

GIRLS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

TAIMI NDAHAMBELELA SHATIPAMBA

Full Names: Taimi Ndahambelela Shatipamba
Date of Birth: 1989, 2 July
Place of Birth: Okongo, Ohangwena Region
Field of Study: 1st year Bachelor of Science (Pre-Med)



Taimi is a delightful young lady, tiny in stature but big in determination. She is registered at the University of Namibia (UNAM) as a first-year student doing a Bachelor of Science in Pre-Med training.

The third of four daughters, Taimi was raised by her mother who works as a nurse at the Okongo Hospital in the Ohangwena Region. Her meagre income of about N\$6,000 (US\$750) per month was supplemented by selling health supplements, telephone “airtime” and fast foods. She is also assisted by the extended family with financial support for the girls’ education and other needs. Taimi has very limited contact with her father and does not know much about him. Her eldest sister has a small catering business in Okongo, her second-eldest sister is also a student at UNAM and is studying Geology on a Government loan, and her youngest sister is currently in Grade 9. Her eldest sister is studying through the Namibian College of Open Learning in order to improve her Grade 10 results.

Throughout her schooling, Taimi lived with an aunt in a village nearby (Enyana) but was diagnosed with depression in 2005 as a result of excessive bullying from her peers and was transferred to a different school in order to be closer to home. Taimi has been a bright scholar from the very beginning, achieving consistently high marks. At the end of Grade 9 she received top honours for outstanding performance in Accounting (1st place with 99%), Business Management (1st place with 85%) and Geography (2nd place with 90%). Her transfer to Oshela Senior Secondary School during the first trimester of Grade 10 did not create any disruptions for this talented girl -at the end of that academic year, she was awarded a certificate for being the top performer in her grade in Physical Science with a final mark of 90%. She also won the school’s Science Fair with her project entitled “An investigation into the use of energy-efficient stoves”. This project gained her entry into the Ohangwena Regional Science Fair where it also took first place and onto the Namibian National Science Fair where she received a gold medal for her efforts and an entry into the first African Expo Science Fair. Not content with outstanding academic performance alone, our girl proved that she has leadership skills too by holding the portfolio of Secretary-General on the Learners’ Representative Council in Grade 12.

Her love of experimentation as a child led Taimi into the field of pre-medical training. She does not wish to become a doctor but rather a scientist although she is unsure at this stage as to what her field of specialisation will be. She has expressed a wish to pursue her specialisation studies in London once she has graduated from UNAM. She is not finding the adjustment from home to university too tough. Certainly, living in the hostel on-campus has exposed her to all kinds of temptations – in her own words: boys and fancy clothes – but she is determined to focus on her studies and achieve top marks. She finds that

managing her time wisely and reading widely and often makes the work easier and has already scored near-perfect marks in her continuous assessment tests. But fear not – she does relax occasionally, usually with a romance novel or lounging in front of the television!

Taimi would like to extend a special word of thanks to her benefactors who made this dream possible for her. She is grateful for the assistance to her mother as a struggling single parent, to herself and for the investment in Namibian girls in general.