions in your life. They will test how far you can go, how strong you are, how committed you are to your plans and how passionate you are about what you want to achieve in life.

It is therefore important to write your vision down so that if the going gets tough, you can read it and remind yourself of where you are going and what you want to achieve. You’ll be able to get like-minded people who will help you make it come true.

One of the simple things you can do is to put your vision up on the ceiling of your bedroom. When you wake up in the morning, the first thing you will see is the vision about your life. It will remind you to be driven by the passion to achieve it. Put it where you’ll see it every day so you will not forget it.

Against all odds, put your vision first

The story of Walt Disney is, perhaps, one of the most inspirational stories of all time. While he is considered to be a prominent individual in the American-based animation industry and regarded as one of the most popular cultural icons all throughout the history of the world, he experienced a very challenging start.

When working at a newspaper, his editor fired him because of the fact that he felt he did not have the imagination or the ideas to continue working.

Immediately thereafter, he started several businesses – all of which failed and resulted in him filing bankruptcy. That did not stop him, though. **He wanted to achieve a high level of success, and he continued to play with ideas that would lead to his success.** When you want to succeed as much as you want to breathe, that’s when you will be successful (*Emphasis added throughout*).

In the 1940s, **Walt Disney** developed an idea for an amusement park where the employees of the park could spend time with their kids and other loved ones. Many contribute this idea to his visit to Children's Fairyland in the State of California. He sketched out his ideas, he presented them to others, and he worked day and night on his idea.

Then, on the 17th day of July in the year of 1955, a live television show ran where Walt Disney presented his newly built amusement park to millions of viewers. In the dedication speech, Disney emphasised that he opened the park “...*with the hope that it will be a source of joy and inspiration to the world.*”

Today, the parks that opened as a result of Walt Disney's vision and imagination. These parks are the most popular to ever open to the public. He wanted success as much as he wanted to breathe and, after several failures and attempts, he achieved it. This is why the inspirational stories surrounding Walt Disney have such an enormous level of popularity to this day.

Today, would be a great day to start living your moment within your better self by reaping the rewards of life in true happiness, true intentions, and success by joining my inner circle where we give value to the world in many ways expressing how our actions speak louder than words and demonstrate our acts of kindness all over the world.

Accomplish your vision

Do not let life's challenges distract you from accomplishing your vision. Do not let people who do not see what you see distract you from accomplishing your vision. Turn all your scars of sorrow and pains in to the stars that will brighten your future and let the rejections you encounter, turn into the good directions of your success.

Hold on to that dream of yours, because it is possible even if it may seem to be long destination. It may not be today or tomorrow but eventually it will come to pass. *Remember that God's delay is not his denial.*

Life is not about where you come from, but where you are going. Vision will take you from where you are to where you want to be. It will transform you from the person you are, to the person you should be. Live to accomplish it.

If you can see it, you can achieve it.

If you can dream it, you can achieve it. If you speak it, it can happen. God created you for it, do not let anyone or anything refuse you to live it. Let your vision take you to success.

Choosing faith over fear

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2 Timothy 1:7)

We all have choose to fear and not to fear. Although most of the time we choose to fear that which is unknown to us, we must never forget that we have a choice to keep fear out of our minds. We have been given the power to choose faith over fear.

“Let nothing stand between you, where you want to go and what you want to achieve in life.” – Pule Sir

As much as fear has destroyed many people, let it not do the same to you. It made some take roads they did not want to take. It made some become who they did not want to become or who they were not born to become. It made many people fail, it made many miss lifetime opportunities and today they are living with regrets as they feared to take risks and to do it.

Fear is an obstacle that needs to be challenged and be destroyed because if you do not destroy it, it will destroy you. Fear can grab a hold of your life and deny you the opportunity to smile and have a happy life. It all lies with you to choose faith over fear.

Do not let fear control your life. Do not let it paralyse your dreams. Do not let it murder your aspirations, vision and purpose. Do not let it take you down, it's nothing compared to what your faith can do.

#FearMustFall

As many have observed that fear is just but **Fake Evidence Appearing Real**. It was Eleanor Roosevelt who once said, “You gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face. You must do that which we think we cannot.”

Whatever type of fear you are face it, you need to challenge it and overcome it before it destroys you. It might be fear of failure, fear of taking risks, fear to start that business, fear to start that course, challenge and overcome it because *the greatest risk in life is not to take a risk.*

*"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." - **Franklin D. Roosevelt***

It might be fear of being who you are; fearing what people will say, challenge and overcome it. It might be fear of letting go of your past, letting go of the things that are not working in your life, letting go of people who are no longer needed in your life, challenge and overcome it.

It might be fear to call the company you want to work for, the call to make a follow up, it might be fear of sending your CV or your proposal. Whatever type of fear you have, you need to challenge and overcome it.

It might be fear of falling in love again because of your past relationships, do not let it deny you the opportunity to enjoy being in love and being loved, challenge and overcome it before it destroys your love life. Fear must fall.

Let your dreams be constructed by faith before they can be destructed by fear. Let fear be afraid of you, because you are not just anybody, but you are a child of God who created you in His image to rule and not to fear. This is the creator who gave you the spirit of power to overcome any kind of fear.

Let go of what has been holding you back. Take your time and do thorough self-introspection. Plan and change who you have been to who you want to be. A mirror is where you need to start. Look at yourself carefully, see beyond the physical. See beyond the negative talks clouding your mind. ACT!

Ask yourself:

1. What is my vision, what is it that is burning inside of me?
 - Write that down
2. How will I accomplish it?

- Your vision might be a mind blowing one but if you do not plan how to accomplish it, it's nothing. Know what needs to be done for your vision to come true and take those steps.
3. What is it that I fear, that hold me back in life?
 - Find out what is it that you fear, why do you fear it and what has it done to your life.
 4. How will I overcome it?
 - Ignoring it will destroy it as such find a way of how you will overcome it before it destroys you.

Laziness and feeling sorry for yourself will not put food on the table for you nor will it make bring money to you. The only thing standing in between you and success is the fear for greatness.

Let's get practical

I challenge you to make a first step today:

1. Sit down for an hour and take a pen and a paper.
2. Write down your problem statement (What is it about your life that's not going right?).
3. Write down where you see yourself in 6 months. **TIP:** Set out goals you want to achieve in 6 months. Do not do 3 years. Start small. Do not be too ambitious, if you aim too high with no proper plan, you'll fall too hard and give up on life.
4. Now write down all the skills, talents and abilities you have. What are you able to do? What talents do you have? What makes you **outstanding**?
5. Write down a network of people you have. These are people who will be able to assist you at a low cost to achieve your 6 months goals.
6. Speak out an oath. Say "I [your name] promise to keep my word on achieving the goals I've set out for myself."
7. Finally kneel down and ask God to help you to keep your word. Do not worry; the Holy Spirit [that sweet voice within] will always remind you to keep your word.

Affirmations

Free yourself, be passionate about life, about your vision and never let fear deny you the opportunity to accomplish your vision and to live your life to the fullest.

The time for you to sit back and wait for someone to push you in doing something that's meant for you must come to an end!

Time for you always depend on people to always have your back must end because you know that sometimes people can disappoint. Time for you to wonder around/gallivant with no plan for your future must come to an end.

Time for you to always say "**LIB** - *Lying in Bed*" at 10 O'clock in the morning on a weekday when other young people are at internet cafés applying for work must come to an end.

Time for you to say "We are disadvantaged at home. We are less fortunate. I do not want to do anything, goa tswana." must come to an end.

Sometimes we do not personalise the words that the bible says about us. The book of Mark 11:24 says *"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."*

Now I want you to personalise it to:

*"Therefore I tell you **[YOUR NAME]**, whatever you **[YOUR NAME]** ask for in prayer, believe that you **[YOUR NAME]** have received it, and it will be yours **[HIS/HERS]**."*

I will no longer let fear distract me from living who I am, from achieving my goals and living my life to the fullest.

I will no longer let people who do not know what my vision is, who do not see what I see distract me from accomplishing my vision. I will face, challenge and overcome any fear that I will come across in life and be a winner living my life to the fullest.

Part 4

Creating a Culture of Success

“Remember the LORD your God. He is the one who gives you power to be successful, in order to fulfil the covenant he confirmed to your ancestors with an oath.” – (Deuteronomy 8:18 NLT)

Culture is defined as the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular group of people or society. A culture is created when ideas are shared, customs are created, and practiced and social behaviours are embedded in people's characters.

If you stood in a room full of 300 people and ask them what success is, to your surprise the varying definitions will leave you with many questions of what life is about if people do not actually understand what success is.

The book of Deuteronomy affirms that God has given us the power [ability] to become successful. But one might ask, what is this success that God is talking about? In order to answer that question, we need to first understand we cannot be successful outside without God's intervention. It is through God that we all can be successful.

Having an understanding that we were all created for a divine purpose on earth, success is therefore a fulfilment of God's purpose about our lives.

Author, life coach and motivational speaker - Dr John Tibane defines success as, *being all what God wants you to be, doing all what God wants you to do, having all what God wants you to have and giving all what God wants you to give*. Dr Tibane's definition suggest to us that, “it impossible to separate success from God's purpose upon your life”, because ***“Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.” (James 1:17 NLT)***

Re-Defining Success

In one of the leadership conversations I had with young leaders at an event organised by Thabang Mabunda of **Culture of Success Series**, a delegate during question and answer session asked “In your own definition and understanding, what is success?” I hesitated for a moment but then I knew it was time for me to give an answer that would protect me in the future – you know how people can use your words for future reference when debating with them.

I have since learned that every time you debate with people or start a heated conversation with intellectuals, you need to thoroughly insulate yourself with massive wisdom for any question that may question your profession and intellect. I must admit that I fully took cognisance of the fact that people might judge me by material things such as a car – which at that time I did not have - and other things people consider as someone being successful when they see him having in his life.

My answer was simple “success is the combination of a balanced life both spiritual maturity, good health, awesome relationships with your loved ones and a having the means to become a blessings. If you are not blessed, you cannot be a blessing to others. Success is when you are able to become a blessing in society.”

Honestly speaking, success has different meanings and each time we attempt to answer the real question of success using material gage, the gap between the rich and poor widens even worse and people still have the hunger for success. But can we measure success by the gap between the rich and the poor? Can a poor man be labelled successful?

Mabel Smith observed “the meaning of success lies in the courage of overcoming your fears and failure and continue doing your work without being disheartened.”

Always remember, if you have the faith in yourself and if you keep working towards your goals without letting failures affect your self-esteem, one day you'll reach the stars. And even if you do not, at least you'll have the satisfaction that you were honest with your efforts.

*“Each one of us has the power to create a new culture that will influence a new reality and perspective. We all have an obligation to unleash our greatest human potential understanding that we are all **powerful** and **influential**.” – Abuti Rams*

Once you figure out your personal meaning of success and have a clear understanding of what is important to you, you will see that your dreams are within arm's length. You can achieve anything and everything once you are sure of what you want to do and the most vital part of being sure is to have confidence in yourself and what you plan to do. This is only possible once you start loving yourself and your work.

Loving yourself is important because if you do not love yourself, you'll never have the confidence to grow. Loving your work is important because success is driven by passion. Unless and until you are very passionate about something and crave for it, you will not be able to put your 100% in accomplishing it.

Success is not measured by the amount of things your peers have. Just because a friend of yours was successful in achieving his goal of driving an expensive car, that does not mean you need to measure your success by the car he drives. Measure your success by the purpose, vision, goals and mission God and yourself have about your life.

Huffington Post founder Arianna Huffington says that money and power are not enough. Huffington says that while we tend to think of success along two metrics - money and power - we need to add a third.

"To live the lives we truly want and deserve, and not just the lives we settle for, we need a Third Metric," she says, "a third measure of success that goes beyond the two metrics of money and power, and consists of four pillars: **well-being, wisdom, wonder, and giving.**"

Together, those factors help you to take care of your psychological life and truly be successful, or as the title of her new book suggests, "Thrive."

So, go ahead, explore the meaning of success, work sincerely for it and achieve what you always wanted to and you'll soon find your name up there in the list of successful people.

Success Pressure

In one conversation I had with entrepreneurs on our way to a conference hosted by the **Sibusiso Leope Education Foundation (SLEF)** in December 2014, I questioned all of them if they sometimes suffer what I call “success pressure”.

Success Pressure is another form of peer pressure which can be good or bad depending on how you are looking at it. When almost all the friends, neighbours and people you went to school with are getting jobs, buying houses and cars, getting married and other things people achieve that is when success pressure kicks in.

You look at yourself and the many things you have gone through. The many attempts in doing something better for yourself and securing a brighter future but things do not seem to be working out. People are now able to afford, they plan events and trips however you are unable to attend them and you start making up excuses because you know that your pockets are not yet in good shape. That is success pressure and people don't realise that failure is part of success.

What do you do when success pressure hits you?

To act as if nothing happens in us when we see people succeed around us and we are not even halfway reaching our goals and accomplishing our dreams is not just in denial but also treacherous.

Writer and speaker, **Anastasiya Goers** wrote a very captivating article titled “*Overcome the Fear of Success: 6 Ways to Start Thriving*” (Goers 2011). Picking up from the 6 she mentioned, I want you to adhere to the following 4 ways on how to conquer the success pressure in your life:

- 1. Be and Stay Positive**

Stay away from negative people and you will decrease the amount of negativity in your life at least by half.

Practice daily gratitude, write down all the positive events in your life, practice mindfulness and you will notice how your negative attitude will start melting away.

- 2. Continually remind yourself that you are part of something larger than you**

Fear often has to do with worrying about uncertainty, feeling out of control, and wondering what your life's purpose is. When you realize you are part of a bigger picture, even if you do not fully understand what that is, it's easier to ascertain that you both deserve and need to be successful and happy.

You do the right things, you help people around you, you make being a good person a priority, and you know that this is not just about you—it's also about the bigger picture that you are part of. These thoughts always give me the courage to try something new and believe that my life is successful because of the doing, not the outcome.

3. Take time to find your authenticity

Do you have a lot on you? I am sure you do, and I know that you are doing your best at doing what you have to do. But do you know who you are? Do you know what makes you happy? Do you know your passions?

Do you take time to reflect on your life and figure out your purpose in this world? Unfortunately, most of us get so caught up in responsibilities and goals that we forget to enjoy our lives.

No matter how busy you are, you must make time for yourself. It can be just 10 minutes a day, but this time must belong to you. If you give yourself the luxury of free time then you will notice that the rest of your responsibilities will get easier.

You will be a better parent. You will be able to come up with creative ideas at work (and finally get that promotion.) You will be able to take better care of your health. You will reduce your stress and experience the joy of living.

4. Create your success library

Sometimes when we lose trust in ourselves we just need a little bit of inspiration to push us in the right direction. There are plenty of ways to find inspiration, but we forget about them when we need them the most.

Create a library of quotes, save articles and success stories that have inspired you, create a library of inspiring movies and videos, or create an album of your fun and happy memories. Turn to this library whenever you have self-doubts.

5. Live in balance

No matter how important success might seem to you, it is still important to follow it with balance; otherwise your journey towards success will turn into an obsession that will ruin everything that you truly love in life.

Success is not a destination. It's a journey, and it's important that we take each step feeling grounded and balanced. Spend time with your loved ones, enjoy your hobby or follow your passion, take care of your health and grow spiritually. This is the meaning of true success, the one that you can achieve only in balance.

I think that you are able to be successful. It is your right and purpose in life to be successful in whatever you are doing. If you believe in that then nothing will ever stop you from living a balanced and joyous life.

Motivation vs Inspiration

In giving one of his talks in South Africa, Dr John DeMartini once said *"everybody has a set of priorities and a set of values. Things that are most important to them. Whatever is highest on the values is what they are inspired to do most and nobody has to get them up in the morning to do that"* (Emphasis added throughout).

I would like to believe that you are most reliable, disciplined and most focused on the things that matter the most to you. In-fact, the word important means that 'we desire to import it into our lives.'

"We all have the desire to fill that void we have inside." – **Abuti Rams**

Everybody has his/her own set of values but we are all inspired within to do that which is important to our lives.

You might have been motivated by your parents to clean the house, do the dishes or do the garden because they promised to reward you, but you'll never need motivation to do what you know it is important to your life. Nobody has to motivate you to do what is truly important to

you. If you require motivation to do what you think is important to you, then it was never important to you in the first place.

“If you require motivation for something you think it is important in your life, which means you have not found what is important to you 'cause once you isolate what's truly most important to you which your life is truly demonstrating, you'll find that nobody has to motivate you to do it. You are automatically doing it.” – Dr DeMartini

I remember when I was young, my aunt used to wake me up in the morning to go to school. Right now I do not have to be motivated to wake up early in the morning, because I know what's important and I love what I am doing which is empowering communities.

“Motivation is what creates movement in your life, whereas inspiration is what keeps you moving when motivation is lost.” – Abuti Rams

Being a singer and so passionate about it, they might motivate you to get off the stage 'cause you are taking too much time, but no one must motivate you to get on stage to do what you love.

What's important to you? Not an easy question as you may think but ask yourself this important question time and again.

During our planning of a career expo we hosted in 2011, I visited a local pastor of Urban Life Believers Church in Soshanguve, Pastor Makwela. The purpose of the meeting was to invite him to come share his words of wisdom to learners at the expo. The meeting ended with me swimming in a pool of confusion and the many questions bothering me.

The concerned pastor asked “Rams, what is that one thing that matters most to you? That which makes you not to sleep at night. That one thing that you know if done, then you are content.” I attempted to answer the question on the spot but then realised that the question was deeper than I ever thought. The question spoke to the prioritisation of things in my life. It questioned my ability to stand for what matters most in my life and make it a priority. It was only few days later before the event that I got the answer.

“Service to mankind is worship to God.” – Kannada's Proverb

When you are in sync with your purpose, your passion will be stirred up by the bigger picture as we have spoken of in the previous chapters. You don't wait on someone to motivate you to do that which you are passionate about. Inspiration is important but secondary to that which makes you not to sleep at night. Your priorities change. You no longer see yourself first but find inner peace in serving people.

Motivation may come and go. It will encourage you to do better. It will stimulate the passion and drive you used to have for your dream but inspiration will show you the way to go.

Mastering habits of successful people

"Success is a journey, not a destination."

It's not just the accomplishment of a single goal. It is a continuous process of accomplishments [achieved goals] that collectively amount to a major achievement in life [vision].

Be28 is a South African established movement that is driven by creating and developing habits of success amongst communities and youth in 28 days. Through their successful programme, they teach that if an individual does something consistently for 28 days, it becomes a habit.

This is to say that if you are a smoker and decide to quit smoking, you then need to replace smoking with a new habit which distracts you from doing that which you used to (smoking). After 28 days, your mind will not think about smoking, but a new habit you've created for yourself.

It was Mahatma Gandhi who said *"Carefully watch your **thoughts**, for they become your **words**. Manage and watch your words, for they become your **actions**. Consider and judge your actions, for they become your **habits**. Acknowledge and watch your habits, for they shall become your **values**. Understand and embrace your values, for they become your **destiny**."*

Every thought pattern your mind process, shapes your destiny. How we act and re-act to words we say about ourselves will create habits that will guide our values. Values are a set of principles or standards of behaviour; one's judgement of what is important in life.

Every successful person has a set of routine activities that he/she does to become better than yesterday. They all create these daily activities to deal with failure and aim for success.

Murray Newlands of **INC.com** observes the following habits of exceptionally successful people:

1. The early bird will catch the worm

Successful people absolutely wake up early. Because the earlier they begin the day, the more time they'll have to get things accomplished. They'll face the day ready for whatever comes their way because they've established plans the evening before.

As compared with an individual who rises out of bed 5 minutes before she/he must be at work and possesses no true direction, who do you think is going to have the ability to deal with his/her responsibilities better?

It follows, of course, that early birds will also get a good night's sleep. If you have a desire to follow the day-to-day routine of successful individuals, you may want to begin to wake up early.

2. Regularly exercise

Exercise certainly is a portion of the day-to-day routine of successful individuals. It will make you feel good about yourself, and keep the body healthy, will make the mind alert and teach you discipline.

As a matter of fact, a report revealed that 70 percent of successful business individuals discover a way to exercise each day.

If you cannot exercise in the morning, get it in around lunch time or in the early evening. If you are on the ground floor and you are traveling to the fifth floor, take the stairs rather than the elevator - but do not overexert yourself because it may set you back.

3. Have a balanced life

Successful individuals do not have work on their agenda all of the time. They set apart time for their family and themselves. Consider it a way of recharging your batteries.

If you are always buried in a pile of work, you are missing out on life. Personal time is critical because it's the time you are able to review your life and where it is headed; that is the time that you reflect and develop new strategies for your success journey.

The day-to-day routine of successful people is not that hard to master. Anybody may do it, though not everybody has the proper mind-set to really see it through.

4. Take life within the limitations of your control

Let go of what you cannot control then invest your time and efforts into what you can influence/control.

5. You must let go of your past

Learning lessons from past failures will restrict your openness to think about future opportunities. The past only reminds you of your failures and not the opportunities your life has. Focusing on your past will only delay your success and hinder you from seeing the endless possibilities in life.

6. Plan your day ahead

Objectives are not as crucial as getting the work done. Not attaining goals may lead to lack of self-worth and depression; however, doing day-to-day tasks which propel you toward the person you wish to become will benefit you a positive way; that is, motion will beget greater motion.

7. Complete your tasks

Whatever the activity is, successful people start and finish the work to the best of their ability. Do not just push yourself to finish the tasks given, but do it with excellence and integrity in order to build your reputation.

8. Invest in yourself

Network, educate yourself, invest in relationships, spiritually reflect, and take care of your physical and mental health. Empower yourself by reading books, articles, attending

seminars, workshops and summits that are in-line with your line of work. If you are into mining, attend mining indabas. Do not be stingy to spend money to empowerment workshops.

9. Ask questions

The ones who control conversations include those who ask questions. Also, they are liked more by other people, who are given the chance to be heard.

10. Successful individuals share their success tips with other people

As the proverb goes, blessed are the ones who share their food offerings with those less fortunate.

“Do not be too quick to share your ideas, rather share your successes.” – Abuti Rams

The more you share your success stories with others, the more you challenge yourself to become better than before because *“your greatest enemy to success is your previous success”*.

Therefore success stories when told to inspire others (not to brag), breeds new ones.

11. See time as finite/limited

It'll motivate effectiveness and efficiency as it applies to time and allow you to achieve results. It's best accomplished through delegation and leverage.

Like the path from white belt to black belt, success includes a journey that is taken one lesson at a time. Improved and refined, successful people move onward and forward in facing their next challenge and life lesson.

On one occasion at the My Biz Expos, we sat down with Mike Anderson – founder and managing director of the organisation to hear his secret (s) to creating habits of success.

“Most people hate doing the same thing again and again. Some give up too quick...” he said. “I was selling encyclopaedias for children in Pretoria east suburbs. I went from house to house selling the same product. Each time I got a ‘NO’, I was motivated to go again and this time with a different approach” He added.

*“Insanity is doing the same thing and expecting a different result.” – **Albert Einstein***

Many of us give up too quick because we feel that that job, that lifestyle, that person or that car is not meant for us. The other problem is that we do the same thing again and again with the same strategy but expect different results.

Becoming a magnet of success

I have spent the past two years having an email signature that has sparked a lot of interest in who Abuti Rams is. The signature read “I’m a magnet of success”. A number of people went out of the initial conversation and focused on the message within the signature. Some went on Google to find out about Abuti Rams. Not only did they find success stories, but they were immediately attracted to the man who had said he is a magnet to success. Not long ago, I was forced to explain my thought-provoking statement in public of saying that I am magnet of success.

Being a magnet of success, you need to first understand that you were born for greatness. That is the first step to becoming a magnet of success. This is covered in part 1 of the book which deals with your identity. If you do not believe that you were born to succeed, you are nowhere close to attract success in your life.

In the book and documentary “The Secret”, the contributors make some incredible claims that each one of us can be attracted to the universe. They further assert that we have the ability to speak to the universe and it will pay attention to us. It is almost as if the universe has ears to listen to all our commands.

In agreement to the book, I need you to understand that you have “authority” over all the creatures of the universe. The universe has forces which control how nature works, however you have the power to bring the universe to understand your needs call onto success into your life. Every thought-process and every word you confess with your lips captivates the universe to respond. If you tell yourself that were born with bad luck, guess what, bad luck will follow you all the way.

So, if you are willing to succeed, you need to captivate the universe. It will pay attention to you. It will produce all that you confess about your life. It is always ready and willing to respond to your own affirmations about your life.

You attract what you think and reason. Being a magnet of success means that wherever and whatever your hands land on, it turns into gold. You attract all the right people, right places, right things that will breed your success.

10 Steps to become a success magnet

If you want to master the art of attracting success, you need to fix your horizontal connections (people around you) as much as you are in touch with your vertical (God). At all times you must,

1. Take criticism

You and I both experience criticism: spouses, bosses, peers, cranky family members, neighbours, etc. Some people, maybe you are one of them, have thicker skins than others. This much is as certain as rain falling from heaven, and the tide coming and going: as a leader, will face opposition at some point in time. It is a fact of life and leadership.

Apostle Paul knew this when he wrote to Timothy about handling criticism, *“A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.”* (2 Timothy 2:24 NLT).

Again, he wrote, *“preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction”* (2 Timothy 2:2). His point is that you and I have to deal with criticism, but there is a right and wrong way to do it. If you don't know how to deal with criticism, it will break you emotionally, spiritually and affect you physically.

Successful people know how to deal with criticism. They master the art of public relations. Look at the number of attacks that **Sibusiso “DJ Sbu” Leope** has suffered since the beginning of 2015 but he remains unshaken. The brilliance of his stand is found in his approach towards criticism. The **MoFaya** brand has come under fire for many reasons however through all that, he has maintained his faith that the product is the best in Africa.

2. Align yourself to the right network

People like to say “show me your friends and I will tell you who you are.” The King Solomon supports this assertion in the book of Proverbs 13:20 when it says **“Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.”** Your success is not in the hands of your friends, however the influence can affect your success rate.

Aligning yourself with the right network of like-minded individuals, puts you in a better and safe refuge to become like them. Your network, determines your network.

3. Sharpen your skill

King Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes 10:10 teaches us that *“Using a dull ax requires great strength, so sharpen the blade. That's the value of wisdom; it helps you succeed.”* This means that even if you have a skill, you constantly need to sharpen your skill in order to make sure you become relevant at all times.

Take for instance a musician's career. If he does not “get on with the times” (catch up with the latest trends and style), he will not be relevant to his audience/fans. As times change and people grow, the maturity of your work must match up the standard and current style as well.

4. Develop emotional self-mastery

Emotions are the most powerful energy you have. If you want to become a magnet of success, you need to develop methods to harness your emotions. Develop passion for who you are and what you are here to contribute. Connect emotionally with what you want to achieve.

Put in all the efforts to understanding what you want to achieve and set your mind to it. People might say “this is not about emotions”, but you need to make this an emotional case. You need to develop your emotional self-mastery. That way, you will be up for the challenge not attracting success than failure. You will not attract that which is harmful but that which is useful and healthy for your life.

5. Believe in yourself

The sad truth is “if you don't believe in yourself, no one will.” Do not expect people to jump and trust in your abilities whenever you try to come up. Do not expect everyone to believe that you have potential to make it when you don't believe in yourself and what you can do. The late popular Kwaito singer **Lebo Mathoma** released a song titled “Tsodiyo” where she delivered a crucial message about the importance of appreciating

yourself. In the song, she makes mention that if you want people to believe in you, you first need to believe in yourself. If you don't believe in yourself, people are unlikely to believe in you.

You are something of real value and you have something unique to offer the world. Believe that your worth is not measured in silver or gold. Not any amount of pearl can measure the worth you possess. Have faith that you will be supported the more you authentically reveal yourself.

The whole Universe conspired to create you, so there is a good reason you're here. If you're struggling to find it, keep looking – but don't get stuck on searching. Whether you're the Prime Minister or a street sweeper, there is meaning in you being here.

6. Act!

South African Kwaito star Mandoza sang “Uzoyithola kanjani uhleli ekhomeni” This is a Zulu phrase to mean, “How will you get it if you are sitting by the corners?” And indeed if you look at most of the things you have achieved in your life, it took you to ‘stand up’ and act. If you had not decided to get up and went to school, your knowledge about things around you would not match up that which you possess today. Fact is, if you didn't get up and read got yourself this book, you wouldn't know as much as you have been exposed to thus far.

The only failure comes in not attempting. There is no actual failure in giving your all regardless of what the results may be. Just be sure to learn from so-called failures, as usually they contain the greatest lessons.

Momentum comes through actions, so do something that moves you forward. Even a small act is significant. Actions also contain the symbolic power to dissolve fears and build self-confidence and belief. The only thing more daunting than taking action is taking no action at all. The bigger the actions, the greater the results.

7. Align with your truth

Stay in touch with who you are. Align yourself with your thoughts, feelings and actions. Stay fully present to who you are, and what you would like to achieve. Create the emotion of achievement, and use it to inspire you forwards.

Be aware of environmental influences. We all impact each other in obvious and subtle ways. Negative people can weigh you down and affect your results. Surround yourself with a support team who can help you reach your goals.

8. Stay hungry for success

The greatest hunger you should have is that of becoming better than who you are today.

The more you challenge to become better, the more you attract success to your life.

Never allow small success distract you from the big success. Small success makes you feel as if it is enough to do small things. If there is room to do more, become more and live more, open the door to that room.

“Never be full, always stay hungry for success.” – Abuti Rams

You would agree that passing matric was/is **one of** the greatest achievement, however if that is not the **only** achievement. Notice the bolded texts. Though obtaining your matric might be one of the greatest, it does not mean it is the only achieve you should have in your life. After matric, there is tertiary, after tertiary there is employment, business and other endeavours one must venture into. If you are stuck on the idea that matric is the last achievement, then you are only limiting your mind to explore greater opportunities out there given the capabilities and potential you possess.

9. Follow your intuition

When last did you hear something in your spirit but did something about it? It might be a decision you had to take on a very important matter, did you take the wise decision? Was it guided by your emotions or your intuition?

The more you use your intuition, the more you build trust in your intuitive insight and follow this inner calling. If you want to be a magnet of success, you need to learn how to make quick decisions. How do you do this? By following your intuition. By making quick decisions does not mean you should be negligent in taking them. You need to be as sharp as possible.

10. Remain faith-driven

The final step is to let go of the outcome and have a little faith – sometimes it's all you need. Especially after you've defined your goals and taken deliberate actions accordingly. Reach out to others, as support always helps you get through the hard times. Have faith

that your messages to the Universe are being heard – even if the answer is “Not right now” or “Not this way.” Have faith that your life does have a purpose. Patience means once in a while, you just need to let go.

Even if things are not working out for you, when you remain faith-driven, you allow yourself to become positively attracted to success. Success takes patience, commitment, endurance and meekness. Faith must humble you to know your position and how to deal with it.

When you remove your face from shame and encounter God’s divine grace, you will then start experiencing great abundance in your life. Everywhere you go, you will attract success. You will unlock the big doors and unleash your greatest potential. That is achieved when you believe that you are a magnet of success.

Be Expectant

During pregnancy, a woman is forced to quit all bad habits which some include smoking, drinking and eating fast foods. There is a lot of pain that is experienced at times. There is a lot of sacrifice that needs to be done however you can draw a lot of lessons from pregnancy. Some lessons include patience, care, health and faith, just to name a few.

Another term we use to say that a woman is pregnant is pregnant is that “she is expecting”. This means she is expecting something – a gift – a baby. One important other lesson to draw from a pregnant woman is that you need to learn is to **be expectant**.

Often times we are not on the receiving end. We have faith that God will do miracles, however we are not expecting something to come our way. When a woman is expecting a baby, she makes sure that her health is up to scratch. She makes sure that nothing harms that which is coming her way (a gift from God).

Maybe one of the reasons why you haven’t received your blessing is because you are not expecting it. By expecting a blessing, there certain things you need to do. You do not sit there and expect something to happen when you are not preparing yourself for it. The bible say you

must “wait on the Lord.” Whilst waiting, you need to gear up. Just like a pregnant woman, you need to get rid of the many things that might cause a blessing miscarriage.

Some of the things that may cause your “blessing miscarriage” include doubt, negative talks, impatience, shame, thanklessness, hopelessness and pride (we will dwell on this subject in detail).

Maybe one of the reasons why you haven’t received your blessing is that you are not at the receiving end. Yes, you might be waiting on the Lord, still standing firm, but your position might be incorrect. When God opens the windows of heaven and pour out His blessings to you, will the blessings find you in the right position with him? Do you have a right-standing with God? Are you righteous?

There are many "blocks" preventing your healing, health and blessings. A sober conclusion would be that you need to walk in "Love and Truth" with God, ourselves and our fellow man, there will be NO blocks! You need to make sure that at all times you are expectant.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:1 NLT)

God has great plans for you, plans not to harm you but to give you hope and future. As much as He wants you to wait upon Him, He also expects you to be expectant. Be ready to receive the blessings of God. Don’t wait without hope and the right standing with God.

Manage your Expectations

“There are two ways to be happy: improve your reality or lower your expectations.”

We all have expectations in our lives: what we want out of life and who we want to become. I believe one of the keys to happiness lies within the management of your expectations of people and circumstances. If you do not have expectations, you can never be disappointed. Often we

tend to believe that the way we treat others will be the way we are treated in return. But, unfortunately, this does not always happen.

You need to make sure you enter into relationships with someone who has as big of a heart as you do. If you do not, you may feel as if you are being taken advantage of or are being short-changed. You need to find people who appreciate what you do for them and who will reciprocate these actions.

Having realistic expectations will allow you to accept the flaws each person has. We need to learn how to take responsibility for our own lives and our own decisions before we can expect others to do the same.

One of the biggest challenges we face in life is learning to accept people for who they truly are. Once you realize that your expectations cannot change people, the better off you will be. The problem will arise when the expectations do not materialize. If you find that you are going out of your way much more than the people you surround yourself with, it may be time to find a new group of friends.

Unrealistic expectations will, can, and most often do lead to disappointment. Too many people are obsessed with finding the perfect career or the perfect spouse, and as a result become increasingly frustrated when this does not pan out.

“Expect the unexpected, believe in the unbelievable, and achieve the unachievable.”

An unfortunate pitfall of having high expectations in certain circumstances is that we prevent ourselves from enjoying the experience altogether. If you feel this way in your life, you need to readjust your expectations. Do not expect things out of situations, just go into them with an open mind. This will allow you to fully immerse yourself without the pressure of living up to preconceived notions.

When you have unrealistic notions for people, you place yourself at a high risk of getting disappointed and hurt. Maybe someone did let you down in certain aspects, but isn't it inherently unfair to have these people on such a pedestal? By maintaining an accurate awareness of your own realities, you become able to determine what is truly expected from others.

Such disappointment can lead to several outcomes, including trying to get this person to change and an increased anger toward the person who is causing the disappointment. This becomes problematic since the fault lies with you for putting such pressure on this person.

There is a paradoxical issue when it comes to this. If you have high expectations, you can often end up disappointed, but if you don't have these expectations, you may not try as hard as you could in order to accomplish a goal. These tendencies can turn people into perfectionists, which is far from a healthy lifestyle.

Expect what you can, reach and be aware of the fact that sometimes life throws you a curve ball. Try to remain confident while maintaining positive aspirations; just remember not to make these aspirations so high that they are impractical or unreachable.

Acceptance is an amazing trait that needs to be actively worked toward. When things do not work out the way we had planned, it is much more beneficial to realize that is how life works rather than becoming frustrated at the situation. Have hope rather than expectations and you will tend not to be as disappointed.

Affirmations

I am committed to create a culture of success. I will not let anything or anyone stand in the way of my success. I will keep pushing myself to explore the greatest abilities I possess. I will not let people's limitations conclude my destiny to succeed. I will re-align my purpose with my goals in

order to create a culture of success in my life. I will create daily success habits in order to become effective in my commitment towards succeeding.

I am magnet of success. Everything I touch, turns into gold. I attract success and not failure. My life is an attraction of divine grace and abundance.

Part 5

Success to Significance

"It is not enough in life to be successful. It is more important in life to be significant. To leave an impact for your generation and the ones to come." – **Dr Myles Munroe**

Success is great, but significance is eternal. As explained in part 4, success is a series of processes and never a destination. Once a human being moves from the stage of having all that is important, gave the best he has, and lived life according to the destined purpose; then there is a stage of greater influence – significance.

"A lot of people who believe they are successful because they have everything they want. They have added value to themselves. But I believe significance comes when you add value to others - and you cannot have true success without significance." – **John C. Maxwell**

We already defined success, but what is significance? What does significance look like? How does one attain it? What will it cost for you to attain it? What if you are not yet financially independent? Who can help you make sense out of this stage of life?

The pursuit of excellence

"Excellence is the gradual result of always striving to do better." – **Pat Riley**

Excellence to me is all about living to my highest potential and living my best life. It is about going above and beyond the ordinary. The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence regardless of their situation or circumstances. Excellence requires your focused effort and devotion. It comes from your commitment to getting it right.

After having done a lot in life, there is always a need to do more. Good is just not good enough. After good there is best. Good is the greatest enemy of best/excellence. Greatest enemy of your success is your previous one. Excellence is the quality of being outstanding or extremely good.

"Show me someone who does a good job, and I will show you someone who is better than most and worthy of the company of kings." (**Proverbs 22:29 GNT**)

Pursuing excellence takes us out of our comfort zone. It unsettles you. You have endless sleepless nights thinking of ways to become better than good. Excellence is not attainable in a natural way. You need to move from doing the ordinary, to doing the extra-ordinary.

Charlie Trotter observes “excellence is about fighting and pursuing something diligently, with a strict and determined approach to doing it right. It's okay if there are flaws in the process - it makes it more interesting.”

Many times we delegate people without actually trusting in their abilities, yet we want them to excel in whatever they do. The lack of trust in their abilities affects their performance in their given responsibilities. Working in teams, you need to have the great amount of trust in your team players in order to pursue excellence collectively.

Trust gives you the permission to give people direction, get everyone aligned, and give them the energy to go get the job done. Trust enables you to execute with excellence and produce extraordinary results. As you execute with excellence and deliver on your commitments, trust becomes easier to inspire, creating a flywheel of performance.

As we pursue the pursuit of excellence, we should always remember that without struggle and strife, we will not be able to succeed. Remember that “good is the enemy of best.” If you settle for something passable, you will not try to improve. Pursuit of excellence means efforts towards doing your best.

Excellence needs to be a habit not an act. The pursuit of excellence takes practice and perseverance. I find that people tend to feel that they do not need to pursue excellence in the small stuff. It's the old attitude of “She'll be right mate” or “Near enough is good enough”. So many kids and young people today are big dreamers – they want to be famous or do amazing things. I love this about this generation but they need to practice excellence now...where they are, we all do!

If you desire to achieve excellence on a large scale, you must develop the habit in the details along the way. That means in the everyday tasks, or in the job you do not like, until you get the job you love. There are unlimited possibilities in life, and the limitations boil down to us – our mind-sets, our skills, our knowledge, etc. The thing is, all of us have unlimited potential and it's

up to us to unlock it. Only by consciously growing every moment and continuously challenging our limits, will we truly be living to our highest potential and living our best life.

There are no accolades for average performance, so whatever you undertake carry it out with excellence. There is no limit to what you can attain with ongoing, continuous progress toward excellence. Excellence is well worth all that effort and commitment. When you live with excellence, you live at life's highest level.

The whole world is lifted higher by those who choose to create excellence. Be a source of relentless excellence and truly make a difference.

Creating Influence

"Your success is a testimony to those who do not believe they can be successful, and those who think success is for certain people. Do not shut them out."- Pule Sir

We come from different backgrounds and communities and some of us let their backgrounds be obstacles to their future, we let what is said in our communities about us also determine our future.

There are those who comes from poor backgrounds and do not see themselves getting out of poverty and they believe they are destined to be poor and there are those who comes from rich backgrounds and do not see the need for them to go out there and be successful, as they believe their parents will always take care of them.

There are people who when they look in their communities and see no one progressing, they believe they also cannot make it in life but by seeing you with your background being successful could be an eye opener to them. It can help them see life in a positive way and stand up to reach their goals and be successful. You are influential and you can encourage them to also stand up and be successful, regardless of where they come from.

There are five categories in which one is able to measure his/her influence. The categories are as follows:

1. **Asserting:** This occurs when you insist that your ideas are heard and you challenge the ideas of others. You always need to stand your position and make sure that they are clearly understood by the collective. Your ideas matter in the next step of convincing people. You better pitch them properly.
2. **Convincing:** When you convince, you put forward your ideas and offer logical, rational reasons to convince others of your point of view. Be able to rally people around the vision you have about your cause. People are inspired by a clear vision. Convince them that they are serving the right cause.
3. **Negotiating:** When negotiating, you need to look for compromises and make concessions to reach outcomes that satisfy your greater interest. But careful not to lose your meaning and purpose in the process.
4. **Bridging:** You need to build relationships and connect with others through listening and understanding their perspectives. Create relations that will yield productive results. Not every person you meet will build the bridges for you. Some are there to destroy the bridges you have built. Refrain from such.
5. **Inspiring:** You must advocate your position and inspire others with a sense of shared purpose and exciting possibilities. This is not just motivation but showing them practically. You can only do that through taking action.

Each of these styles can be effective, depending upon the situation and people involved. A common mistake is to use a one-size-fits-all approach. Remember that influencing is highly situational.

Increasing your influence

If you want to increase your influence in society, you need to look into the following 5 steps:

1. Understand your style of influence

It can never be a one-size-fits-all situation when it comes to increasing influence. You first need to understand the type of influence you have over people. If Julius Malema has a certain influence in the South African youth, that influence may not apply to you.

AYM has mastered its strongest point which is to use social media to influence the decisions young people take. This is done through daily inspirational and motivational messages we send from 7 o'clock in the morning. We are able to penetrate our market well and influence them according to our objective. You cannot copy Malema's style of influence because that would be applying for failure.

2. Take adherence of your situation

Who are the key people/stakeholders around you that can help you achieve your goal or objective? Understanding your situation/environment makes you aware of the opportunities to tap into your greatest assets (Intellectual and Human Resources).

3. Identify your break points (missing links)

What are your shortfalls? Where do you lack power to penetrate? Understand the missing links to achieving your goals. Which parts hurt the most which the opposition is using? What are you doing about it? Know your weak points and make sure you patch up.

4. Develop in your break points

After identifying your gaps, find ways to develop in those areas. Learn as much as possible. Challenge yourself to be the best. Each breakpoint is an opportunity to grow. Grow yourself to grow your influence.

5. Practice

Sanele Zulu says "practice doesn't make perfect, but it makes you better." When you practice, you put words into action. You channel your minds to a positive outcome. You increase your influence. People start knowing the work you do. You don't become stagnant but influential.

Do not shut others out

Be an example to those who lost hope. Be an example to those who failed and gave up in life. Be an example to those who come from the same background as yours and show them it's possible for them to also be successful. Be an example to those who believe success is for certain people, not them. Be an example to those who keep on complaining and making excuses, show them it can be done only if they take action.

There are those who look up to you, who wish you could mentor them, guide and help them see the light at the end of the tunnel, do not shut them out. Some wish they could succeed as you but they do not know how or what to do, do not shut them out but show them the right way.

Let your success open doors for those who believe success is not for them, let it be an encouragement to those who do not believe in themselves. You have what it takes to play your role and make a difference in other people's lives by simply sharing your knowledge and experience to them so that they can also smell and taste success.

"You are Powerful and Influential." – **Abuti Rams**

Do not be blinded by money or things of this world. Do not let them push you away from others, do not let them blind you to see those who are in need of your help. Remember who you are, remember where you come from and that you are influential to others. Be an agent of positive change and let your success influence others to go out there and make it in life. Inspire them to think beyond the obvious, to see beyond their current situations.

Live to make a difference

"Don't just live, but live to make a difference" - **Pule Sir**

We are born for a reason, not to add to the number of people already on this world but to make a difference and to impact other people's lives. We are not born to add to the problems of this world. We are not born to complain, moan and point fingers while doing nothing to address and solve the problems or challenges we are faced with, but we are born to be solution makers and live to make a difference.

On his 90th birthday concert held in London, the later former president **Nelson Mandela** said "But even as we celebrate, let us remind ourselves that our work is far from complete. Where there is poverty and sickness including Aids, where human beings are being oppressed, there is more work to be done. Our work is for freedom for all, we say tonight after nearly 90 years of life. It is time for new hands to lift the **burdens**. It is in your hands now" (emphasis added).

He was simply asking for more people to participate in the fight against all those challenges and problems which are giving us sleepless nights. He was asking us to stop using our hands to point fingers but to use them to correct the wrongs we see, to find solutions and make a difference.

We cannot deny or ignore the fact that we are faced with a pile of problems. We come across challenges everyday discouraging us and breaking our hope. Our generation is faced with problems. Our Country is faced with so many challenges which needs to be addressed, faced and solved. It's therefore in our hands to do that.

“Problems not solved or ignored will multiply and start destroying those who ignored them and those around them.

This is very dangerous.” – Pule Sir

Let us stop looking away when things happen. Let us stop being ignorant to the problems we are faced with, as by so doing we become part of the problem instead of being part of the solutions. If we do not play our role as agents of change nobody will and nothing will be solved.

It might not be you abused, but do not ignore those who are being abused as they need your help, live to make an impact in their lives. It might not be you or someone closed to you who is being raped, but that does not mean you should ignore that, be an agent of change and help those affected. It might not be you hijacked, robbed or murdered, but do not be ignorant for you never know what might happen tomorrow, as those who were hijacking, robbing and murdering might turn against you or your beloved ones.

It might not be you or your family living in poverty but do not look away when you see other suffering, pleading for your help. It might not be you, your child, friend, relative addicted to drugs, spending money on booze, friends and girls, but that does not mean you should look away as that person might be the one to teach your child or someone close to you what he/she is doing and destroy their lives. It might not be you who lost hope, who has no vision, who just live without a purpose but that does not mean you have to look away from such people while you can impact them.

Live to make a difference and to touch other people's lives in a positive way. Stop complaining and moaning while doing nothing. Stop pointing fingers at the government while it is in you to

make a difference. Stop looking away when it's you who must help. Stop doing nothing when you can do something to help and solve the problems and challenges we are faced with.

It's us who are affected and it's us who can make things right. It's in our hands to live in a free and safe society we dream of. It's in our hands to fight unemployment, poverty and to eradicate them. It's in our hands to stop the use of drugs and alcohol which destroys many lives, especially young people.

It's in our hands to fight crime, corruption, rape, abuse, and to correct our corrupt leaders who are destroying our beloved country. It's in our hands to better the quality of our education, to overcome school dropouts and teenage pregnancy.

There is a lot that we are faced with but it's possible for us to find solutions, to address and overcome all of what we are faced with. It can happen if we want it to. It can happen if we stop looking away, if we stop being ignorant and stop making excuses as they are not taking us anywhere or helping us.

Affirmations

I am an agent of change born for a reason. I am born to make a difference in this world and to impact other people's lives. I will stop looking away. I will stop being ignorant, I will stop pointing fingers while doing nothing and finally I will live to make a difference.

There is a lot I have to offer. I have many gifts and still have to acquire more skills that will add value to many people's life. I am not an island but live amongst people who need the knowledge and potential I have.

I will be a vessel of progress and success to many that have lost hope, purpose and determination.

Final Thoughts

Living beyond inspiration

You are excited. You feel that this time will be different. “I want it bad enough. I can do this.” You say. You start making plans. Maybe, you take the first step. But then it’s gone. After a few hours or a few days, you are back to normal. Feeling mundane, doing the mundane. Why? There are two main reasons.

You like many others have asked yourself why things remain the same even after being inspired so much from a powerful story you have heard. In this book, we have provided some of the practical steps that are missing to add up to your motivation and inspiration.

Below are two problems faced by excitement that writer Amit Amin observed in his blog titled *“The Myth of Inspiration – Why Feeling Excited Isn’t Enough”* (Amin n.d.):

Problem 1: Inspiration escapes as quickly as it enters

Hunger is natural. When we ignore it, it gets stronger and stronger until all we can think about is food. Inspiration is unnatural. With the passage of time, it leaks out of our body, as if it does not belong. No surprise – it does not.

Hunger comes, whether we want it to or not. Inspiration does not.

That’s why we read inspirational books and videos, again and again and again and again. But watching inspirational videos and reading uplifting stories takes time and has an inconsistent effect, sometimes getting us excited, other times leaving us bored.

That’s why personal coaches and motivational speakers are so fond of positive visualization. Of imagining your desires having already come true. That’s inspiring. Unfortunately, inspiration is not enough.

Problem 2: Inspiration unconverted to motivation feels good but does not lead to action.

How often have you felt excited and then done nothing to show for it? That's what motivation and inspiration does to you. You feel like you can take over the world. You feel on top of the roof seeing things better than before.

There is not some sort of excitement threshold, past which you actually start getting your goals done. Excitement is like salt water – by itself, completely useless. It takes a purifier to change it into something useful.

But often, it is not enough, you need to move beyond inspiration. Beyond Inspiration is living a principled life knowing who you are, what you possess and how to use what you have to achieve what you deserve.

If we told you that you are destined for greatness and that you are going to make it in life, your response would be “Of course I know that.” It wouldn't make much of a difference. But if we showed you the practical steps in order to achieve greatness, you would then understand why we believe that motivation is not enough.

Living a life beyond inspiration means that taking your knowledge and putting it into practice. You can only achieve your goals when you live beyond inspiration.

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Meet the Authors

"The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand, and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand." - Vince Lombardi

Thabang Ramoroka better known as **Abuti Rams** is South African born young leader described by many as a "Game Changer" who (in his own words) "activates leadership and human potential." Abuti is a youth development specialist, founding member and president of Agape Youth Movement (AYM); a non-profit organisation that advocates for youth and community development in Africa.

Abuti Rams is an author (Beyond Inspiration), transformational speaker, marketing guru, business mentor and consultant working with hundreds of entrepreneurs across Southern Africa. Abuti has worked with individuals and groups across all markets including teachers, students, young adults, community, political and even religious leaders assisting and guiding them to greater levels of achievement, fulfilment and empowerment in all aspects of their lives. His passion and vast experience in digital communications led him to champion many of the successful social media campaigns for organisations such as World Bank's Info Dev and The Innovation Hub who launched the Climate Innovation Centre (CIC) South Africa in 2015.

Abuti Rams is a managing director of Biz M8 Group with vast experience and interest in black youth entrepreneurship development having served on the board of TOSACA Media Group, and a guest lecturer on 'entrepreneurship and small business development' at the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT).

Added to his many roles, Abuti is also a thought leader for Mail & Guardian: Thought Leader and Voices of News24. He contributes on public youth development dialogues and debates covering topics such as youth entrepreneurship, social transformation and social media having been featured on numerous international and local media platforms such as Talk Radio 702, Cape Talk, Shift on SABC 1, The Star Newspaper, ETV's Sunrise, ANN7, SABC 2's Morning LIVE, eNCA, SABC 2's Growing Tomorrow, SA FM, Motsweding FM, Power FM, Energy FM, Sosh Times, TUT FM, Tshwane FM, and UNISA Radio, just to name a few.

Irish Tshepang “PuleSir” Pule is a thought leader, creative and inspirational writer. A passionate and dedicated leader in youth and community development with a personal vision to “inspire people to live their lives to the fullest by using their talents, skills, creative and innovative minds.”

As part of his contribution towards youth and community development in South Africa, PuleSir joined AYM in 2013 as a Content Writer and became the Project Leader for Content Writing and Power Talks. This involved writing content for the organization’s online community on various social media platforms. He now serves as the Deputy President on the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the organisation.

PuleSir is also employed by **Reigut Marketing** in Johannesburg as a Production Supervisor insuring that production and workmanship is driven according to the company’s vision and employees deliver quality and proper service and products.

Pule Sir’s skills set vary from creative writing, team leadership, project management, communication with interest and enormous experience in youth and community development, writing, poetry, radio presenting, public and inspirational speaking.

The self-proclaimed and well-deserving Agent of Change is living to make a difference in other people’s lives through the talents and skills that God gave him with a strong belief in spirituality motivated by a quote that says “with God nothing is impossible”.

About the Book

Co-Authored by **Thabang “Abuti Rams” Ramoroka** and **Tshepang “Pule Sir” Pule**, **Beyond Inspiration** is a book aimed at activating leadership and highest level of human potential. The book covers a variety of subjects sequentially crafted to aid young leaders to live significant lives because success is not enough, you need to move beyond inspiration.

Beyond Inspiration scrutinises the root causes of many discouragements and failures leaders face that hinder one to attain success and maximize impact in society. It further examines and unpacks the innate potential of every human being that, when exposed, one can live a healthy and prosperous life.

About the Agape Youth Movement

Agape Youth Movement (AYM) is an award-winning, most influential and the fastest growing youth-led organisation in South Africa whose vision is to advocate for youth and community development. Over the years, AYM has demonstrated its proficiency of successfully and cost-effectively organising local economic development programs, active citizenry programs and many other projects that were purposefully harmonized with the organisation's aims and objectives.

AYM was established by a small group of eight (8) young people namely Noko Thabang Ramoroka, Fiona Pertunia Maluleka, Hlanganani Alen Chauke, Josephine Bila, Nkateko Antoinette Molefe, Michael Tsakane Makhubela and Tinyiko Ephenia Malope in a Gauteng township called Soshanguve which is located in the northern side of Pretoria the capital city of the Republic of South Africa (RSA).

Amongst the 8 founders of the organisation were students in high school and some in tertiary institutions. AYM's first meeting to formulate the organisation's name, vision, mission, aims and objectives was held on 11 September 2009 and now has grown towards major parts of the City of Tshwane.

AYM was officially launched on 24 September 2010 at a park in Soshanguve Block TT. The organisation's launch drew the attention of a large number of young people around the community. The purpose of the launch was to share a mammoth vision which grew to greater heights and also to impact the lives of both young and elderly people around South Africa.

With the growing impact that the organisation is creating in various communities across all the nine provinces of South Africa and the large pool of young people following us on major media platforms and subscribing to our newsletters on a daily basis ranging from 16 to 35 years of age, it goes without saying that the organisation remains one of the most fastest growing youth-led organisations in South Africa. This is because we are attracting and developing a cohort of thought leaders in our generation.



You've just attended a motivational seminar or heard "one of the most powerful inspirational talks" in your life. You are all fired up, ready to go out and conquer the world. With great excitement, you share your life-changing experience to your friends and they too can feel the passion through the tone of your voice. "Go for it. You can do it!" they cheered. It is only fair to feel and react the way you do, after all you are human.

Two days later you wake up and realise that all the goose bumps you felt are challenged by the reality you are faced with. You look around your environment to draw more inspiration, you still believe that you can make it, but reality and motivation are two worlds apart.

"How do I move from being inspired to having a proper plan of action on how to transform my life for the better?" you worryingly ask. The frustration grows and you feel as though you are right back to where you were two days ago.

Being motivated and inspired is not enough. In fact there is so much inspiration you can draw from your life that can transform your life for the better. You need to move beyond inspiration.

Abuti Rams
DAME CHAKOBI



ISBN 978-0-620-65178-3



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