

Citizen Diplomacy and Leadership

Citizen diplomacy and leadership are two different titles which are closely related due to their functions. These titles are commonly given to people who are willing to bring forth better change to the world. Leadership is a word with a lot of definitions. A leader should be a dedicated diplomat of change. This closely brings me to the citizen diplomats. These are people who I adore and highly regard as legends of change. They are willing to step out of their comfort zones and bring forth change in the world. They strengthen foreign relations and bring forth the light of hope amongst the lives of those, whose dreams were shattered.

Coupled with the literary evidence, citizen diplomats have helped many people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic around the world. The next generation of citizen diplomats can help communities around the world by initiating competitions and identifying key areas around the world which are drastically affected by the pandemic and help them with donations. During winter, they could collect and donate blankets to the homeless and less fortunate. In future, I would suggest that the citizen diplomats link up with larger organizations such as the UN and the World Health Organization. By working together with such organizations more powerful and effective projects can be implemented, which can have a major change on the world.

International experience is something which brings hope to many disadvantaged individuals around the world. The lack of platforms and opportunities in countries and cities for its citizens to showcase their talents and abilities causes self-doubt in individuals. Moreover, international experience gives hope to these souls to stay motivated and knowing that there is someone out there that acknowledges their work. This gives them the courage to step forward. I personally have experienced this, as one of my own close friends loved debating so much but there were no debating platforms available to showcase his talents. This all changed when he got an opportunity from a foreign campaign which enabled him to open up and go places outside Namibia.

Furthermore, if we want to celebrate hope in humanity, we have to step out of our comfort zones and see what is going on in the society. By doing this we can be well assured of what we need to do in order to tackle these problems. The type of change needs to be beneficial to everyone and not only to some people. Afterwards, relevant programs can be initiated to change lives. Humanity has to be achieved by working together. Culture and race do not define the humanity of a person. The more we have platforms

that give an equal say to everyone regardless of their race, the better the humanity of humans can be fulfilled. The same way that Covid-19 does not discriminate whether one is black or white.

Namibia as a whole has proven to be hopeful during the pandemic in many ways. One of them is that we adapted to living with Covid-19 as a new norm amongst us. This does not mean that we gave up on fighting this deadly enemy. The Ministry of Health and Social Services worked at its best day and night to educate the nation about the deadly virus and how we could take care of ourselves. This was in terms of always wearing a

mask in public and taking care of our bodies by exercising and other means. Most of the campaigns were based in the rural areas. This was due to the fact that people in rural areas did not have easy access to medical facilities and it would be a horrifying experience if this virus could find its way to them. We stayed hopeful as communities by showing care towards one another such as by gathering donations to give to the homeless, these donations ranged from blankets to food and other necessities. This showcased togetherness amongst the people and that they have hope to overcome the pandemic together. One Namibia, one nation!